The Secretary-General, United Nations New York, N.Y.

Sir,

By order of His Majesty Hassan II, King of Morocco, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the message which His Majesty the King has sent to His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Ben Bella, President of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, in consequence of the armed attack carried out on 18 October 1963 by the Algerian armed forces against Moroccan territory at the place called KSAR ICH.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Ahmed Taibi Benhima
Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations

(SEAL OF THE PERMANENT MISSION)
Text of the message addressed by His Majesty Hassan II, King of Morocco to His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Ben Bella, President of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria

Your Excellency,

While talks were being held with the representative of your country on the distressing occurrences at HASSI BEIDID and TINJOUB, and while the Morocco-Algerian delegation was trying to find a means of ending the armed conflict before it could spread to other areas, and thus stopping the bloodshed between two brother nations, whereas those talks were intended to enable our two Governments to establish a procedure for settling the frontier dispute, an official report has just reached us from the province of OUJDA.

According to this report, the Algerian army has infiltrated into the territory of this province and violently attacked the post of ICH, fifty kilometres north-east of FIGUIJG.

The auxiliary forces garrisoned in this post, numbering scarcely more than thirty-five men armed with simple individual weapons, were the object of a premeditated invasion by numerous units of the Algerian army equipped with heavy arms and powerful destructive weapons.

Other reports also announced that the Algerian air force had raided Moroccan territory and bombed the area of TINDRARA (also in the province of OUJDA).

It should be noted that the points attacked by the Algerian Army have never been in dispute. The aggression which these regions have just suffered therefore appears to be a premeditated act intended to transform frontier incidents into a generalized conflict.

As the points attacked are about a thousand kilometres distant from HASSI BEIDID and TINJOUB, this aggression cannot be linked to any development of the tension created by a frontier incident.

We therefore strongly protest against all those actions, and draw your Excellency's attention to the disastrous consequences which they are bound to have.

Since you bear the chief responsibility for Algeria's destiny and the future of its people, you cannot possibly have failed to measure the impact of these acts and calculate all their consequences.

/*...*/
The direction in which Algerian policy appears to be turning, as shown by these acts of aggression, is certainly not likely to create an atmosphere favourable to the solution of the problems through negotiation and direct discussion.

We urge the Algerian leaders once again to rise above motives of sentiment and dominate their passions.

Those leaders ought for their own sakes to remember that, whatever passions sway them, our present and future generations are bound not only to maintain peaceful relations among themselves but also to strive towards fraternal co-operation in order to build our common future.

This twentieth century of ours, founded on courteous relations, is governed by international charters which oblige all self-respecting States to abolish all recourse to violence.

This being said, Morocco is ready to confront whatever may befall, and to meet every situation with all appropriate means.

I am, Sir, yours very truly,

(Signed) El Hassan Ben Mohamed Ben Youssef
Monsieur le Secrétaire Général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies

NATIONS UNIES
New York, N.Y.

Monsieur le Secrétaire Général,

D'ordre de Sa Majesté Hassan II, Roi du Maroc, j'ai l'honneur de vous communiquer le texte du message que Sa Majesté le Roi a adressé à Son Excellence Monsieur Ahmed Ben Bella, Président de la République Algérienne Démocratique et Populaire à la suite de l'agression commise, le 18 octobre 1963, par l'armée algérienne contre le territoire marocain au lieu dit KSAR ICH.

Veuillez croire, Monsieur le Secrétaire Général, à l'expression de ma très haute considération.

Ahmed Tahar Benhima
"Texte du message adressé par Sa Majesté Hassan II, Roi du Maroc à Son Excellence Monsieur Ahmed Ben Bella, Président de la République Algérienne Démocratique et Populaire".

Excellence,

Pendant que les entretiens se déroulaient avec les délégations de votre pays au sujet des douloureux événements de HASSI BEIDA et TINJOUB et que la délégation Maroc-Algérienne s’efforçait de trouver une solution susceptible de mettre fin au conflit armé afin d’éviter son extension à d’autres régions, mettant ainsi un terme à l’effusion de sang entre deux pays frères alors que ces entretiens devaient permettre à nos deux gouvernements d’arrêter une procédure pour la liquidation du contentieux frontalier, une information officielle vient de nous parvenir de la province d’OUJDA.

