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QUESTION OF PALESTINE

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Note verbale dated 28 November 1977 from the Permanent Representative  
of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit herewith two communiqués recently issued by the General People's Congress and the Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The Permanent Representative of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has the further honour to request that said communiqués be issued as official documents of the General Assembly under agenda items 30 and 31.

## ANNEX I

Declaration issued on 18 November 1977 by the General People's Congress  
of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya concerning recent developments affecting  
the Arab nation

The General People's Congress was convened in regular session. In addition, an extraordinary meeting was held during which the latest developments in the Arab nation were discussed. Special attention was devoted to the announcement of the Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat of his intention to visit the occupied territories and to hold discussions with the terrorist Begin, head of the Zionist gangs who perpetrated all the massacres committed against the Palestinian people, including especially the well-known massacre at Deir Yassin. Sadat will also hold discussions with the Israeli Knesset gangsters.

The announcement of the Egyptian leader was a shock to the whole Arab nation. It was considered unbelievable. Events have entered the stage of the unpredictable and the impossible. The mere thought of such a visit constitutes a dangerous matter and can be considered a challenge to the pride and sentiments of the Arab nation. This step constitutes a shame upon all Arab generations, past, present and future, and a crime that shall never be forgiven. The best evidence of this is the fact that the Zionists have immediately publicized these events by incorporating them into a United Nations document. In its awareness of the historic responsibility held by the Libyan Arab people as the conscience of the Arab nation, and in order to save whatever can be saved, the General People's Congress decided to send a special envoy to President Hafez Al-Assad of Syria in an attempt to convince the Egyptian President to abandon this dangerous idea. In addition, another envoy was sent directly to the Egyptian President to warn him that this action constitutes a discredit to the historic stands of the Arab nation and its sacrifices in its long struggle against zionism. The blood of tens of thousands of Arab martyrs who fell in the holy battles shall have been shed in vain and this is an insult to the Arab peoples.

In view of the fact that the Egyptian President has declared his determination to undertake this visit, the General People's Congress, assuming its historic responsibilities to the Arab nation declares that:

1. The intentions of President Sadat constitutes a crime against the whole Arab nation, which will not remain silent in the face of this crime.

2. The Egyptian President in this act represents only himself. The Egyptian and the Arab people cannot be held responsible and will not be bound by whatever he undertakes since no Arab ruler has the right to act individually on the Arab national cause. The Arab Jamahiriya declares its non-responsibility for and total rejection of this act, because it represents a crime which the Arab people can allow nobody to commit against them.

3. The problem between us and the enemy is not a problem of armaments as claimed by Sadat. It is a problem of the occupation of Palestine and the neighbouring territories by the enemy. If we acknowledge the presence of the enemy on occupied Arab territories, the problem will not be one of armaments but the mere presence of the enemy on Arab land.

4. The objective of liberation is a great one. The means used to achieve it should be as noble as the objective itself. Even if Sadat were able through his visit to restore an independent free Palestine, which is impossible, the Arabs are nobler than to seek the liberation of Palestine in this manner. We prefer that Palestine should remain occupied for ever rather than be disgraced in this manner. We prefer to confront death rather than humiliate ourselves in front of the usurpers.

5. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has warned from the very beginning in the words of Colonel Mu'ammār Al-Qaddafi since 1973 of the dangers of submissive steps undertaken by the Egyptian President. It has warned the Arab nation that these series of concessions once begun will never come to an end.

6. The Arab people are called upon today more than at any time in the past, not only to consolidate their positions but also to take the necessary measures to deter this ruler and eliminate this disgrace. The Arab régimes are obliged to define their positions vis-à-vis the Egyptian régime. The Arab nation holds abundant resources capable of defeating the enemy and obtaining liberation. It is not obliged to undertake these disgraceful methods.

7. The Congress demands the rejection of this act and of any agreement or concession that may result.

The Arab nation has the power to maintain its three "No's" of the Khartoum Summit. We should be more prepared and able to persevere in our objective to achieve liberation.

8. At this critical stage the General People's Congress announces that it has made available all the resources of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to Syria and to the Palestine Resistance that rejects submission. Syria today, more than at any time in the past, represents the only fortress confronting the enemy. Moreover, Syria represents the glory of the Arab nation, its steadfastness and unique source of hope for liberation. Therefore the General People's Congress calls upon the Arab people to stand with Syria.

9. The Congress also calls for the establishment of an Arab rejection front for the continuation of the struggle in the cause of liberation.

10. If the Egyptian President undertakes this visit to the occupied territories, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya will withdraw its recognition of the Egyptian Government on the grounds that that Government no longer inspires confidence and respect as a legitimate Arab Government. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya will demand the expulsion of the Egyptian Government from the Arab League and the immediate relocation of the headquarters of the Arab League from the Egyptian capital. Moreover the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya will enforce the Arab boycott against Egypt.

In conclusion, the Congress calls upon the Arab nation to heal its wounds, unify its ranks, confront the forces of disgrace and submission and stand as one in the cause of the struggle, liberation, victory and glory of our nation.

ANNEX II

Statement issued on 23 November 1977 by the Secretariat for  
Foreign Affairs of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya concerning the  
severing of all relations with Egypt

Following the announcement of the Egyptian President of his intention to visit the occupied territories and to meet with the terrorist Begin and the Israeli Knesset gangsters, the General People's Congress issued a statement in which it declared that if the Egyptian President undertook that visit, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would undertake a number of measures which were specified in the statement issued by the General People's Congress.

Since the disgraceful and treacherous visit has already taken place from 9 to 11 Dhu'l-Hijja 1397 A.H. (19 to 21 November 1977 A.D.), the Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in accordance with the statement issued by the General People's Congress announces the following:

1. The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya withdraws its recognition of the Egyptian Government on the grounds that that Government no longer has confidence and respect as a legitimate Arab Government;
2. The Arab boycott against the Zionist enemy applies to Egypt as well, since what comes from Egypt could be coming from or going to the enemy;
3. Libyan air space and airports are closed to Egyptian planes, and vessels carrying the Egyptian flag are prohibited from crossing Libyan territorial waters, or from entering or anchoring in Libyan harbours;
4. Libyan air space and airports are closed to planes that come from or go to Egypt or land in Egyptian airports; and foreign vessels which anchor in Egyptian harbours or transport goods to or from Egyptian harbours are prohibited from crossing Libyan territorial waters and from entering or anchoring in Libyan harbours;
5. This statement will not affect the excellent treatment accorded to Egyptian Arab brothers working in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya who are considered as being at home and part of the family;
6. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has contacted sister Arab Governments requesting the expulsion of the Egyptian Government from the League of Arab States and the immediate relocation of the headquarters of the League of Arab States from the Egyptian capital since the Egyptian Government has violated the objectives of the Charter of the League and the resolutions of the Arab Summit, and has trampled on the aspirations of the Arab nation which are symbolized by the establishment of Arab unity, the restoration of Arab dignity and Arab land and the guaranteeing of the security and integrity of Arab soil.