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

Letter dated 16 October 1981 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

On instructions from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the communiqué issued at the end of the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Mauritanian Military Committee of National Safety, chaired by Lieutenant-Colonel Khouna Ould Haidallah and held at Nouakchott on Wednesday, 13 October.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this communiqué to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 58.

(Signed) Mohamed Said Ould Hamody
Permanent Representative
Final communiqué of the extraordinary meeting of the Standing Committee of the Military Committee of National Safety, held on Wednesday, 13 October 1981

The Standing Committee, chaired by Lieutenant-Colonel Khouna Ould Haidallah, Head of State, having examined carefully the new situation created as a result of the Moroccan accusations, wishes to inform African and international public opinion of the following:

1. This is not the first time that Morocco has erroneously accused Mauritania of being involved in a military operation in the Sahara, particularly at Guelta Zemmour.

2. Our military garrisons, which have constantly patrolled our frontiers since our withdrawal from the Saharan war, have never detected the presence of any foreign troops (Polisario troops or others) in our territory. This can be verified, as it has been in the past by diplomatic missions and journalists from the international foreign press.

3. Mauritania has always fulfilled its international commitments. With regard to the Taif agreement, Mauritania has always sought to ensure its full implementation and seeks to maintain the best relations with Morocco. Thus, at the meeting between our Minister for Foreign Affairs and his Moroccan counterpart in the presence of the Ambassadors of the two countries in Paris on Tuesday, 20 July 1981, our country took the initiative of raising once again with the Moroccan party the matter of the implementation of the Taif agreement, particularly article 2 thereof, which Morocco has thus far consistently failed to respect.

4. The basic purpose of the message of the King of Morocco is on the one hand, to involve Mauritania in the Saharan conflict and justify an eventual attack on our country, and on the other, to call in question the commitments entered into at the Nairobi summit meeting with a view to bringing peace to the region.

In any event, the Standing Committee of the Military Committee of National Safety categorically rejects all the accusations levelled against Mauritania by the King of Morocco and solemnly declares that it is in a position to prove its non-involvement in the military operations which are said to have taken place at Guelta Zemmour on 13 October 1981.

Mouakchott, 13 October 1981