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

Letter dated 28 October 1976 from the Permanent Representative of  
Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a message from His Excellency Dr. Laraki, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco, addressed to Their Excellencies the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the African countries.

On instructions from my Government, I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this message circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 25.

(Signed) Ali BENGELLOUN  
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Message from the Minister of State of the Kingdom of Morocco addressed  
to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the African countries

I have the honour to draw your attention to the message dated 25 October 1976 which Mr. Bouteflika, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria, has seen fit to address to Mr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations, requesting that the question of the Sahara be discussed by the General Assembly, thus disregarding the developments in this matter, the decisions taken in that connexion by various international bodies, and the constructive progress already achieved (A/31/283, annex).

This request is obviously one of many different attempts to raise again a problem settled by resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, the consultation of the population through the competent organ, the Djema'a, which took place on 26 February 1976, and the permanent establishment of Morocco and Mauritania in that part of their national territory in accordance with the Madrid agreement (S/11880).

Without wishing to reopen a discussion of the substance of the problem, the Kingdom of Morocco, faithful to the commitments it has undertaken, considers that the request thus submitted is absolutely contrary to the spirit in which the African countries have decided to deal with this question.

At the OAU Summit Meeting in Mauritius, it was decided to hold an extraordinary African summit meeting to consider this question and the resultant tension in the region.

Later, when the non-aligned countries met in Colombo, they expressed the hope that the African Heads of State would find a solution which would safeguard peace in the region and preserve the legitimate rights of the parties concerned (see document A/31/197).

The request submitted today to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by Algeria for the reopening of a debate prior to the holding of the extraordinary African summit meeting is thus contrary to the wise decision taken both by the African Heads of State and by the Heads of State of the non-aligned countries.

Such an attitude risks establishing an unfortunate precedent and, in any event, appears to be an act of indiscipline within the African Group, which derives its strength from its cohesion and the solidarity of its members. It also indicates a distrust of the highest regional authority in Africa which is more aware of the problems of our continent and of the causes of such a situation.

The Kingdom of Morocco in no way intends to try to avoid a discussion of the substance of the question, since it is sure that it can justify all the measures

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it has taken in the Sahara and that it has faithfully fulfilled its obligations with regard to all international bodies.

But, since it is aware of the gravity of the position thus adopted by the Government of Algeria and of the lack of courtesy which the latter shows with regard to African leaders, it wishes to denounce an attitude which in no way serves the cause of African unity and the solidarity of the non-aligned countries.

The Kingdom of Morocco relies on your attachment to the charter of the Organization of African Unity and on your wisdom and high sense of responsibility with regard to the higher interests of our continent to frustrate any kind of manoeuvre against the trust which we all place in the decisions of our Heads of State and to defend the authority which our organization enjoys in the world.

In drawing your attention to such machinations, the Kingdom of Morocco remains convinced that you will draw the necessary conclusions and that you will adopt the only correct attitude in the face of this new attack on the sacred principles which guide our actions and co-ordinate our activities.

Ahmed LARAKI  
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

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