Selon cette information, l’armée algérienne s’est infiltrée dans le territoire de cette province où elle a effectué une violente attaque contre le poste de ICH à 50 kilomètres au Nord-Est de FIGUIG.

Les forces auxiliaires en garnison dans ce poste, et dont le nombre ne dépasse guère 35 hommes armés de simples armes individuelles, ont été l’objet d’une invasion préparée par de nombreuses unités de l’armée algérienne, équipées d’armes lourdes et d’un puissant matériel de destruction.

...
D'autres enseignements annonçaient également que l'aviation algérienne a effectué un raid au-dessus du territoire marocain et a bombardé la région de TINDRARA (dans la province d'OUJDA également).

Il convient de remarquer que les points attaqués par l'armée algérienne n'ont jamais fait l'objet de contestations. L'agression dont ces régions viennent de faire l'objet apparait donc comme entrant dans le cadre d'une action préméditée destinée à transformer des incidents de frontière en un conflit généralisé.

Les points attaqués étant distants d'un millier de kilomètres de HASSI BEIDA et TINJOUB, il est impossible de lier cette agression à une quelconque évolution de la tension créée par un incident frontalier.

Nous élevons donc une énergique protestation contre tous ces agissements, et attirons l'attention de votre Excellence sur les conséquences fâcheuses qui ne manqueront pas d'en résulter.

En votre qualité de premier responsable du destin de l'Algérie et de l'avenir de son peuple, il est impossible que vous ne mesuriez pas la portée de ces actes ni n'en calculez toutes les conséquences.

L'orientation que la politique algérienne semble prendre et qui se traduit par des actes agressifs n'est certainement pas de nature à créer une atmosphère favorable à la solution des problèmes par la voie de la négociation et du dialogue direct.

Nous exhortons une fois de plus les responsables algériens à se mettre au-dessus des considérations d'ordre sentimental et à dominer leurs passions.

Ces responsables se doivent de considérer que quelles que soient les passions qui les animent, nos générations présentes et futures ont pour obligation non seulement d'entretenir entre elles des relations pacifiques, mais aussi d'œuvrer dans le sens d'une coopération fraternelle pour édifier notre avenir commun.
Notre XXème siècle, fondé sur les rapports de courtoisie est régi par des chartes internationales qui obligent tous les États qui se respectent à bannir tout recours à la violence.

Ceci dit, le Maroc est prêt à faire face à toute éventualité et à affronter toutes les situations par tous les moyens adéquats.

Croyez à notre considération.

Signé: El Hassan Ben Mbahmed Ben Youssel.

After being asked twice in general terms what was the role of the UN in the dispute between Morocco and Algeria he was asked specifically if there was any opportunity for the SG to use his good offices or play a mediatery role. He replied that the SG had been informed as much as anybody, if not more so, by both sides on developments in the dispute. "It is up to him personally to decide when and under what conditions to take an initiative." Morocco had complete trust in the SG and would be very happy if he took an initiative.

Mr. Benhima in an opening statement reviewed the border dispute and said that since Algeria had publicly stated that no such dispute had ever existed his country was now making public a previously confidential agreement signed on 6 July 1961 by Hassan II and Ferhat Abbas, then President of the Algerian Provisional Government. (Attached are a release on the border dispute and the 16 October 1963 message from Hassan to Ben Bella.)

In concluding his review of the situation he said "every one knows that some internal events in Algeria in the last few months moved Algeria to create some points of discord on the border." He said "clearly an aggression was perpetrated on 5 October by forces of the Algerian army" but Morocco intended to stay at the posts that had been attacked. Accusations had come from "some foreign radios most adept at it" but Morocco was refraining from polemics. It was prepared to use the good offices of the Maghreb, the Arab League, the African States or even at the international level, including the International Court of Justice.
Replying to questions Mr. Benhima said "Morocco is prepared to stop all fighting as soon as the Algerian Government proclaims its preparedness to undertake negotiations and discussions on the border problem." He was not laying down "minimum conditions" for a cease-fire but he said "yes" to a question asking if Algeria must agree to discuss the border dispute as the basis for conditions for a cease-fire.

