

Security Council

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LETTER DATED 23 MAY 1990 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHAD TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you below the text of the communiqué issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chad on 23 May 1990, concerning the release of 10 Libyan prisoners of war captured during the fighting between the Chadian National Armed Forces (FANT) and mercenaries of the Libyan Islamic Legion on the frontier between Chad and the Sudan in the period from 25 March to 10 May 1990:

"Communiqué issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

"On 25 March, Chad was once again the victim of a flagrant and brutal Libyan act of aggression perpetrated from the Darfur region of the Sudan, where numerous elements of the Islamic Legion have been reassembled.

"In the course of the counter-attack, the Chadian National Armed Forces (FANT) were obliged to make use of their right of pursuit and to pursue the aggressors as far as their bases on the frontier between Chad and the Sudan.

"Thus, in the course of this action taken in self-defence, a Libyan military convoy on a mission to supply the forces responsible for the act of aggression was captured.

"As usual, Libya responded with a string of lies in an attempt to deny its act of aggression.

"Chad, while reaffirming its determination to defend its territory and to maintain the peace in the interest of its citizens, has consistently given preference to peaceful means of settling the territorial dispute concerning the Aozou region.

"A recent example of Chad's approach is the Chadian delegation's participation in the fifth session of the Chad-Libya Joint Commission at Tripoli, despite the armed attack launched on 25 March and the tense

atmosphere created by the irresponsible statements made by JANA (Jamahiriya News Agency) and Libyan leaders.

"A further example of the Chadian people's determination to achieve peace is the Chadian Government's decision to release the group of 10 Libyan prisoners of war, captured in the course of the recent counter-offensive by the Chadian National Armed Forces on the frontier between Chad and the Sudan.

"This humanitarian, conciliatory gesture, which is similar to the gesture made following the capture of the two pilots whose fighter was shot down in Chadian air space, is also a response to the steps taken by a great number of distinguished leaders of fraternal countries that are friends of Chad, which have always shown the greatest possible willingness to help in bringing about a peaceful, lasting settlement to the Chad-Libyan conflict.

"The Chadian Government fully appreciates the principles of fraternity and peace that inspire the countries in question.

"The 10 prisoners of war were handed over today to a friendly country that has made all the necessary arrangements for their transfer to their own country.

"Chad hopes that the Libyan leaders will finally understand that all attempts to destabilize Chad either directly or in collusion with the Sudan are doomed to failure, and that, in the interest of the Chadian and Libyan peoples and in the interest of the region as a whole, they must abandon their policy of using force and of following the principle of <u>fait accompli</u>; that they must commit themselves to achieving a just, definitive settlement of the territorial dispute brought about by the military occupation of the Auzou Strip, in accordance with the resolutions of the Organization of African Unity and with the principles of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference; and that they must make a genuine endeavour to achieve implementation of the Algiers framework agreement of 31 August 1989.

N'Djamena, 23 May 1990"

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Council.

(<u>Signed</u>) Mahamat Ali ADOUM Ambassador Permanent Representative