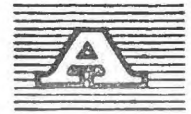


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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

LETTER DATED 27 JANUARY 1975 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF MOROCCO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF
THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

I have the honour to draw the Special Committee's attention to the colonial situation which still characterizes certain parts of Moroccan territory.

(1) The Kingdom of Morocco is one of the last African countries to suffer from colonial domination in certain parts of its territory. Thus, having regained its independence (liberation of the parts that were French and Spanish protectorates), it remained surrounded by Spanish-held areas on three sides - west, south and north.

Ifni, on Morocco's western flank, was returned to Morocco by Spain in January 1969, following armed struggles and negotiations.

The Sahara region, on its southern flank, is now the subject of resolution 3292 (XXIX) of the United Nations General Assembly, which decided to seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice.

There remains the northern flank, where Spain perpetuates its occupation of the presidios (garrisons).

Of the entire Mediterranean coast of the African continent, those presidios are the last vestiges of the colonial occupation, and comprise: Ceuta, Melilla, Alhucemas, Peñon de Velez and the Chafarinas.

They form enclaves within Moroccan territory, and their situation from the historical, political and legal standpoint is identical to that of Gibraltar.

(2) In the course of its history and until the present day, Morocco has never abandoned its overriding desire to regain those enclaves, in order to achieve its territorial integrity; it has always acted, at both bilateral and international levels, with that aim in view.

Thus, the Moroccan-Spanish Agreement of 27 April 1956, proclaiming the end of the protectorate régime, recognizes Morocco's independence on the basis of its national unity and its territorial integrity. Since then, the Moroccan Government has undertaken painstaking negotiations with Spain, with a view to achieving a full implementation of the contents of that Agreement, thereby regaining the territories that remained to be liberated from the colonial yoke.

In the speech which he delivered at the Conference of Heads of State of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade in September 1961, His Majesty the King reaffirmed our claims by stating:

"Thus, in Morocco the Spanish colonialists continue to occupy whole areas in the southern part of our territory - Sekiet El Hamra, Ifni, Río de Oro - and maintain enclaves and bases in the north, at Ceuta and Melilla."

Despite the Moroccan Government's desire to settle this dispute, which dates from a bygone era, its attitude of goodwill has systematically encountered an obstinate refusal on the part of the Spanish Government.

Spain, on the one hand, seeks to perpetuate its colonial presence in territories which are properly Moroccan and, on the other, claims in the international courts the return of Gibraltar, a case which is in all aspects identical to that of the presidios.

(3) This situation leaves the Moroccan Government with no alternative but to have recourse to the United Nations, which is responsible for the national unity and territorial integrity of all States.

Consideration of the situation of the Spanish colonial enclaves on the north coast of Morocco falls squarely within the competence of the Special Committee of 24, in accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the United Nations General Assembly, in particular by its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961, which established the Committee.

(4) Accordingly, upon instructions from my Government, I request the Special Committee to include the above-mentioned enclaves in the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, so that their colonial situation may be considered by the Special Committee in the light of United Nations General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960. The implementation, with regard to these enclaves, of the Declaration on decolonization embodied in the above-mentioned resolution would amount to their restitution to the Moroccan State by the occupying authority.

I request you to include this question in the agenda of the next meeting of the Special Committee and to permit my delegation to participate in the consideration of the item, with a view to presenting to the Committee its detailed point of view on the matter.

(Signed) Driss SLAOUI
Permanent Representative
