

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/32/69
27 April 1977

ORIGINAL: ARABIC/ENGLISH/
SPANISH

Thirty-second session
Item 50 of the preliminary list*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 21 April 1977 from the Permanent Representatives
of Cuba and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from our respective Governments, we have the honour to transmit herewith to Your Excellency the Spanish and Arabic texts of the joint communiqué issued at the conclusion of the talks held between Colonel Mu'ammār Al-Qathafi, Secretary-General of the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and President Fidel Castro, First Secretary of the Cuban Communist Party, President of the State Council and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Cuba. The said talks were held during the visit of President Fidel Castro to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya from 1 to 10 March 1977.

We would be grateful if you would have the text of this communiqué distributed as an official document of the General Assembly under item 50 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Ricardo Alarcon de QUESADA
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of
Cuba to the United Nations

(Signed) Mansur Rashid KIKHIA
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of
the Socialist People's
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
to the United Nations

* A/32/50/Rev.1

ANNEX

Joint communiqué

At the invitation of Colonel Mu'ammār Al-Qathafi, leader of the Revolution of 1 September, Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, President of the Council of State and of the Government of Cuba, paid an official friendly visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya from 1 to 10 March 1977, on the occasion of the historic and important Declaration of the establishment of the power of the people.

The illustrious guest was warmly received by the Libyan people everywhere, a reception which testified to the relations of close friendship which link the peoples of the two countries.

On 2 March 1977, Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro was given a warm reception by both people and officials on his arrival at the auditorium of the People's General Congress, at Sebha, to share with the Libyan people the moment of the Declaration of the establishment of the power of the people; he also visited various economic projects and learned about the achievements of the Libyan Arab people and the economic and social revival set in train by the Great Revolution of 1 September.

In an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality, a meeting took place between Colonel Qathafi and Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro, during which the two leaders reviewed Libyan-Cuban relations and expressed satisfaction over the positive developments achieved by means of the visit in various areas of relations between the two countries. They also exchanged views on the most important international questions of concern to the two countries. The two Heads of State reaffirmed their desire to consolidate and intensify relations between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Republic of Cuba.

Official talks took place between a Libyan Arab delegation, led by Colonel Mu'ammār Al-Qathafi, and the Cuban delegation, led by Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro.

The following Libyan representatives also took part: Commander Abdel Salam Ahmad Jalloud, Lieutenant-Colonel Abu Bakr Younes Jaber, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, both members of the General Secretariat of the People's General Congress; Taha Ash-Sharif Ben Amer, Secretary for Co-ordination; Muhammad Belgassem Zuway, Secretary for Information and Culture; Ramadan Mohamed Raubi, Director of the Department of the two Americas of MINREX; and the Libyan Ambassador, Ali El Sunni El Muntasser.

The following Cuban representatives also participated:
Carlos Rafael Rodríguez, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee

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of the Communist Party of Cuba and Vice-President of the Council of State and of the Council of Ministers; Osmany Cienfuegos, Secretary of the Council of Ministers and of its Executive Committee; José A. Naranjo, Minister of the Food Industry; Brigadier-General José Abrantes, First Deputy Minister of the Interior; and Brigadier-General Ulises Rosales del Toro, all members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and deputies to the National Assembly of Popular Power; Raúl Valdés Vivó, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and Head of its General Department of External Relations; Brigadier-General Victor Chueg Colás and José M. Miyar Barruecos, both deputies to the National Assembly; Brigadier-General Ramón Espinosa Martín, and Luis Marisy, Ambassador of Cuba to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

During these talks, which took place in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, consideration was given to the relations and aspects of co-operation between the two friendly countries, as well as to ways and means of consolidating and developing them for the benefit of both peoples; various international problems were also touched on during the talks, in particular the situation in the Arab region.