He said in response to a query that the Algerian position was that as a sine qua non that Morocco leave the two posts in dispute. "This position in no case will be accepted" he declared.

Mr. Benhima said his place on the Vietnam mission would be taken by the Moroccon Ambassador to Switzerland.

Asked if the SC would be convened he said the Maghreb countries had an agreement to use the framework faxx of the region for settling disputes first of all and these methods had not been exhausted. Morocco had agreed to a meeting in Tunis on 28 Oct. He praised the initiatives of the Emperor of Ethiopia who would stop at Algiers on the way to France. The special Algerian emissary to the UN had asked to see Mr. Benhima and he had accepted.

Asked what he wanted by "foreign radio" intervening he said Radio Cairo had said the dispute was ideological. He denied this and said the question was one of borders. The changes in structure in Algeria had been no surprise to Morocco and his country had no intention in interfering in Algeria's domestic affairs. He said that a helicopter over Moroccon territory yesterday had contained five high ranking UAR officers and gave details of their rank - two colonels, a lt. col and two captains.
Text of the message addressed

by

His Majesty Hassan II, King of Morocco

to

His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Ben Bella
President of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria

on October 18, 1963,
following the violent aggression by the Algerian forces against the Moroccan post of KSAR ICH.
Excellency,

While discussions were taking place with the Representatives of your country regarding the painful incidents of HASSI BEIDA and TINJOUB and while the Morocco - Algerian Delegation was trying to find a solution capable of ending the armed conflict in order to prevent its extension to other regions and thus put an end to the bloodshed between the two sister countries, and while these discussions were meant to enable our two Governments to work out ways to eliminate the frontier dispute, we received official information from the OUJDA Province. According to this information, the Algerian army entered the territory of this province where it launched a violent attack against the outpost of "ICH", at 50 kilometers North-East of FIGUIG.

The auxiliary forces stationed at this post, and whose number does not exceed 35 men armed with simple individual fire-arms, were the object of a premeditated invasion by several units of the Algerian Army, equipped with heavy armament and powerful weapons of destruction.

It was equally reported that the Algerian aviation operated a raid above the Moroccan territory and bombed the TINDRARA region (also in the OUJDA province).

It is worthy to note that the points attacked by the Algerian Army have never been subject to dispute. The aggression perpetrated in these posts seems therefore to fit in the framework of a premeditated action, destined to transform the border incidents into a generalized conflict. The posts attacked being about one thousand kilometers away from HASSI BEIDA and TINJOUB, it is impossible to link this aggression to any evolution of the tension originating from a border incident.

...
We therefore protest strongly against all these acts and draw your Excellency's attention to the grave consequences which they will not fail to entail.

As the first responsible of Algeria's destiny and of the future of its people, it is impossible that you would not weigh the extent of these acts nor assess all the consequences.

The orientation to which the Algerian policy seems to point and which is expressed through aggressive acts, is certainly not of such nature as to create an atmosphere susceptible of bringing about a solution to the problem through negotiation and direct dialogue.

We urge once again the Algerian Authorities to place themselves above all considerations of a sentimental nature and to control their passions. These Authorities should bear in mind that, whatever the emotions that motivate them are, our present and future generations have the duty not only to maintain peaceful relations, but also to work towards a brotherly cooperation in the construction of our common future. Our twentieth century, based on courteous relations, is governed by international charters which require all self-respecting States to banish the use of force.

Thereupon, Morocco is prepared to face up to any eventuality and confront all situations with all adequate means.

Believe in our consideration.

