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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Letter dated 20 August 1985 from the Permanent Representative of  
Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter addressed to you by the Egyptian Government concerning the recent arbitrary measures taken by the Libyan authorities against Egyptian migrant workers in Libya. These measures constitute a flagrant violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as the provisions of international law.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 12 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Ahmed T. KHALIL  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

\* A/40/150.

## ANNEX

Letter dated 20 August 1985 from the Minister for Foreign  
Affairs of Egypt addressed to the Secretary-General

The sudden and arbitrary decisions recently taken by the Libyan authorities, the result of which has been to subject a large number of Egyptian nationals working in Libya to wide-ranging acts of mass expulsion, constitute a flagrant violation of the principles of international law and custom, the most elementary principles of fundamental human rights, the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant international conventions, thereby placing international responsibility on Libya in its capacity as host country.

The arbitrary measures adopted by the Libyan authorities, such as mass expulsion, the forcing of Egyptian nationals to adopt Libyan citizenship as the price for their remaining in Libya, the carrying out of mass exoduses within a short period of time and without prior warning, the confiscation of funds and property and the breaching of work contracts, to say nothing of inhumane maltreatment, place on Libya full responsibility for committing such blatant violations of international covenants and conventions and of the resolutions of the specialized agencies regulating the rights and duties resulting from the admission of foreign workers by host countries. The Egyptian Government would like to place on record its strong condemnation and disapproval of the kinds of collective punishment and inhumane measures that accompany the expulsions and exoduses of a large number of citizens and their families, including those who have resided in Libya legally while respecting its internal laws and regulations and making an undeniable contribution to the processes of reconstruction and of economic, social and cultural development.

The arbitrary measures to which Egyptian nationals in Libya are being subjected cannot, in any event, be justified by any accepted logic. The objectives of the Libyan authorities in implementing these sudden and arbitrary decisions amount to an attempt to exploit Egyptian technical expertise and Egyptian labour in Libya in order to serve political purposes.

The Libyan authorities are, however, thereby committing a grave error and adding a new element to a series of provocative acts directed against Egypt. They are, in committing such inhuman acts, misguided if they believe that they will achieve their political objectives vis-à-vis the Egyptian people. These acts can only result in a grave affront to deeply rooted bonds and links between the fraternal peoples of Egypt and Libya that we are endeavouring to preserve.

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt reserves the right to take all appropriate legal steps and measures to safeguard the rights of its nationals. The Libyan Government bears full responsibility for the arbitrary decisions it has taken and any consequences they may have.

The United Nations is, at the same time, requested to intervene by taking appropriate measures to put an end to these flagrant violations of law and justice.

(Signed) Dr. Ahmed Esmat ABDEL MEGUID  
Minister for Foreign Affairs