



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERALA/39/78
17 January 1984

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-ninth session

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCEREVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITYLetter dated 16 January 1984 from the Permanent Representative of
Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In its futile attempt to advance its expansionist ambitions, the Government of Somalia has once again seen fit to abuse its membership in the Organization of the Islamic Conference by having that organization "adopt" documents which have no basis in reality and whose aims are diametrically opposed to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

In this connection, I wish to refer to the letter addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Somalia dated 5 January 1984 (A/39/66) and to make the following observations on the two so-called resolutions attached thereto, purportedly adopted by the Fourteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

Regarding the first document, entitled "Ethiopia's Occupation on Two Areas of the territory of the Democratic Republic of Somalia", I cannot but categorically reject the baseless allegations and shameless assertions contained therein. While it is understandable that the Government of Somalia would want to cover up the internal unrest and upheavals that are wrecking Somalia today, it is, however, beyond our comprehension why the Organization of the Islamic Conference should, in the name of a wrongly perceived notion of "Islamic solidarity", collude with that Government to make Ethiopia the scapegoat for Somalia's internal problems. In any case, I have to reiterate the fact that Ethiopia has committed no aggression against Somalia in the past nor has it any desire or intention to violate that country's territorial integrity in the future.

Furthermore, I wish to underscore the fact that the so-called "two areas occupied in the Democratic Republic of Somalia" are but regions currently held by forces in Somalia opposed to the present Government in Mogadishu. While these simple and clear facts could have been easily verified, it is to be regretted that the Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference opted for political expediency by assenting tacitly, through the convenient procedure of consensus, to the self-serving and baseless draft resolutions prepared and presented to it by the delegation of Somalia. Such a resolution, that is so erroneous in its facts and tendentious in its purport can only reflect badly on the Organization of the Islamic Conference and can in no way detract from the principled foreign policy of good-neighbourliness pursued by my country, Ethiopia.

As regards the second document, entitled "The Problem of Horn of Africa", I cannot but also express once again our indignation and disappointment at such an unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of Ethiopia by an organization whose Charter ostensibly upholds the principle of non-interference. Furthermore, as this document is a malicious attempt to undermine the national unity and territorial integrity of Ethiopia, we reject it totally and in the most categorical manner. We have no doubt that such "resolutions" and devious machinations will have no effect on the course of events in the region of the Horn of Africa, for the Ethiopian masses will forever guard jealously their historic unity and age-old sovereignty. Indeed, such resolutions and machinations, instead of advancing the political interests of Somalia, will only undermine the credibility and international standing of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Especially now that this organization is attempting to forge a closer relationship with the United Nations, those resolutions, constituting as they do an open and unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of Members of the United Nations in total disregard of the very purposes and principles of the Charter of our Organization, cannot but pose a serious impediment to such a relationship. It is to be hoped, however, that in the interest of peace and international understanding, the Organization of the Islamic Conference will in the future direct its efforts towards more positive and fruitful objectives rather than expending its energy futilely in the promotion of ill-conceived, narrow and dangerous ambitions of one or even a few of its members.

Finally, I should like to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the items entitled "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference" and "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

(Signed) Mohamed Hamid IBRAHIM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