Colonel Mu'ammar Al-Qathafi brought President Fidel Castro up to date on the achievements of the Revolution of 1 September in the political, economic, social and cultural fields, emphasizing the victories gained by the Revolution in the removal of foreign military bases, the liberation of the national economy and the control of the economic resources of the country, and the elimination of foreign monopolies. He also explained to him the system of direct popular democracy exercised by the Libyan people through the application of the principle of control by the masses over their own destiny, which Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro was able to observe for himself during his attendance at the historic and important event when the establishment of the power of the people was announced. Those moments marked the end of the historical period of traditional systems of government and the beginning of an important stage in the establishment of popular power and the commencement of the era of the masses.

The President of the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba, Fidel Castro, expressed his deepest gratitude to Colonel Mu'ammar Al-Qathafi and the fraternal Libyan Arab people for the warm reception they had given him and the delegation which accompanied him, and for the opportunity they had had of sharing with the Libyan people the Declaration of the establishment of their popular power, which enabled the Libyan people to take their own problems fully into their hands, and of being present at the proclamation of the commencement of the era of the masses.

Fidel Castro praised the courageous positions taken by the leaders of the Great Revolution of 1 September in the confrontation with the colonial and monopolistic Power; he also praised the active role being played by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in achieving Arab unity and in the struggle against neo-colonialism, racist zionism and the policies of the monopolies.

Fidel Castro expressed his admiration for the efforts being made by the Revolution under the leadership of Colonel Mu'ammar Al-Qathafi to bring about the economic and social transformation of Libya in the shortest possible period of time and to ensure that the Libyan people, even in the most remote areas of the desert, attained the levels of well-being and culture for which they had fought unselfishly for so long. He hailed the achievements in agriculture and industry which he had observed during his visits to various agricultural and industrial projects. /...

Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro informed Colonel Mu'ammarr Al-Qathafi of the resolutions of the First Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba and of the efforts of the Cuban people to build a socialist society in their country. He also gave him details of Cuba's foreign policy, in particular in relation to Latin American problems.

Colonel Mu'ammarr Al-Qathafi expressed his greatest appreciation and gratitude to Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro for having accepted the invitation to visit Libya and share with the Libyan people the moments of the Declaration of the establishment of their popular power and the commencement of the era of the masses. He also expressed his admiration for the achievements of the Cuban people in building a socialist society and for Cuba's constructive and fruitful policy in favour of the union of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the protection of their natural resources and their common interests. Mu'ammarr Al-Qathafi also welcomed Cuba's determined support for the just Arab cause.

Both sides highly valued the relations of friendship and co-operation existing between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Republic of Cuba in various fields and expressed a desire to develop those relations for the benefit of both peoples.

Both sides exchanged views concerning the current world situation. They paid special attention to the situation in the Arab region and strongly condemned Israel's Zionist aggression, supported by the imperialist Powers, against the Arab peoples, and reaffirmed that that aggression constituted a grave danger which threatened world peace and security. They expressed their conviction that genuine peace in that zone could not be achieved without the liberation of the territory of Palestine and the occupied Arab areas. In that connexion, both sides reaffirmed their support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination, the liberation of their territory and the establishment of their own national State.

Both sides denounced the reactionary and defeatist Arab policies aimed at the liquidation of the Palestinian cause and expressed their conviction that such attempts would in no way lead to the re-establishment of peace and security in the area.

Both sides agreed that the origin and fundamental cause of the tragedy which had occurred and which was continuing in Lebanon was the imperialist strategy directed towards domination of the Arab world and the promotion of a so-called "partial settlement" in order to achieve that total domination.

Both sides therefore declared that the crisis in Lebanon could be solved only by the Lebanese themselves, without any foreign intervention, and expressed their support for the efforts made by progressive forces in that country in their struggle to safeguard its territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty and to bring about the defeat of the colonialist conspiracy, the aim of which was the partition of Lebanon, the crushing of the progressive forces and the liquidation of the Palestinian resistance movement.

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Both sides also condemned the fierce propaganda campaign directed by the forces of Arab reaction, the allies of colonialism and Israeli zionism, against Libya and its progressive policies aimed at the repudiation of solutions of capitulation.

The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Republic of Cuba are confident that Arab unity, on progressive, anti-colonialist and anti-Zionist bases, is the main guarantee of the success of the liberation struggle which the Arab people are waging against neo-colonialism, aggression, zionism and reaction.

