Thirty-sixth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 58

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
Thirty-sixth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 135

PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR CATASTROPE: DECLARATION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 21 October 1981 from the Permanent Representative
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement made by
Mr. L. I. Brezhnev in reply to a question put by the correspondent of Pravda which
was published in the Soviet press on 21 October 1981.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter to be
circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 135 of the
agenda of the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

(Signed) O. TROYANOFSKY

81-27087 /...
Question: President Ronald Reagan of the United States said recently that the Soviet Union supposedly judging by conversations of its leaders "among themselves," considers that victory in a nuclear war is possible. Thereby he tried to justify his case of the accelerated buildup of the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

What could you say, Leonid Ilyich, concerning this statement of the American President?

Answer: While leaving on Mr. Reagan's conscience his remark that he supposedly knows what Soviet leaders are talking about among themselves, I will say the following concerning the substance of the question.

The thoughts and efforts of the Soviet leadership, just as of the Soviet people as a whole, are directed at preventing nuclear war altogether, by eliminating the very danger of its outbreak. Among ourselves we are saying the same that was stated by me publicly from the rostrum of the 26th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, namely that it is a dangerous madness to try to defeat each other in the arms race and to count on victory in nuclear war.

I shall add that only he who has decided to commit suicide can start a nuclear war in the hope of emerging a victor from it. No matter what might the attacker possesses, no matter what method of unleashing nuclear war he chooses, he will not attain his aims. Retribution will ensue ineluctably.

Such is our principled viewpoint. It would be good if the President of the United States, too, would make a clear and unambiguous statement rejecting the very idea of nuclear attack as a criminal one.

Why should not the United States, may I ask, support the proposal made by the Soviet Union at the current session of the United Nations General Assembly concerning one's not being the first to use nuclear arms?

For if there is no first nuclear strike then, consequently, there will be no second or third nuclear strikes. Thereby all talk about the possibility or impossibility of victory in nuclear war will become pointless - the question of nuclear war as such will be removed from the agenda of the day.

And this is exactly what all peace-loving people on earth strive for, what the Soviet Union and its leadership are consistently working for. So now it is up to the United States and its leadership.