Signed: El Hassan Ben Mohamed Ben Youssef
New York, le 20 octobre 1963

- DOCUMENT OFFICIEL -

TEXTE DU PROTOCOLE D'ACCORD MAROCO-ALGERIEN DU 6 juillet 1961 relatif au problème territorial

signé au nom du Maroc par :

SA MAJESTE LE ROI HASSAN II

et au nom de l'Algérie par :

SON EXCELLENCE MONSIEUR FERHAT ABBAS
Président du Gouvernement Provisoire de la République Algérienne.
Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi du Maroc et le Gouvernement Provisoire de la République Algérienne, animés par les sentiments de solidarité et de fraternité maghrébines, conscients de leur destin africain et désireux de concrétiser les aspirations communes de leurs peuples, ont convenu de ce qui suit :

Fidèles à l'esprit de la conférence de Tanger du mois d'avril 1958 et fermement attachés à la charte et aux résolutions adoptées par la conférence de Casablanca, les deux Gouvernements décident d'entreprendre l'édification du Maghreb arabe sur la base d'une fraternelle association notamment dans le domaine politique et économique.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi du Maroc réaffirme son soutien inconditionnel au peuple Algérien dans sa lutte pour son indépendance et son unité nationales. Il proclame son appui sans réserve au Gouvernement Provisoire de la République Algérienne dans ses négociations avec la France sur la base du respect de l'intégrité du territoire algérien. Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi du Maroc s'opposera par tous les moyens à toute tentative de partage ou d'amputation du territoire algérien.
Le Gouvernement Provisoire de la République Algérienne reconnaît pour sa part que le problème territorial posé par la délimitation imposée arbitrairement par la France entre les deux pays, trouvera sa solution dans des négociations entre le Gouvernement du Royaume du Maroc et du Gouvernement de l'Algérie indépendante.

A cette fin, les deux Gouvernements décident la création d'une commission Algéro-marocaine qui se réunira dans les meilleurs délais pour procéder à l'étude et à la solution de ce problème dans un esprit de fraternité et d'unité maghrébines.

De ce fait, le Gouvernement Provisoire de la République Algérienne, réaffirme que les accords qui pourront intervenir à la suite des négociations Franco-algériennes, ne sauraient être opposables au Maroc, quant aux délimitations territoriales Algéro-marocaines.

Fait à Rabat, le 6 juillet 1961.

Signé - Sa Majesté Hassan II
Roi du Maroc

Signé - Son Excellence
Ferhat Abbas
Président du Gouvernement Provisoire de la République Algérienne,
New York, 20 October 1963

- OFFICIAL DOCUMENT -

TEXT OF PROTOCOL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN MOROCCO AND ALGERIA

6 July 1961

Concerning the territorial problem.

Signed for Morocco by:

HIS MAJESTY HASSAN II

Signed for Algeria by:

His Excellency Mr. FERHAT ABBAS
President of the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic.
The Government of His Majesty the King of Morocco and the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic, imbued with feelings of maghrebian solidarity and fraternity, conscious of their African destiny, and wishing to give a concrete form to the common aspirations of their peoples, have agreed to the following:

Faithful to the spirit of the Tangiers Conference of April 1958, and firmly attached to the Charter and Resolutions adopted by the Conference of Casablanca, the two Governments decide to undertake the building of the Arab Maghreb on the basis of a fraternal association, particularly in the political and economic fields.

The Government of His Majesty the King of Morocco reaffirms its unconditional support of the Algerian people in its struggle for National Independence and unity. It proclaims its unreserved endorsement of the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic in the latter's negotiations with France on the basis of respect for the integrity of the Algerian territory. The Government of His Majesty the King of Morocco will by all means oppose any attempt to partition or otherwise reduce the territory of Algeria.

...
The Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic, on its part, recognizes that the territorial problem created by the delimitation of the two countries arbitrarily imposed by France, will be settled by negotiations between the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Government of independent Algeria.

To this end, the two governments decide to establish a joint Algerian-Moroccan Commission which shall meet at the earliest possible moment in order to study and solve this problem in a spirit of Maghrebian fraternity and unity.

Therefore, the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic reaffirms that agreements which may be reached after the Franco-Algerian negotiations, could not be binding upon Morocco as far as the territorial demarcation between Algeria and Morocco is concerned.

Done at Rabat, July 6, 1961.