Both sides expressed their support for the strengthening and intensification of the relations of friendship and co-operation existing between the Arab peoples and their natural friends in the third world and the socialist countries and will combat any attempt to damage those relations.

In the course of the exchange of opinions on current international topics, the two sides showed an identity and harmony of viewpoints and particularly emphasized the need to continue the struggle to strengthen the unity of the non-aligned countries and their ability to take action and play a role in solving international problems. Both sides stressed the need to abide by the fundamental rules and principles of the concept of non-alignment with a view to achieving its noble ideals and purposes. Both sides felt that the resolutions adopted at the Fifth Conference of Non-Aligned Countries at Colombo reflected the purposes and orientation of a majority of the members of the international community. In that connexion, they expressed their steadfast determination to make even greater efforts at the bilateral and multilateral levels to secure implementation of the resolutions adopted at the Fifth Conference.

The conversations also confirmed the fact that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Republic of Cuba agree in their attitude towards imperialism, racism in all its manifestations, including zionism, and neo-colonialism as well as in upholding the principle of peaceful coexistence in international relations and in their determination to fight for social progress throughout the world.

Both sides express their full support for the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its thirtieth session determining that zionism is a form of racial discrimination, reaffirm that world security is closely linked with the security of the Mediterranean Sea and urge that the latter become a sea of peace and security for the benefit of its peoples and of the peoples of the world, support the absolute right of peoples to control their natural and economic resources in order to develop their countries and attain their goals, emphasize in that connexion the need for continued efforts to bring about the establishment of a New International Economic Order which will put an end to monopolies and exploitation and will eradicate all manifestations of inequality in international economic relations, and vigorously condemn all attempts by neo-colonialism to absorb the peoples of the third world.

Cuba and Libya hail the victories of the peoples of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe and of the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia in their struggles for freedom and independence. They denounce the imperialist attack on Benin and the imperialist manoeuvres directed against the Ethiopian revolution. They support the struggle of the Korean people for the withdrawal of United States troops from South Korea and the reunification of their country. They announce that they will continue to support the struggle of the peoples of Africa and of all peoples fighting for their political, economic and social freedom. They reaffirm their support for the African and Latin American liberation movements and express solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of Puerto Rico, Zimbabwe and Namibia and of the African people of South Africa. They also proclaim their support for the people and Government of Panama in their just position of calling for control of the interoceanic canal and the latter's return to Panamanian sovereignty.

The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Republic of Cuba denounce the racist régimes in Africa and the imperialist plans and conspiracies aimed at the recovery of their domains, the protection of their interests and the liquidation of the African liberation movements. They also condemn the collusion between the Zionist and South African racist régimes, which is designed to strike a blow at the liberation struggle of the African and Arab peoples. Furthermore, they condemn fascist-type régimes throughout the world, particularly in Chile.

Both sides reaffirmed their support for the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and will endeavour to ensure that the United Nations plays its proper role in strengthening international peace and security.

Both sides express deep satisfaction at the admission of the People's Republic of Angola to membership in the United Nations and firmly support the right of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to join the Organization.

Both sides emphasize the importance of international détente and praise the efforts of the socialist countries to achieve détente in the interests of peace and security, the elimination of colonialism and the liberation of peoples.

The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Republic of Cuba value highly the results of the Libyan-Cuban conversations and believe that the visit by President Fidel Castro will mark a new stage in the strengthening and consolidation of co-operation, friendship and understanding between the two countries in various fields.

The two sides agree to initiate regular consultations at the popular and official levels between the organs responsible for foreign affairs and economic, scientific and technical co-operation.

Both sides express their desire to expand commercial and cultural exchanges, which will help to deepen the two friendly peoples' knowledge of each other.

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The following official documents were signed during the visit:

an Agreement on Cultural and Scientific Co-operation;

an Agreement on Technical, Economic and Commercial Co-operation.

The President of the Cuban Council of State reaffirmed the invitation to Colonel Mu'ammarr Al-Qathafi to visit the Republic of Cuba.

The invitation was accepted, and the date of the visit will be set at a later time.

Issued at Tripoli, on 10 March 1977.
