



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/33/397  
28 November 1978  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Thirty-third session  
Agenda item 24

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF  
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Letter dated 28 November 1978 from the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim  
of the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations addressed  
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the letter which President Boumediène addressed to President Numeiry, President of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan, concerning the ad hoc Committee on Western Sahara.

On instructions from my Government, I request you to arrange for this letter to be circulated as a General Assembly document under agenda item 24.

(Signed) Fathih BOUAYAD-AGHA  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 27 November 1978 addressed to the President of  
the Democratic Republic of the Sudan by the President of the  
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

At a time when we are receiving information from various sources concerning the composition and the date of the next meeting of the ad hoc Committee entrusted with the consideration of the question of Western Sahara pursuant to the resolution adopted at the Khartoum Summit, a/ I wish while expressing great appreciation for your unceasing personal efforts to perform the task entrusted to you by our Organization, to inform you of the views of Algeria on this subject.

Faithful to the decisions of the Organization of African Unity and sure of its ability to contribute to the search for solutions in conformity with the principles of its charter, notably with regard to decolonization and respect for the right of peoples to self-determination, Algeria has always demonstrated its readiness to co-operate sincerely with all those responsible for implementing the decisions that we take.

Since last summer, proposals concerning the composition of the ad hoc Committee have been transmitted to us orally by yourself and by the OAU secretariat. Algeria has examined them with all the attention that they deserve.

Although circumstances which have not escaped your attention have not permitted us formally to express our views on this subject, I nevertheless wish today to emphasize that my country has expressed neither agreement nor disagreement with the proposals - which were, moreover, evidently exploratory in nature - because it felt that it should not formulate reservation or express any prejudice concerning any proposal in this preparatory phase of the consultations.

We consider, however, that the consultations you are currently undertaking should make it possible to reach final agreement on the composition of the ad hoc Committee which all parties concerned should normally support.

With regard to the date of the first meeting of the Committee, we feel it is desirable that, in view of the obligations of the Heads of State who are members of the Committee and the other Heads of State concerned, wide consultations should be held in order to make it possible to fix a definitive date. It will then be possible for all to contribute fully to a just and lasting settlement of the problem of Western Sahara.

---

a/ Resolution AHG/Res.92 (XV), adopted at the fifteenth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held at Khartoum from 18 to 22 July 1978 (A/33/235, annex II).

The efforts undertaken within the framework of our Organization, which it is your lofty responsibility to head on behalf of the African community, link up, needless to say, with those undertaken to the same end by the international community within the United Nations, with a view to promoting the return of peace to the region by enabling the Saharan people to exercise freely their legitimate right to self-determination.

Thus, the General Assembly of the United Nations, in the terms of its resolution 32/22 of 28 November 1977, decided to resume consideration of the question of Western Sahara at its thirty-third session. Moreover, the General Committee of the General Assembly recently approved in its agenda the discussion of this question under agenda item 24, allocated to the Fourth Committee, which is to hear the representative of the Frente Polisario and consider the report of the Decolonization Committee on the question of Western Sahara. b/

The consideration of the question of Western Sahara by the United Nations is, moreover, strictly in conformity with the resolution of the Khartoum Summit which states expressly in paragraph 7 that the United Nations remains seized of the decolonization problem of Western Sahara.

Consequently, I am sure you will understand our surprise at learning that the OAU secretariat recently addressed to its representative in New York a message in which it expresses, for the benefit of the African Group, the hope that the United Nations will avoid considering the question of Western Sahara, which has nevertheless officially been included in the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly in the circumstances recalled above.

Algeria cannot but deplore such an initiative, which is not only contrary to the provisions of the resolutions of the United Nations and OAU, but also to the new spirit that we are constantly fostering in order to ensure the progress, through dialogue and harmonization, of the efforts of all aimed at a political solution of the current crisis.

In this connexion I should like to recall the consistent efforts of Algeria to contribute to the implementation of the resolution on the question of Western Sahara adopted by the thirteenth African Summit, held at Port-Louis in 1976, and the complete readiness which my country has constantly expressed on that subject and which we mentioned to you in our letter of 21 May last, whereas the African leaders have not forgotten the systematic obstruction by Morocco at the Lomé Conference in 1977 of all efforts undertaken by OAU and the United Nations to find, within the African context, a peaceful and just solution to the question of Western Sahara.

We are sure you will use all the authority conferred on you by your high office to dissipate the misunderstandings and ambiguities which may jeopardize a climate which we, for our part, wish to preserve in a debate which more than ever before requires clarity, sincerity and goodwill on the part of all.

---

b/ A/33/23/Add.3, chap. IX.

At a time when Algeria, despite itself, is the focus of the attention of the entire international community, the least I can do, without making a value judgement, is to record our most formal reservations concerning the method which attempts are currently being made to apply with a view to implementing the resolutions of OAU and the United Nations concerning a serious decolonization problem.

While reiterating our readiness to co-operate with you in every way, we remain convinced that, in your wisdom, you will thus make an outstanding contribution to the attainment of an equitable and definitive solution to a painful decolonization problem which threatens the peace and security of a region whose history and culture call for co-operation and brotherhood.

(Signed) Houari BOUMEDIENE  
President of the People's  
Democratic Republic of Algeria  
President of the Council  
of the Revolution

-----