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LETTER DATED 28 JULY 1955 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF AFGHANISTAN,
BURMA, EGYPT, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, IRAQ, LEBANON, PAKISTAN,
PHILIPPINES, SAUDI ARABIA, SYRIA, THAILAND AND YEMEN, ADDRESSED
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

New York, 28 July 1955

Excellency,

We the representatives of Afghanistan, Burma, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand and Yemen, have the honour, upon instructions from our respective Governments, to bring to the attention of the Security Council under Article 35, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Charter, the grave situation in Morocco, particularly in and around the city of Casablanca.

That situation is, in the opinion of our respective Governments, likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security.

It may be recalled that fifteen States members of the United Nations addressed a letter (S/3085) to the President of the Security Council on 21 August 1953, requesting that an urgent meeting of the Council be called to "investigate the international friction and the danger to international peace and security which has arisen by the unlawful intervention of France in Morocco and the overthrow of its legitimate sovereign and to take appropriate action under the Charter".

The course which events have taken in Morocco since August, 1953 - when the Security Council unfortunately did not deem it opportune to inscribe the item on its agenda, amply justifies the apprehension which the fifteen member States entertained regarding Morocco.

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Mention must also be made of the resolution which the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted during its Seventh Session (Res. 612 VII) and which expressed confidence that "the French Government will endeavour to further the fundamental liberties of Morocco;" expressed "the hope that the parties will continue negotiations on an urgent basis towards developing the free political institutions of the people of Morocco;" and appealed "to the parties to conduct their relations in an atmosphere of good will, mutual confidence and respect, and to settle their disputes in accordance with the spirit of the Charter, thus refraining from any acts or measures likely to aggravate the present tension".

The recommendations of the General Assembly have, so far, been unimplemented. On the contrary, extremely harsh measures of repression have been taken against the Moroccan people who are denied the most elementary liberties and freedom.

The situation has been further aggravated by the organization in Morocco of French terrorist movements which operate in broad daylight and possess ample supplies of modern equipment.

The explosion in Casablanca of a bomb in a cafe on July 14th, 1955, set off a campaign of torture and murder of innocent Moroccans on the part of French terrorists who also pillaged and set fire to Moroccan homes and shops. According to official reports, in the riots which ensued French security forces opened fire on the Moroccans bringing the total death toll for four days to nearly one hundred victims. However, unofficial estimates put the total number of persons killed at more than two hundred.

The Governments of Afghanistan, Burma, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand, and Yemen view the present explosive situation in Morocco with grave concern and anxiety. It is a situation which is bound to have the most serious repercussions throughout Asia and Africa. Finally, it is a situation which is bound to lead to an increase in international tensions and to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security.

It is the earnest hope of the above-mentioned Governments that the Security Council will, as a matter of urgency, direct its resources to dealing with this grave situation in the light of its responsibilities under the Charter.

Furthermore, it is their fervent hope that means will be found for the establishment of normal conditions conducive to the realization of the just and legitimate aspirations of the Moroccan people.

We beg to request Your Excellency to circulate this letter among the members of the Security Council.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Permanent Representative
of Afghanistan

Charge d'Affaires
Lebanon

Permanent Representative
of Burma

Acting Permanent Representative
of Egypt

Charge d'Affaires
Pakistan

Permanent Representative
of India

Permanent Representative
of Philippines

Acting Permanent Representative
of Indonesia

Acting Permanent Representative
of Saudi Arabia

Charge d'Affaires
Iran

Permanent Representative
of Syria

Permanent Representative
of Iraq

Acting Permanent Representative
of Thailand

His Excellency
Ambassador Fernand van Langenhove,
President, Security Council,
United Nations,
New York, N.Y.

Permanent Representative
of Yemen