Signed: His Majesty Hassan II
King of Morocco

Signed: His Excellency
Ferhat Abbas
President of the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic.
THE PROBLEM OF THE MOROCCO-ALGERIAN BORDERS AND THE CURRENT INCIDENTS.
THE PROBLEM OF THE BORDERS

The problem of the Morocco-Algerian borders which is now assuming an alarming aspect has been constantly brought up by the Moroccan Government ever since Morocco achieved independence.

It is a historical fact that since the occupation of Algeria by France and particularly since the beginning of this century, the French Authorities in Algeria have constantly operated successive annexations of vast stretches of Moroccan territory by means of simple administrative decisions.

The establishment of the French Protectorate over Morocco in 1912 has largely facilitated this policy of annexation which continued until 1952.

When Morocco became independent in 1956, one of the problems that was to be settled with France was that of the borders. It was then agreed between the Moroccan and the French Governments to establish a joint commission for the purpose of working out a final delimitation of the borders.

In 1958, when the First Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic was formed Morocco, placing Algeria's liberation above all other considerations, discontinued its talks with France over the problem of the borders, the valid interlocutor, in the view of the Moroccan Government being henceforth the G.P.R.A. which Morocco had immediately recognized.

The numerous contacts established between our Government and the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic (G.P.R.A) regarding this problem resulted in an exchange of letters with President Ferhat Abbas, later confirmed by his successor President Ben Youssif Ben Khedda. In these documents, Algeria had formally committed itself towards Morocco to settle this problem through bilateral negotiations immediately after its independence.
The several Moroccan Missions which went to Algiers since Algeria's independence have constantly received confirmation of this commitment. But on each one of these occasions, the Algerian Government advanced some new reasons for postponing the opening of negotiations to a later date. Among these reasons was the delay required for setting up the institutions of the new Algerian State and for the Presidential elections.

In accepting these reasons and delays, Morocco was showing both its continued solidarity with the Algerian people in the edification of their new State and its confidence in the commitments assumed by its leaders.

THE CURRENT INCIDENTS

We have unfortunately been brought to realize that the Government of independent Algeria appeared to be less and less inclined to honor the engagements previously taken.

But what is graver still is that since last May the Algerian Government undertook to implement a series of vexatious measures highly detrimental to the interests of Morocco and its nationals in Algeria as well as in the border zones, (discrimination against Moroccan nationals, eviction of several thousand Moroccans established in Algeria, confiscations of Moroccan properties, bloody repression against inhabitants of areas claimed by Morocco, repeated violations of the temporary administrative limits etc...). Moreover, there is the incredible and simply calumnious accusation of the alleged collusion of Morocco with the revolt movement in Algeria.
Rem:
The OUJDA meeting of October 5, 1963.

This meeting was to bring about a clarification of the situation which was becoming more and more tense and to decide upon the principle of a "Summit meeting" in order to examine the substance of the problem and to take all concrete measures susceptible of bringing the relations between the two countries back to normal.

It was therefore decided to establish a joint commission which was to meet on October 11, in Tlemcen in order to settle the administrative problems resulting from the recent measures taken by the Algerian Authorities.

The aggression of October 8, 1963

Before the meeting of Tlemcen, scheduled for October 11, took place the Algerian army attacked on the 8th of October the Moroccan posts of HASSI BEIDA and TINJOUB, guarded since Morocco's independence only by a few elements of the auxiliary forces responsible to the Ministry of Interior.

This surprise attack launched against these two posts left some hundred Moroccan casualties (dead, wounded or missing). Homes, equipment and crops were destroyed with flame-throwers.

This premeditated aggression on the eve of a meeting which was accepted by a common agreement, made the Tlemcen meeting purposeless and morally impossible.

In recapturing the two posts of HASSI BEIDA and TINJOUB which had been attacked and occupied by the Algerian Army, Morocco has merely repelled the aggression and reestablished its right on two localities which unequivocably and undisputedly lie within its territory.
It should be stressed however that Morocco's military reaction took place only after the mission to Algiers led by the Moroccan Minister of Information, on October, 9, had failed.

Since the recapture of the two posts of HASSI BEIDA and TINJOUB, the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces have remained on the defensive and the fighting which took place since is only initiated by the Algerian troops.

