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P. O. Box 3243

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STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MR. ISSA BABAA

HEAD OF DELEGATION

SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB

JAMAHIRIYA



Mr. Chairman,

My country's delegation has followed with deep regret the false accusations levelled against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the Tunisian delegation. I should like first of all to assure you, Mr. Chairman, that these accusations are false and baseless. My country issued an official communiqué on 11 February 1980 following the Tunisian regime's allegations against Jamahiriya. In this communiqué, reaffirmed that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has no direct or indirect involvement in the internal events taking place in Tunisia.

Dr. Ali El Teriki, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs reasserted that fact in the letters sent to the OAU Secretary General and the UN Secretary-General. The text of the communiqué is as follows:

THE FOREIGN SECRETARIAT HAS ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE IN RESPONSE TO THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT'S OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ABOUT THE QAFSA EVENT, THE TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE IS AS FOLLOWS:

THE SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA WAS SURPRISED BY THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY THAT OF PREMIER HEDDI NOUIRA, ISSUED ON WEDNESDAY 12 RABI AMAL 1389 OF THE HEGERA (30 JANUARY 1980), IN WHICH HE DIRECTLY ATTACKED THE SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA AND ITS REVOLUTIONARY LEADERSHIP IN A BID TO INVOLVE THEM IN THE EVENTS NOW TAKING PLACE IN TUNISIA.

WHILE CRITICISING THESE ATTACKS AND THE MENACIOUS INFORMATION CAMPAIGN WHICH GOES WITH THEM, THE FOREIGN SECRETARIAT STRESSES THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

1- THE SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA HAS NO DIRECT OR INDIRECT RELATION WHATSOEVER WITH THE EVENTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN QAFSA. THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT'S ATTEMPTS TO HOLD THE JAMAHIRIYA RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE PROBLEMS, ARE DESIGNED TO DIVERT THE TUNISIAN PUBLIC

OPINION FROM ITS INTERNAL PROBLEMS AND TO KEEP IT AWAY FROM THE ACTUAL REASONS WHICH LED IN THE PAST AND ARE NOW LEADING TO POPULAR EVENTS AND UPRISINGS IN ITS ATTEMPT TO AVOID FACING THE REALITY THE TUNISIAN REGIME HAS GONE TO THE EXTENT OF HOLDING THE LIBYAN PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY POPULAR UPRISING OR DISCONTENT IN TUNISIA AT A TIME WHEN THE LIBYAN PEOPLE IS NOT GUILTY OF ANY INVOLVEMENT IN THESE UPRISINGS. MAY BE ITS ONLY SIN WAS TO HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT A HISTORIC PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION. IF BY LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT THE TUNISIAN OFFICIALS MEAN THAT IF THE REVOLUTION'S THEORY WAS IMPARTED TO THE TUNISIAN MASSES, THE LIBYAN PEOPLE CANNOT BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT. MOREOVER NEITHER THE LIBYAN PEOPLE NOR THE TUNISIAN AUTHORITIES CAN PREVENT A HUMANITARIAN THEORY FROM SPREADING BECAUSE THOUGHT CAN NEITHER BE REPRESSED NOR RESTRICTED. THE FATEH REVOLUTION HAS A BEAMING THEORY WHICH AFFECTS THE PEOPLE'S REACTIONS, A TRUTH ILLUSTRATED AMAZINGLY BY THE CLOSING DOWN OF THE LIBYAN CULTURAL CENTRE.

2- THE TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER HAS ANNOUNCED A SERIES OF GOVERNMENT MEASURES WHICH AFFECT THE BROTHERLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NEIGHBOURING PEOPLES. WHILE REGRETTING SUCH A BEHAVIOUR, THE FOREIGN SECRETARIAT OF THE SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMHIRIYAH HOLDS THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT ALONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCIDENT. AND FOR CREATING DISSENTION AND DISCORD BETWEEN OUR TWO NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AND DESTROYING THEIR INTERESTS. OUR DUTY IS TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE PEOPLES TO THE PROBLEM IN ORDER TO PREVENT THEIR ENEMIES FROM EXPLOITING THIS OCCASION.

3- THE TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER DID NOT ONLY INVOLVE THE JAMAHIRIYAH'S NAME IN THE GAFSA EVENTS, BUT HE ALSO POINTED THE POSSIBILITY OF INVOLVING IT IN FUTURE POPULAR UPRISING IN TUNISIA, WHEN HE PREDICTED MORE OPERATIONS. WHICH PROVES BEYOND DOUBT THAT THERE ARE HIDDEN INTENTIONS TO ACCUSE THE JAMAHIRIYAH EVERY TIME THE TUNISIAN REGIME IS THREATENED BY A POPULAR UPRISING ON A THING WHICH EXPOSES THAT FALSITY OF THE ALLEGATIONS PUT FORWARD BY THE TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER AND UNCOVERS THE PLOT DESIGNED TO HARM THE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO BROTHERLY PEOPLES AND DAMAGE THE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THEM.

