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LETTER DATED 13 JUNE 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
MOROCCO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

During the night of 31 May-1 June 1979, a column of the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces was attacked while it was advancing peacefully between the towns of Tan Tan and Tarfaya, situated within territory which has from time immemorial been under Moroccan sovereignty.

Morocco suffered more than 20 dead, several dozen wounded and extensive material damage.

During the night of 4 June 1979, while His Majesty King Hassan II was receiving Mr. Edem Kodjo, Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to inform him of the flagrant aggression and violation of Moroccan territory, the town of Assa, likewise situated in the southern part of the national territory of Morocco, was attacked. The grim results of this second attack consisted of extensive material damage, including the total destruction of a public building, several dead, including six civilians who were going peacefully about their business, and many wounded.

Thus, within four days, Morocco was the victim of two flagrant attacks, carried out and directed by forces whose point of departure was situated in neighbouring Algerian territory, to which they returned after committing their heinous crimes.

Thus, Algeria, a State Member of the United Nations, has deliberately violated the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, notably by resorting to the use of force against the territorial integrity of the Moroccan State.

The Government of the Kingdom of Morocco is therefore both justified in addressing itself to the Security Council and compelled to do so, for the situation created and imposed on it by Algeria cannot continue without seriously threatening the maintenance of peace and security in the region.

Morocco will, of course, continue to exercise its inherent right of self-defence in accordance with the provisions of Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations whenever it is subjected to repeated armed attacks, and will pursue its attackers both within and outside its territory.

Morocco is deeply attached to the principles of the United Nations, with which it is determined to comply in all circumstances, but wishes to reaffirm its desire for peace and its determination to do nothing, beyond exercising its inherent right of self-defence, that might jeopardize or endanger international peace and security.

It is doubtless of interest to recall that throughout this recent period Morocco has been the victim of a number of armed attacks and that its territorial integrity has been violated more than once.

On each occasion, with the aim of protecting North West Africa from anything that might jeopardize its security and stability, it has refrained from responding to the blind forces of aggression by actions involving force which are equally blind.

Consequently, on behalf of my Government, I have the honour to request you to make the necessary arrangements to convene a meeting of the Security Council to consider the acts of aggression committed by the Algerian Government against Morocco. The Council should also take as a matter of urgency all effective measures, in accordance with the prerogatives conferred upon it by the Charter, to avert the obvious threats to peace thus created and to check the acts of aggression of which Morocco is the victim.

(Signed) Abdellatif FILALI
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Morocco
to the United Nations