**Algerian agression against ICH, October 18, 1963**

A new Algerian agression has just been committed North of FIGUIIG against the post of ICH (OUJDA Province). This post is located at one thousand kilometers North-East of the two Moroccan posts of HASSI BEIDA and TINJOUB which are at present the scene of the fighting generated by the Algerian agression of October, 8. This new attack, launched with powerful means of destruction, and also the heavy concentration of Algerian troops along the North-Eastern border of Morocco demonstrate the aim pursued by the Algerian Authorities in their desire to generalize the conflict.

Inspite of the painful evolution of the situation, and inspite of the calomnious campaign directed against Morocco through radio and press as well as in the speeches of the Algerian Authorities, His Majesty the King and His Government remain sincerely willing to settle the problem of the borders between the two countries through negotiations. Also, as the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ahmed Balafrej, has stated on October, 18: "Sure of its right, Morocco will accept to go before any international instance and will not close the door before any initiative aiming at facilitating the settlement of the problem".

New York, October 18, 1963.
New York, 20 October 1963

- OFFICIAL DOCUMENT -

TEXT OF PROTOCOL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN MOROCCO AND ALGERIA

6 July 1961
concerning the territorial problem

signed for Morocco by:
HIS MAJESTY HASSAN II

signed for Algeria by:
His Excellency Mr. FERHAT ABBAS
President of the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic.
The Government of His Majesty the King of Morocco and the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic, imbued with feelings of maghrebian solidarity and fraternity, conscious of their African destiny, and wishing to give a concrete form to the common aspirations of their peoples, have agreed to the following:

Faithful to the spirit of the Tangiers Conference of April 1958, and firmly attached to the Charter and Resolutions adopted by the Conference of Casablanca, the two Governments decide to undertake the building of the Arab Maghreb on the basis of a fraternal association, particularly in the political and economic fields.

The Government of His Majesty the King of Morocco reaffirms its unconditional support of the Algerian people in its struggle for National Independence and unity. It proclaims its unreserved endorsement of the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic in the latter's negotiations with France on the basis of respect for the integrity of the Algerian territory. The Government of His Majesty the King of Morocco will by all means oppose any attempt to partition or otherwise reduce the territory of Algeria.
The Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic, on its part, recognizes that the territorial problem created by the delimitation of the two countries arbitrarily imposed by France, will be settled by negotiations between the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Government of independent Algeria.

To this end, the two governments decide to establish a joint Algerian-Moroccan Commission which shall meet at the earliest possible moment in order to study and solve this problem in a spirit of Maghrebian fraternity and unity.

Therefore, the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic reaffirms that agreements which may be reached after the Franco-Algerian negotiations, could not be binding upon Morocco as far as the territorial demarcation between Algeria and Morocco is concerned.

Done at Rabat, July 6, 1961.

Signed: His Majesty Hassan II
King of Morocco

Signed: His Excellency Ferhat Abbas
President of the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic,
Excellency,

I have the honour to enclose herewith the two resolutions adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States with regard to the border conflict between Algeria and Morocco on October 19th, and 20th, 1963 respectively.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

M. Kamil Abdul Rahim
Permanent Observer of
the League of Arab States

His Excellency U Thant
Secretary General
United Nations
New York 17, N.Y.
Excellency,

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His Excellency U Thant
Secretary General
United Nations
New York 17, N.Y.
Following is the text of two resolutions adopted by the Council of the League of the Arab States on October 19 and 20, 1963 during the emergency meetings held in Cairo to study the Algerian Moroccan borders incidents:

October 19, 1963:
THE COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES:

Having studied with great concern and distress the strife over the Algerian-Moroccan borders and the consequent spilling of Arab blood on Arab soil at Arab hands and in view of the fact that the Pact of the League of Arab States, its principles and resolutions as well as the brotherly ties and the bond of Arab nationalism that bind them demand a prompt cessation of hostilities and a peaceful solution within the Arab framework.

Invites the Governments of both Algeria and Morocco to cease fire immediately.

October 20, 1963
THE COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES:

Having studied the issue of the Algerian-Moroccan dispute and the consequent fighting.

