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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 4 October 1978 from the Permanent Representative of
Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that during the night of 30 September-1 October 1978 the Algerian Army, for the second time within the space of a month, committed an act of aggression against my country. The localities which were subjected to this Algerian aggression are situated 5 and 15 kilometres respectively within Moroccan territory.

Following this act of aggression, His Majesty King Hassan II sent a message to President Houari Boumediène, the text of which is attached hereto.

This act of aggression, the seriousness of which must be obvious to you, resulted in a number of casualties and represents another infringement by Algeria of my country's sovereignty and territorial integrity in violation of the principles embodied in the Charters of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States. It comes at a time when the Organization of African Unity is making tireless efforts to reduce tension in our region and when the African Heads of State, at the most recent summit conference at Khartoum, have in particular urged all the States of the region to refrain from any acts which might aggravate that tension.

I wish to draw your attention to the fact that acts of this nature can have serious repercussions for the peace and security of the region and may lead Morocco to react in an appropriate manner. In that event, the Algerian Government will bear full responsibility.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the King's message circulated as an official General Assembly document under agenda item 50.

(Signed) Abdellatif FILALI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Text of the message of 2 October 1978 from His Majesty
King Hassan II of Morocco addressed to His Excellency
Mr. Houari Boumediène, President of the People's
Democratic Republic of Algeria

I should have liked to resume direct contact with you for the purpose of discussing reconciliation and planning for peace.

Unfortunately, I find myself compelled to do so only in order to lodge a vigorous protest with you concerning the aggression committed against my country during the night of 30 September-1 October 1978.

As you are aware, a convention delimiting the frontiers between Morocco and Algeria was drawn up and signed by our two Governments in 1972 at a time when the Heads of State attending the summit conference of the Organization of African Unity were present at Rabat and thus bore witness to our two peoples and to all of Africa.

Morocco has always complied strictly with this convention even though my country has not yet ratified it. You yourself published it in the official gazette of the Algerian Republic, No. 546, of 15 June 1973. Article 1 of the convention refers to the map of Merkala (scale 1:200,000 E - IGN, North Sahara, 1964 edition).

The localities known as Hassis Tilemsi which were subjected to Algerian aggression are situated 5 and 15 kilometres respectively within these frontiers which have been recognized by you, by us and by all international Powers.

I shall not attempt to conceal from you my state of bafflement, for the act committed by the Algerian armed forces is devoid of all sense and logic.

Such acts, although they do not make it clear that you wish to enlarge the conflict under way between us, are also far from suggesting that Algeria, in compliance with its obligations, is refraining from violating its uncontested frontiers with its neighbours.

Everyone is aware of the nature of the obligations of a Head of State towards his people and his country. Some of these obligations call for decisions which no man of conscience adopts casually or light-heartedly.

Death and injury have resulted from the deliberate disregard of an internationally recognized instrument.

/...

Just what is it that you want, Mr. President, and what, therefore, does Algeria want? I am publicly putting this question to your conscience. I hope that you, militant African that you have been, will be sufficiently candid to give me your reply as soon as possible.

You and I know all too well the risks and dangers usually entailed in an outbreak of hostilities.

We have too close a relationship with our officers and men to be willing to expose them so lightly to a senseless death.

I hope that, in making your reply, you will be moved by your conscience as a Maghrebian to safeguard what remains and can still be serviceable of our neighbourly relationship and our membership in the same spiritual family and the same continent.

HASSAN II
King of Morocco
