

lenge the draft resolution on legal grounds, the United Kingdom could not support a draft resolution that failed to take account of the wider political factors and failed to acknowledge that Nicaragua had largely brought its troubles upon itself. That delegation had therefore abstained.²³ The

²³*Ibid.*, p. 52.

representative of France, in explaining France's abstention, stated that the draft resolution contained questionable references to the Judgment of 27 June 1986 by the International Court of Justice, both on matters of substance and on the Court's role.²⁴

²⁴*Ibid.*, p. 53.

29. LETTER DATED 13 NOVEMBER 1986 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHAD TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

By a letter¹ dated 13 November 1986 addressed to the President of the Security Council, the representative of Chad transmitted the text of a memorandum of the same date and requested the convening of an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider the serious situation then prevailing in his country, the northern part of which had been occupied by the neighbouring Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. He further said that, in addition to the occupation, in the northern region, of 550,000 sq km, the perpetual interference in the internal and external affairs of the Republic of Chad, and the repeated acts of aggression, destabilization and terrorism in his country, the Tripoli regime had of late further escalated the war by embarking on a systematic and collective massacre of the innocent civilian populations in the occupied zone. It was further stated, in the memorandum annexed to the letter, that the Libyan military occupation of northern Chad had begun in 1972 with the Aouzou Strip, a region covering 114,000 sq km, and that it had since been steadily expanded until, in August 1983, it had extended over 550,000 sq km, stretching over the entire Prefecture of Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti, after an unprecedented military offensive by air and land. The memorandum also asserted that, since August 1983, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had been reinforcing its military presence daily by constructing airfields capable of accommodating all types of military equipment and by installing sophisticated communication and defence systems while, simultaneously, the "Libyanization" of northern Chad, including the organization of deportation of women and children, had begun with the stamping out of all traces of Chadian identity and the imposition of Arabic to replace French, of the Green Book as the only political philosophy and of the Libyan dinar as the only currency. The memorandum concluded that the genocidal crimes that were being perpetrated by the Libyan occupier against the defenceless civilian populations had led the Government of the Republic of Chad to bring the situation before the international community so that it could assume its responsibilities by exercising pressure on the Libyan regime in order to induce it to withdraw its occupation troops from Chadian territory without delay.

At its 2721st meeting, on 18 November 1986, the Security Council included in its agenda the item entitled "Letter dated 13 November 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the

President of the Security Council", and considered the item at the same meeting.² The Council decided to extend invitations, at their request, to the representatives of Chad, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Zaire to participate, without vote, in the discussion of the item.³

At the same meeting, the representative of Chad said that his Government had felt obliged to seize the Council, once again, of the extremely serious situation resulting from the occupation of a large part of Chad by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in flagrant violation of law and international custom. He said that what was at stake was the survival of a segment of the Chadian population, its natural heritage, sovereignty, independence and its territorial integrity, resulting from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya's occupation of Chadian territory, and its systematic massacre and genocide of the Chadian people in the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti region. He appealed to the Security Council to help take up the challenge in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the charter of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and to bring about the immediate withdrawal of the Libyan occupation troops from Chad and to ensure that Libya ended the genocide it had been carrying out in the territory.⁴

The representative of the People's Republic of the Congo said that the Chadian conflict could be resolved under the auspices of OAU and that a competent body which had been established to deal with the problem had held several meetings on the question. He stated that the non-aligned countries also supported the efforts of OAU to bring about national reconciliation in Chad and to establish, without foreign interference, lasting peace and respect for Chad's territorial integrity and independence. Stating that the conflict in Chad lent itself to a regional initiative within the framework of OAU, he called upon the Security Council, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, to take due account of the need for OAU to find a solution to the Chadian problem and to encourage the regional organization in its initiatives and efforts aimed at achieving national reconciliation in order to enable Chad to regain peace, national unity and territorial integrity.⁵

²For the adoption of the agenda, see S/PV.2721, p. 2.

