Thirty-ninth session

Agenda item 60

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

Letter dated 30 January 1984 from the Permanent Representative of
Somalia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In his pompous and arrogantly worded letter dated 16 January 1984 and
circulated in General Assembly document A/39/78, the Permanent Representative of
the empire State of Ethiopia has, through a Freudian slip of the pen, admitted at
least implicitly that two areas in the territory of the Somali Democratic Republic
are currently under Ethiopian occupation. His transparent attempt to shift
responsibility to phantom forces in Somalia which are supposedly "opposed to the
present Government in Mogadishu" is far-fetched and thoroughly unconvincing. As
such it is unworthy of comment, particularly since expansionist Ethiopia's
aggression against Somalia, and occupation of two settlements deep inside its
territory, is well known to the international community. At any rate, the Somali
Government stands ready to call his bluff that the facts be verified, provided that
the Ethiopian régime will permit an independent fact-finding mission to visit the
occupied settlements.

His vicious and provocative attack on the Organization of the Islamic
Conference cannot, however, remain unanswered. The Organization of the Islamic
Conference, during its recent summit meeting in Morocco, rightly adopted
resolutions not only calling for the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from the two
settlements in Somalia which they have occupied since July 1982, but also stating
that the peoples of the Horn of Africa should be permitted to exercise their
birth-right of self-determination. Indeed this was not the first time that the
Organization of the Islamic Conference similarly pronounced itself on this very
important matter, nor has it been the only international body which has condemned
colonialist Ethiopia for its wanton violation of the sovereignty and territorial
integrity of Somalia in contravention of the principles of the Charter of the
United Nations and the norms of international law, thus endangering international
peace and security.
The Ethiopian régime's unprovoked aggression against the Somali Democratic Republic has also been condemned by many other international organizations. In November 1982, the Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held in Rome, Italy, strongly condemned "the military invasion carried out by Ethiopia and its allies and directed against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Somali Democratic Republic". The Conference further called for the "unconditional withdrawal of all foreign forces from the territory of the Somali Democratic Republic".

Similarly, the Twelfth Arab Summit Conference, held at Fez, Morocco, in September 1982, decided "to support the Somali Democratic Republic in facing the exigencies of safeguarding its sovereignty over its territory and expelling the Ethiopian force from Somali territory".

Another important international body which has come out against the Ethiopian invasion of the territory of Somalia is the European Parliament. At its meeting held at Strasbourg, France, in November 1982, it adopted a resolution with the following operative paragraphs:

"Condemns the continuing aggressive incursions of the Ethiopian army, largely equipped by the Government of the USSR, into Somalia.

"Urges that the Council of Ministers, meeting in political co-operation, should consider what measures can and should be taken by Community members in appropriate fora to bring pressure to bear on the Ethiopian Government to cease its aggression against Somalia and withdraw its troops.

"In view of the continued reports of Ethiopian aggression in the region, believes that the European Community should not commit further aid to Ethiopia until a full report has been made by the Commission to Parliament."

Other international bodies, such as the African Socialist parties which met at Tunis early in 1983, have also roundly denounced Ethiopia for its invasion of the Somali Democratic Republic and have called for the unconditional withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from Somali soil.

It is clear from the foregoing that the Ethiopian régime and its representatives have not succeeded in fooling anybody regarding expansionist Ethiopia's despicable invasion of my country, their shameless Orwellian lies notwithstanding.

Concerning the remarks of the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia on the resolution dealing with "The Problem of Horn of Africa", I cannot but dismiss them as no more than self-serving rhetoric. His paranoid and unfounded accusations against the Organization of the Islamic Conference of a "malicious attempt to undermine ... Ethiopia" and of collusion with Somalia come as no surprise, since his blind hatred for everything Islamic and his Government's hostility to all things religious are but common knowledge.

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The Organization of the Islamic Conference has rightly drawn the attention of the international community to the plight of the oppressed peoples of the Horn of Africa. The relevant resolution reiterates the rejection of the Organization of the Islamic Conference of the presence of foreign troops in the region and calls for their immediate, unconditional withdrawal. Furthermore, it calls for the peaceful settlement of the problems of the Horn of Africa in accordance with international law, on the basis of the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination. This right is clearly enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Surely, therefore, the Organization of the Islamic Conference resolution cannot be regarded as "constituting ... an open and unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of Members of the United Nations", as the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia would have us believe, nor can it be claimed that all is well within Ethiopia itself and that there is no cause for concern by the international community with regard to the violation of fundamental human rights of the unfortunate peoples of that empire State. It is no secret that colonialist Ethiopia is in the grip of civil war, with consequent mass exoduses of people in every direction. By way of illustration, I should like to quote from a report published in the January edition of the journal New African:

"The new upsurge of armed resistance in Wello and Gonder brings the number of provinces on which the Ethiopian army is heavily engaged up to six; the others are Eritrea, Tigray, Sidamo and the Ogaden.

"The armed resistance in these six key areas are major factors holding up the Mengistu régime's proclaimed aim of converting Ethiopia into a Marxist-Leninist State closely allied to the Soviet bloc.

"The Ethiopian régime's official policy of conscripting young people into the army is proving to be counter-productive in that thousands of youngsters are reported to be volunteering for the guerrilla forces rather than to be impressed into the army."

In the light of the above incontrovertible facts, should the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia feel justified in projecting the "unrest and upheavals" wrecking his own empire State onto Somalia or in making the jingoistic statement that "the Ethiopian masses will forever guard jealously their historic unity and age-old sovereignty"? In our view the answers to these questions are self-evident. To paraphrase a famous English proverb, facts speak louder than words!

Finally, bearing in mind his antagonistic attitude to the Organization of the Islamic Conference and his persistent opposition, over the past years, to resolutions of the General Assembly designed to promote co-operation between the two organizations, the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia is hardly qualified to proffer any comment on the relationship of the Organization of the Islamic Conference with the United Nations or to be so presumptuous as to advise the Organization on how to conduct its activities in the future. Since "charity begins at home", he would be well advised to devote his full attention to that beleaguered empire State which he represents and to refrain from lecturing others.

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I should like to request that this letter be circulated as a 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 ADAN
Ambassador and Permanent Representative