Recalling its resolution of October 19, 1963 inviting the Governments of both Algeria and Morocco to cease fire immediately.

Noting the contents of the memorandum submitted by the delegation of the United Arab Republic.

Resolves the following:

FIRST:

Invites the two sister governments to withdraw their armed forces to their posts previous to hostilities without prejudicing the views of either party in the borders dispute.

SECOND:

Appoints a mediation commission composed of the heads of the Lebanese, Libyan, Tunisian and the United Arab Republic delegations as well as the President of the Council and the Secretary General to take the appropriate steps for a peaceful settlement of the dispute.
THIRD:

Calls upon the governments of the two sister countries to extend all facilities which would enable the commission to perform its good offices efficiently and promptly.

FOURTH:

Urges a prompt cessation of press and radio mutual attacks to ensure the proper atmosphere for the commission to fulfill its mission.
Following is the text of two resolutions adopted by the Council of the League of the Arab States on October 19 and 20, 1963 during the emergency meetings held in Cairo to study the Algerian-Moroccan borders incidents:

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**October 20, 1963**

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Having studied the issue of the Algerian-Moroccan dispute and the consequent fighting.

Recalling its resolution of October 19, 1963 inviting the Governments of both Algeria and Morocco to cease fire immediately.

Noting the contents of the memorandum submitted by the delegation of the United Arab Republic.

Resolves the following:

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THIRD:

Calls upon the governments of the two sister countries to extend all facilities which would enable the commission to perform its good offices efficiently and promptly.

FOURTH:

Urges a prompt cessation of press and radio mutual attacks to ensure the proper atmosphere for the commission to fulfill its mission.

M'Hamed Yazid (Algeria) met with correspondents for an about half an hour today, beginning at 2:45 p.m.

He outlined Algeria's position on the border dispute and the recent events, and gave a version entirely opposite to that given by the Moroccans this morning. He said that on 8 October the Moroccans had attacked the border point, had been forced to withdraw, and had then returned "in force" on 14 October, with a force so large that it must have taken at least two months to prepare. Only after this "aggression," he said, had Algeria sent troops to defend its territorial integrity, and at the same time, his country had started peace efforts.

Algeria, he said, wanted an end to be put at once to the fighting, and would readily agree to a cease-fire if the Moroccans returned to the positions they had previously held. Algeria hoped that conditions for a peaceful solution could be achieved through direct talks, and welcomed the initiative taken by the Emperor of Ethiopia.

Mr. Yazid said he had come to New York to inform the Secretary-General and delegations about the situation, and not to raise the question before the Security Council or the General Assembly. However, that possibility was not excluded.

Asked about the possibility of a third-party investigation of the facts, inasmuch as the versions of the two sides differed so greatly, and about the possibility of "good offices" by the Secretary-General, he said that he would not refer to the substance of his private talk with the Secretary-General.

Mr. Yazid stressed repeatedly the agreement at Addis Ababa that existing borders should be respected, even though they had been set by the colonial powers, and declared that if borders were to be questioned, all of Africa could be at war. A correspondent noted that the Moroccans had said they had agreed to this point only with reservations at Addis Ababa. To that, he said that they had never mentioned the Algerian border there, and he would be glad to have a meeting of Africans who had been at Addis Ababa to prove his statement.

Morocco was ready for peace, but was also ready to fight for the integrity of its territory and for the principles laid down at Addis Ababa, he said. If a united Maghreb could be achieved, there would be no border problems.

He was asked a number of questions about the Moroccan references to captured Egyptian officers, forced down in a helicopter over Moroccan territory. On this point, he said that there was a UAR military mission in his country. Both Morocco and Algeria used Soviet arms and planes, and Morocco had had Soviet technicians, and Egyptians also, in its country. Nations were free to have military advisers, and Algeria did not object to the presence of U.S. or French military advisers in Morocco. These officers had not been forced down over Moroccan territory, but over Algerian territory by Moroccan planes.

