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LETTER DATED 9 NOVEMBER 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from Colonel Muammar Qaddafi,
leader of the great revolution of 1 September in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab
Jamahiriya, addressed to His Excellency the President of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of
the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Ali A. TREIKI
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 9 November 1983 from the Leader of the Revolution
in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya addressed to the President of
the Security Council

Out of responsible concern for a just world peace, for the freedom of the peoples and for the struggle to bring about the rule and freedom of the masses, so that tyranny and injustice in the world may come to an end, and out of a sincere wish for the continuation of the world peace which came about following the catastrophe of the Second World War, at a time when the world, regrettably, seems sunk in a coma or stupor and the world conscience seems afflicted with deafness or lethargy, I wish to warn the whole world - and I address myself to you directly as being internationally responsible for the maintenance of world peace - that the whole world is living today on the brink of the abyss, it may suddenly, as a result of a heedless action, slide into the hell from which there is no exit and no deliverance for anyone.

The concentration of United States naval and air fleets and of NATO fleets off the coasts of Syria and Lebanon constitutes a fortiori a threat to the peace experienced by the world during the 40 years following the Second World War. This places on me the responsibility to draw the attention of the world to the fact that the region has become a powder-keg about to catch fire and liable to explode at any moment, and the world with it, as a result of the American escalation which increases unnoticed and without regard for the gravity of the consequences to the point where it seems that President Reagan has actually entered the stage of power madness and power delusion. This makes the American people and the international organizations concerned responsible for the maintenance of peace and responsible for prompt action, so that the madness of no individual, whoever he may be, can bring the inhabitants of the world to agonizing catastrophe.

It is my duty to state to the world that these forces which are increasing daily in intensity and number in Lebanon and near the Syrian border came to the region in the name of peace-keeping forces in the circumstances of the Israeli aggression which aimed at the destruction and occupation of Lebanon. The justification for bringing in these forces, consisting of a limited number of infantry contingents, was to facilitate the withdrawal of the Palestinians from Beirut. That withdrawal actually took place, and there were then no longer any grounds for the continued stay of these forces, but lo and behold, they have been transformed from small infantry units intended for that specific purpose into fleets, destroyers and nuclear weapons instead of rifles. We do not believe that the mandate of these forces includes the ousting of the Israeli forces which still occupy Beirut and Lebanon, for, otherwise, they would be confronting them and not the Lebanese and Syrians and what is left of the Palestinians.

Perhaps the great question which poses itself - and we all wish to know the answer to it - is how these alleged peace-keeping forces, consisting of a limited number of small contingents with limited weaponry turned into aircraft-carriers, naval and air fleets, nuclear warheads and the bombing of nationals in Lebanon,

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the mountains and Syria. It is a deception which the United States Administration is trying to impose within the sight and hearing of international forums and world public opinion. The development of a so-called peace-keeping force from small contingents dispatched at the time of the withdrawal of the Palestinians from Beirut into fleets and aircraft-carriers confirms that these forces were not originally intended for peace-keeping but were merely a pretext for occupying the region and threatening peace, even if that should lead to the outbreak of a world war. It is truly regrettable and distressing that peace should be sacrificed for the sake of imperialist goals and the world sacrificed for the sake of Israeli aggressors.

I say again that the peace-keeping forces, if they ever were such, have long since completed their limited task, and, if it is desired to entrust them with a new task, then it should be that of confronting the Israelis until such time as their complete, unrestricted and unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon is carried out. That the task of those forces should be transformed into a war against the Lebanese and the Syrians, on the other hand, was not agreed to, at least from the international point of view.

The world well knows that the situation in Lebanon and in the region became more dangerous and more complex after the arrival of the peace-keeping forces, and the dimensions of that danger have even extended beyond the region to threaten the peace of the entire world. This places upon you a historic responsibility requiring rapid action for the withdrawal of those forces from the region immediately and their return to their bases. I personally undertake and guarantee that I shall, for my own part and doing whatever I can, work for the establishment of a just peace with all the powers at my disposal and shall strive for the withdrawal of all Libyan and Syrian forces from Lebanon upon termination of the state of foreign occupation of its territory, that is to say subject to the withdrawal of foreign forces from the region. The Israeli forces which are in the territory of Lebanon are, for their part, forces of occupation and aggression whose immediate withdrawal is imperative, and the question of their withdrawal is not to be coupled or linked with any other matter.

The Israelis, with their alien and intrusive presence in Arab territory, are the cause of all the woes suffered by the region, and it is they who are causing the ruin and destruction of the world, because they are drawing America and the world into the abyss and the chasm. The world should wake up to the danger which encompasses it and threatens it with annihilation by returning the non-oriental Jews to the countries from which they migrated, returning the Palestinian people to its land and establishing a democratic State with room enough for the Palestinians and their brothers, the oriental Jews.

Proceeding from concern for peace, I repeat once more that, if we are not careful and if we do not close ranks to halt what is going on, everything will be destroyed, including life itself. Thereupon, nothing will remain but a curse on the Israelis and the imperialists, who will have caused the ruin of the world, and on those who remained quiescent and silent in times that required words and action.

Colonel Muammar QADDAFI