4- THE OFFICIAL TUNISIAN ACCUSATIONS REFERRED TO LIBYAN PASSPORT FOUND WITH SOME ELEMENTS. IN THIS RESPECT THE FOREIGN SECRETARIAT WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THE TUNISIAN CONSULATE IN TRIPOLI HAS REPEATEDLY FOLLOWED DEVIOUS WAYS OF HIDING AND SMUDGING THE PASSPORT OF LIBYAN NATIONALS REQUESTING VISAS TO TUNISIA, SUCH EXERCISES ARE DESIGNED TO PROMOTE THOSE ACCUSATIONS. THE BEST EVIDENCE TO THIS STATEMENT IS THAT ON 20.10.79 AT THE CHECKPOINT ON THE BORDERS WITH TUNISIA, THE LIBYAN PASSPORT NO. 470585 ISSUED IN TRIPOLI ON 24 JULY WAS FOUND WITH AL-SADEK AL-KHLABI THE MEMBER OF THE TUNISIAN COMMISSION IN TRIPOLI WHO WAS DRIVING A CAR WITH THE DIPLOMATIC REGISTRATION 50/13. FURTHERMORE ON 28.10.79 TWO LIBYAN PASSPORTS WERE FOUND. THE FIRST NO. 37 831 WAS ISSUED ON 13.2.74 WITH A MEMBER OF THE TUNISIAN CONSULATE MUHAMMAD AL-SADEK WHO WAS DRIVING

A car with the Diplomatic Registration 13/57. The two Tunisian Officials were on the way to Tunis when the passport was found with them thus revealing their premeditated intentions and the carefully planned scheme. We challenge the Tunisian regime's ability to present any evidence in support of these false accusations, where of a Libyan's participating in the popular uprising in GAFSS or submit any other material proof indicating that the Libyan people were involved in Tunis event.

5. The reference by the Tunisian Premier to those he called "our friends" shows the Tunisian Government's intentions to seek the intervention of the foreign colonialist forces in order to jeopardize the interests of the two friendly peoples and to expose the peace and security of the area to foreign intervention, which the two peoples are opposed to, two peoples linked by a joint struggle against the colonialist enemy, let alone by friendly relations of neighbourliness and common future. Also the resort to the French air Force and Navy represents an affront to the Tunisian friendly people.

6. While renewing its deep regret concerning the claims and rumours circulated by Tunisian Officials, to foreign secretariat stressed its eagerness to maintain the friendly relations and strong ties to serve joint Pan-Arab noble aspirations of the two neighbouring peoples. It hopes that there is still an opportunity for the Tunisian Government to reconsider its position, that it could not follow a course which would only serve the enemies of our peoples and would refrain from dragging foreign powers into the area.

Mr. Chairman,

This is not the first time that Tunisia is levelling such accusations against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya whenever Tunisian authorities are faced with internal problems created by workers, students,

religious or ideological factions, fights among parties over power, or popular uprising against the regime, they hold the Libyan people responsible for these problems in a bid to direct Tunisian public opinion from its internal problems, to the extent that if a cow dies in Tunisia, they will surely blame its death on the Jamahiriya. The Tunisian intelligence apparatus in cooperation with the French Intelligence will certainly find no difficulty in designing the means and plans for falsely impeaching my country,

Mr. Chairman,

These internal events that emerged in Tunisia are all the more dangerous in so much as they have been exploited to prepare the brotherly people of Tunisia to accept the return of French colonialism to that part of the continent.

Mr. Chairman,

All of us who followed those events know that French forces arrived in Tunisia on the same day the events took place. This showed that there was a premeditated plan to bring back French colonialism to this neighbouring country and to threaten the security and safety of the region. France sent to this country massive military forces, represented by units of French fleet in Tunisia Ports, and air forces, paratroopers and marines, which took position on Tunisia soil.

The International mass media affirmed this flagrant interference in the internal affairs of Tunisia. For instance, the Herald Tribune daily newspaper, in its issue of 5 February, instantly published that France dispatched many "Transal" aircrafts for military transport and helicopters, as well as five submarines and many other military war ships to stand by near the Libyan and Tunisian coasts. The news Agencies also reported that France had consolidated this invasion on land, sea and by Air; forty (40) "mirage" aircrafts of its air forces as well as two helicopter squadrons were dispatched to Tunisia.

Mr. Chairman,

The French intervention in Tunisia had been repeated several times, and of late President Bourghiba acknowledge before the mass media that he had previously resorted to French military forces.

