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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 21 August 1980 from the Permanent Representative of
Somalia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to refer to the letter of the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia dated 9 August 1980 (A/35/386) requesting the circulation, as an official document of the General Assembly under item 50 of the provisional agenda, of the text of a communication addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia.

As has been communicated to you by His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia in his telegram forwarded to you under cover of my letter of 13 August 1980 (NV/80/61), Somalia totally rejects Ethiopian allegations of Somalia's military involvement in the liberation struggle being waged by the Western Somali Liberation Front. The aim of the colonialist Addis Ababa régime is to mislead international public opinion by making the liberation struggle appear as armed conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia. One wonders as to which other State that régime blames for the liberation struggles which continue to be waged by Abbo, Eritrea, Tigre and other oppressed areas.

During the past 10 months colonialist Ethiopia has continually violated the territorial integrity of the Somali Democratic Republic and has carried out aerial attacks on Somali towns and villages, not sparing even refugee camps, with consequent considerable loss of life and limb as well as the destruction of property. In his communication, the Foreign Minister of Ethiopia has sought to deny these attacks against the weight of independent evidence which is available to the international community. In this connexion, I wish to quote from a news report by Reuter dated 2 April 1980, in which it is stated:

* A/35/150.

"A Swedish relief team which left its headquarters north of Mogadishu because of Ethiopian air attacks today returned to continue helping refugees, a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman said. The official said the nine member team left Belet Uen 300 kms. (180 miles) north of Mogadishu this morning. Aid workers reaching Nairobi yesterday said the disaster team had moved to Mogadishu after Ethiopian MIG fighter-bombers made a series of strikes at villages near Belet Uen last week. The team works in seven refugee camps in the area under the auspices of UNHCR."

Another eyewitness report by correspondent Dan Connell datelined DOLO, Somalia, of 27 June 1980 stated:

"Bomb and rocket fragments littered the streets and the small town school has disintegrated into two gaping craters in this Somali border town repeatedly attacked this week by fighter-bombers. The 10,000 residents of the town fled to the sprawling refugee camps further south after the first Ethiopian raid on 18 June."

The above-quoted reports by independent news correspondents, and many other similar reports which it is not necessary to reproduce in this letter, bear irrefutable testimony to the wanton aggression being waged by colonialist Ethiopia and its unholy allies against the territory and people of the Somali Democratic Republic.

Not deterred by the overwhelming recognition of the international community and the United Nations Organization of the most serious refugee problem in the world which obtains in Somalia, resulting from the policies of repression and genocide of the Ethiopian régime, the Foreign Minister of that régime has again resorted to the shameless denial by his Government of the existence of the refugees. The policy of his Government to depopulate the Ogaden and resettle there drought-stricken people from other areas is only too well known. In this connexion, it is not out of place to quote from another news report of 28 May 1980 by correspondent Jack Simons:

"More than 2,000 refugees from Ethiopia pour into Somalia's makeshift refugee camps every day, according to Somali and international officials. Most of them came from the disputed Ogaden desert which has been criss-crossed by camel-herding Somali nomads for centuries. After questioning many of the arrivals and those who have survived for some months in appalling conditions in the camps, it is hard to disagree with diplomats in Mogadishu that, to use the words of one of them: 'The Ogaden is being systematically depopulated'."

Many other correspondents have reported in a similar vein.

The international community is well aware of the presence of thousands upon thousands of foreign troops in the Ogaden and of the supply to the Ethiopian régime of vast quantities of sophisticated weapons, including T72 tanks, MIGs 21, 23 and 25, long-range artillery and reportedly even poison gases. It requires

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no great imagination to realize the purpose for the stockpiling of those implements of war. In the light of recent events in Kampuchea and Afghanistan there is little doubt that Somalia is the next target for aggression and invasion and that Ethiopia's current protestations and complaints constitute but a thinly disguised pretext for such aggression and invasion. As a matter of fact, this prediction is amply corroborated by recent public statements by the Ethiopian Government and its embassies abroad.

The Foreign Minister of Ethiopia saw fit to include in his communication allegations of "internal opposition and strife" and "mounting domestic problems" facing the Somali Government. The truth of the matter is that it is the Ethiopian régime which is feverishly engaged in the futile attempt of suppressing the wars of liberation that continue to be waged by the oppressed peoples of Eritrea, Western Somalia, Abbo and Tigre. Hardly a day passes without armed clashes being reported by reputable international news agencies between the armed forces of Ethiopia, supported by foreign mercenaries and advisers on the one hand, and the liberation movements on the other hand.

The Ethiopian régime's campaign of terror and repression does not end with its vain attempt to suppress the liberation struggle. It continues to pursue its official policy of red terror against the intelligentsia and the religious groups in the country. The memory is still fresh in our minds of the disappearance, as reported by Amnesty International, of 200 prominent men and women prisoners, including the former Patriarch of the Orthodox Church of Ethiopia, Abuna Tewoflos. It therefore ill behoves the Foreign Minister of Ethiopia to speak of Somalia's domestic problems.

International public opinion has time and again condemned Ethiopia's aggression against the territory and people of the Somali Democratic Republic as well as its policies of genocide and repression against the peoples of Eritrea, Western Somalia, Abbo and other areas. These policies of the Ethiopian Government endanger international peace and security in the region and constitute a denial of human rights and self-determination, both of which are fundamental principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

In the circumstances, and in view of the current blatant threats by the Ethiopian régime to invade Somalia, I request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 50 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Ahmed Mohamed ADAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to
the United Nations
