



UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/10288
7 October 1975
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Thirtieth session

LETTER DATED 7 OCTOBER 1975 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SPAIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Today, in reply to a point of order I raised during the 2377th plenary meeting of the General Assembly, the President issued an opinion, which he hoped would be shared by the General Assembly and by myself, to the effect that diplomatic courtesy dictated that there should be no debate, and consequently no reply, in connexion with messages addressed to the General Assembly by persons invested with the dignity of Head of State. According to that view, comments on such messages can be made only in writing.

I have already had occasion to reply some days ago, through Security Council document S/11835, to the offensive words directed by the President of Mexico against my country in a message to you, which constituted clear interference in internal affairs, expressly prohibited by the United Nations Charter in its Article 2, paragraph 7.

When the competent organ of the United Nations had already taken a position rejecting the interventionist claims of Mr. Echeverría, the latter, making peculiar use of that diplomatic courtesy which, as I understand it, is equally binding on everyone, took it upon himself to persist in his misguided efforts, publicly accusing the Government of Spain of being the cause of an alleged situation of danger to peace and security in a strategic area of the European continent.

The Government of Spain categorically rejects that imputation, which is politically unjustifiable and is technically and legally contrary to the Charter establishing the United Nations and to the doctrine enshrined in the Organization's resolutions.

Mexico has made flagrant attempts to interfere in Spain's affairs. At the end of the Spanish civil conflict in 1939, the Government of Mexico, no doubt concluded that the republican institutions had ceased to exist, severed its official

diplomatic relations with the Spanish republicans and closed the embassy of Spain in Mexico. However, six years later, in 1945, the Mexican Government saw fit to participate in the administration of Spanish property belonging to private individuals which had, as a result of seizure, arrived in Mexico on board the yacht "Vita". Perhaps with a view to covering the disputed administration of that property, the Government of Mexico decided to recognize an exile group as the Government, thus initiating its unjustifiable interference in my country's affairs.

In addition to the previously cited Article of the Charter, I should also like to recall in this connexion the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States, approved in General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV), which solemnly affirms the principle concerning the duty not to intervene in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, in the following terms:

"No State or group of States has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatever, in the internal or external affairs of any other State. Consequently, armed intervention and all other forms of interference or attempted threats against the personality of the State or against its political, economic and cultural elements, are in violation of international law.

"No State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind. Also, no State shall organize, assist, foment, finance, incite or tolerate subversive, terrorist or armed activities directed towards the violent overthrow of the régime of another State, or interfere in civil strife in another State.

"...

"Every State has an inalienable right to choose its political, economic, social and cultural systems, without interference in any form by another State."

The allusions made by the President of Mexico to alleged international controversies or troubles attributable to Spain, which would supposedly justify the right of any country Member of the United Nations to bring them to the attention of the competent organs of this Organization, constitute a gratuitous and tendentious speculation, which the Security Council has already rejected as unacceptable (S/11843).

Accordingly, I cannot pass over in silence the new attempt by the President of Mexico to interfere in Spain's internal affairs in the course of his statement of this morning to the General Assembly, and I denounce it as contrary to the principles and resolutions of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have this communication circulated as a General Assembly document.

(Signed) Jaime de PINIES
