Thirty-sixth session

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION
ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 27 January 1981 from the Permanent Representative of Somalia
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Never above resorting to distortions and untruths, the Permanent Representative
of Ethiopia has once again embarked on his customary futile exercise of attempting
to mislead the international community about the real issues at stake in the Horn
of Africa. In his letter dated 5 January 1981 and circulated as General Assembly
document A/36/65, he stated that the former Ethiopian Prime Minister, the late
Akilou Hapte Wolde, had been quoted by this Mission "partially and out of context".
He then goes on to quote extensively from the statement of the late Prime Minister
who has since fallen victim to the genocidal policies of the present Ethiopian
regime. Yet, not surprisingly, nothing in that extensive quotation detracts or
contradicts the shorter quotation contained in this Mission's letter of
26 November 1980 (A/C.1/35/12). While affirming the principle of territorial
integrity as contained in article 3, paragraph 3 of the Charter of the Organization
of African Unity, the late Prime Minister also affirmed paragraph 4 of the same
article which calls for the 'peaceful settlement of all differences through
negotiation, mediation and arbitration'. He then proceeded to state: 'Consequently,
we believe this resolution same as the Cairo resolution of 1964/ has no bearing
on the disputes we have, for example, between Somalia and Ethiopia and which we
have, according to article three, paragraph four of the Charter, decided to settle
peacefully through negotiation, mediation and arbitration'.

The proposer of that resolution, His Excellency President Julius Nyerere,
was also quite specific as to the intent and scope of his proposal by emphasizing
that it was aimed at avoiding future disputes and that those under negotiation
would not be affected by it. President Nyerere went on to say: 'I believe my
proposal has nothing to do with negotiations currently taking place with Somalia
and other countries between which border disputes exist. What could be more clear
than this direct and unambiguous statement of the proposer of the resolution? So
much for the self-serving and propagandistic attempt of the Permanent Representative
of Ethiopia to distort the purpose and the meaning of the Cairo resolution.
As for the nature of the dispute itself, the truth of the matter is that it is not merely one of border delimitation between the two countries, but one which also involves the principle of the right of self-determination. The Permanent Representative of Ethiopia has, in his letter under reply, sought to emphasize the principle of respect for boundaries. Yet he has chosen to ignore the equally important principle of self-determination - a principle which is upheld in the charters of the United Nations Organization and the Organization of African Unity. In this connexion, Somalia has no difficulty in accepting the lawful boundaries of Ethiopia. It cannot, however, condone Ethiopia's denial of the right of self-determination to its subject peoples whose territory it has colonized either through aggression and conquest or through illegal treaties with her co-imperialists from Europe. It, therefore, follows that peoples and territories so acquired should first be decolonized in the same manner as African colonial peoples and territories in other parts of the continent have been decolonized. To assert that such territories as Western Somalia and Eritrea are an integral part of the Ethiopian empire-state is to use the same logic resorted to by certain European powers in the past in their ridiculous claim that their African possessions were an integral part of their respective metropolises. In the case of those European powers history has forced their hand, and by the same logic Ethiopia's persistent colonialism will inevitably meet the same fate.

I request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Review of the Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

(Signed) Ahmed Mohamed ADAM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to the United Nations