Moreover, the United States of America also sent its sixth fleet to Tunisian ports, posing a threat to security in the region. The last time the American fleet visited these ports was when the Arab Ministers of Foreign Affairs were meeting at the Headquarters of the Arab League in Tunis. The repeated American interference in this part of Africa, against whose repercussions my country has warned, aims at threatening the security and safety of Jamahiriya and the neighbouring states, thus increasing tension in the area and terrorizing its peoples. Both France and the United States officially accepted this interference.

The American Government issued an official statement in which it recognized this intervention. My delegation is ready to produce copies of this statement. The French Government also issued a communique on its fleet's movement towards the Tunisian coast, and I also hold a copy of this text.

Direct French and American interference in Tunisia, whatever be the reasons for it, is a serious event and a dangerous precedent whose repercussions and consequences will certainly go beyond the boundaries of Tunisia and Jamahiriya to affect other regions of Africa.

Mr. Chairman,

As a result of the massive French interference in Tunisia which is gaining importance every day, Tunisia has lost its independence; instead, of remaining a sovereign state, it has become a French protectorate ruled by French generals. Even civil administration is under the control of French authorities, and the Tunisian Army is under the command of French officers.

The Tunisian regime tried not only to deceive Tunisian public opinion by putting the blame on Libya for its internal problems, but is striving now to deceive world opinion by raising this question in the League of Arab Nations and by submitting it now to this August Assembly with a view to finding an excuse for the French colonialist interference.

Mr. Chairman,

The present movement of forces and colonialist French interferences near the boundaries and coasts of the Jamahiriya constitute a direct threat to the latter's security and safety, as well as to those of the whole region. Such occurrences are bound to attract other foreign forces to the area. At the same time these acts should be considered as a violation to the OAU Charter.

Mr. Chairman, you are certainly aware of the dangers inherent in this French interference which represents imperial machinations aimed at impeding the progress of the African continent and its struggle against colonialism, racism and exploitation. In addition, it is not the first of its kind in this continent. Such interference demonstrates the colonialist strategy followed by France in collaboration and collusion with world imperialism against the security and safety of Africa. This interference had been opposed even inside France itself, where it was denounced by the progressive forces and condemned by the French press. For example the daily newspaper "L'Humanite" said in its issue of 1st February that this interference should be considered as an escalation of tension in North Africa. It clearly refuted all allegations made by the French Government in respect of its non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Mr. Chairman,

At the time when Africa decided to devote this session to the consideration of the Zimbabwe question and to examine all the possible means for supporting the brotherly people of Zimbabwe in its heroic struggle against colonialism and racism, and at the time we are striving for destroying the last bastions of colonialism and racism in South Africa, we find that French colonialism which we forcefully drove out of our continent yesterday, streaks in today through the back door in the North of Africa.

The whole of Africa should finally and earnestly stand against this dangerous interference in its internal affairs, which threatens its safety and security. I urge this august assembly to severely denounce this interference and request France to immediately withdraw its forces from the African Tunisian territory.

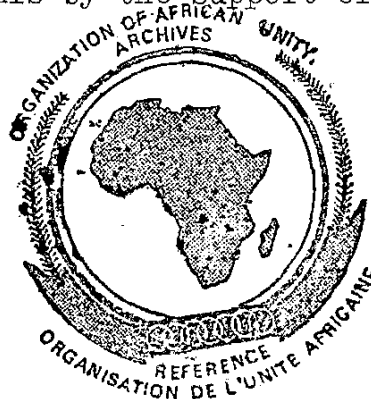
The Tunisian delegate in his false accusations against the Jamahiriya raised a number of other points. With regard to the question of workers, the Jamahiriya plays host to tens of thousands of workers from sister neighbouring states, some of whom cross the border without any passport or travelling documents. Some of those workers are expelled for security reasons only.

Tunisia is the country that does not respect the OAU principles and objectives because though it joined our Organization since 1965, it has never paid until now one single cent as contribution to the OAU budget or even to the budget of the Liberation Committee. Other African countries have not paid the arrears due for the Organization's budget, and we can surely understand their circumstances but what is the excuse of Tunisia? Its funds are transferred to the secret special accounts of its rulers, in Switzerland.

The Tunisian delegate tries to sow discord between the Jamahiriya and its sister neighbouring states by reiterating the allegations made by the Western press. He is trying to raise again the question of Chad and thwart the efforts of neighbouring Africa states and those of OAU, with a view to serve its own interests in Chad by making false accusations against the Jamahiriya.

It also seems that Tunisia in collaboration with colonialist countries strives to throw into confusion the deliberations of this session, which is devoted to the Zimbabwe question and divert the attention of world opinion from this issue.

The Tunisian broadcast which daily threatens the Jamahiriya in vulgar terms, is encouraged in this by the support of the French military presence on its land.



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Statement Delivered by Mr. Issa BABAA, Head of delegation of Socialist People's Libyan Arab JAMAHIRIYA

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