³For details on invitations, see chap. III of the present *Supplement*.

⁴S/PV.2721, pp. 3-9.

⁵*Ibid.*, pp. 11-13. For the discussions on the principles contained in Chapter VIII of the Charter, see chap. XII of the present *Supplement*.

¹S/18456, annex.

The representative of Zaire said that the situation in Chad was a dramatic attack on the principles of international law and the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and in the OAU charter, in particular the provisions that related to sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, non-use of force in relations among States, and the peaceful settlement of disputes as stipulated in article 3 of the OAU charter and Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations. He said that no country had the right to threaten the sovereignty and territorial integrity of another, and called for the withdrawal of the Libyan forces from Chad. He then quoted the provisions of Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and stated that, in response to the appeal for assistance by the legitimate Government of Chad, Zaire had sent troops as tangible evidence of its commitments to the preservation of the territorial integrity of each African State in accordance with Article 3 of the OAU Charter.⁶

The representative of France said that France had learned that in the Chadian conflict non-combatants had been the target of attacks resulting in the destruction of Gourma and Monou, areas where civilians had been killed. He said that France had set up a military assistance unit, at the request of the Chadian Government and in conformity with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, to act as a deterrent against outside interference in Chadian affairs.⁷

The representative of the United States of America recalled that the Government of Chad had vigorously worked towards the goal of national reconciliation since it had come to power in 1982, but that its domestic progress had been disrupted by external military aggression directed against it, with an invasion in 1983 by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in clear violation, not only of the Charter of the United Nations, but also that of OAU. He recalled further that in that invasion, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had seized nearly half of the territory of Chad and was in continued occupation of Chad's northern provinces, which it

continued to maintain through harsh military rule. He said that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya's attacks on Chad had threatened not only its smaller neighbour, but also the peace and stability of other nations in the region. He called upon the international community to demand that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya withdraw its military forces from Chad and cease its aggression against a Member of the United Nations.⁸

At the same meeting, the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya challenged the ground upon which the Security Council was convened, as the problem of Chad was an internal one resulting from the remnants of French colonialism that could best be handled under the auspices of OAU. He said that the regional organization had already entrusted to the President of the People's Republic of the Congo the task of seeking national reconciliation among the contending Chadian parties. He then accused the Government of the United States of America of using the Chadian conflict to divert attention from the American aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and as an excuse to support the Chadian faction led by Hissein Habre, whose regime did not control Chad. He called upon other States, in particular the "colonial Powers" which were intervening in Chadian affairs, to put an end to their intervention in the territory.⁹

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics expressed his delegation's support for the position taken by OAU in its attempt to achieve national reconciliation in Chad without any outside interference. He accused the United States of America and France of using the Security Council meeting as a basis for attacking the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, to increase tension on the Libyan border and to use the internal conflict in Chad to effect far-reaching political policies and designs aimed against another African country. He condemned the escalation of imperialist interference in the internal affairs of African countries as illegal acts that threatened destabilization of the international environment.¹⁰

⁶Ibid., pp. 16-19.
⁷Ibid., pp. 21 and 22.

⁸Ibid., pp. 23-27.
⁹Ibid., pp. 28-36.
¹⁰Ibid., pp. 41-43.

30. LETTER DATED 9 DECEMBER 1986 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NICARAGUA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

INITIAL PROCEEDINGS

By a letter¹ dated 8 December 1986 addressed to the President of the Security Council, the representative of Nicaragua requested the convening of a meeting of the Security Council to consider the incidents in the Central American region which endangered international peace and security.

At the 2728th meeting, on 10 December 1986, the Council considered the item on its agenda. The representatives of Honduras and Nicaragua were invited, at their request, to participate without vote in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Council. Members of the Council had a letter dated 8 December 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations, which contained the text of the note of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras describing the violation of Nicaraguan airspace by firefighter planes flying from Honduras.

¹S/18514.