He was asked if Morocco was raising the border question now because of Algeria's internal problems, he said, "You bet it is." But Algeria was united on this.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NIGERIAN PRIME MINISTER SENDS MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT BEN BELLA AND KING HASSAN

The following is the text of the cablegram sent on October 21, 1963, by the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, to both President Ben Bella of Algeria and King Hassan of Morocco:

"The Government and people of Nigeria, like all other Africans, are very much distressed about the unhappy incidents that have recently developed into hostilities and blood-shed along the borders of Algeria and Morocco. This is more unfortunate in view of the general spirit of co-operation and unity running through all Africa and culminating in the Conference we had at Addis Ababa. I therefore appeal to you with profound respect, but in all sincerity as an African brother, and on the strength of our common dedication to peace and orderly progress in this Continent of Africa, to use your best endeavours to prevent a further intensification of open conflict and to reach agreement and a peaceful settlement of the dispute between Algeria and Morocco. You will agree that continued deterioration of the present situation will bring no credit to the cause of African Unity and no real advantage to anyone.

Highest consideration".

October 22, 1963.
ROUTING SLIP

Comments for the record should not be written on this slip, REFERRAL SHEET PT.108 should be used instead.

TO: TW

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DATE: 23 Oct 63
FROM: [Signatures]
Capture in Moroccan Territory of an Algerian Army helicopter with Egyptian officers on board.

On October 20th, a helicopter of the Algerian army has been captured at the village Ain Chouatteur (Oujda Province). Among the nine occupants, five were officers of the Egyptian army, the others, all belonging to the Algerian army, constituted the crew of the aircraft: (One pilot, one co-pilot, one engineer and an assistant engineer). Two sub-machine guns were found in the helicopter.

The questioning of the nine men revealed that the passports of the five Egyptian officers were issued in Cairo on October 16, 1963 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Republic. The passports bear the mention "Official Mission". The officers, who arrived on October 17th to Algiers and some of whom have served in Yemen, declared that they received orders for their mission from General Ali Amour, Head of the Egyptian Intelligence. Their mission, they said, was to make a survey for the Egyptian authorities, of the geographical and
strategic situation of the places where the Algerian-Moroccan incidents are taking place. They declared further that their mission was also to study the military needs of the Algerian army and to start training the Algerian officers.

The officers were unanimous in revealing that the Algerian Government was expecting the arrival of heavy armaments delivered by a foreign country.

**The five Egyptian officers are:**
- Colonel Abbas Chahine (artillery)
- Colonel Reda Saaheb Sabri (armor)
- Lieutenant-colonel Abdel Khalek Athia (logistic)
- Captain Ahmed Fouad El Howedi (intelligence)
- Captain Farouk Abdelhamed El Fiki (military engineering)

The capture of these foreign officers in Moroccan territory and what is more in the zone of operations, as well as the presence of sub-machine guns in their helicopter, demonstrate their effective participation in the military operations which are taking place since the Algerian aggression. Their participation shows that these officers' mission was to assist a country guilty of aggression, since they arrived in Algeria only on October 17, that is to say after the Algerian attacks of October 3th, on Hassi Beida and Tinjouf and on the eve of
the attack on the post of Ich. Under such circumstances, the
mission of these officers could in no way be an ordinary
peacetime mission of military assistance.

This Egyptian intervention evidences the real proportions
of the conflict and the objectives of the action undertaken
against Morocco.

New York, October 17th, 1963
PRESS RELEASE

PRESS BUREAU OF THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

October 24, 1963

UAR STATEMENT ON
ALGERIAN-MOROCCO BORDER DISPUTE

The Permanent Mission of Morocco, in a statement released to the press on October 22, pointed to the Algerian helicopter captured by the Moroccans. Apart from the Algerian pilots, the statement mentioned that there were five UAR officers in the plane as well.

That statement by the Mission of Morocco to the United Nations issued at such a critical moment in the dispute between Morocco and Algeria—may give the inference of military interference on the part of the United Arab Republic in the current conflict between the two sister Arab countries.

With this in mind, it is necessary that the United Arab Republic Mission to the United Nations make its position clear with reference to: a) the border dispute between Morocco and Algeria, and, b) the capture of the five United Arab Republic officers.

Regarding the first point, it is worth mentioning that the United Arab Republic has endeavored from the very start of the dispute on the border issue to prevent bloodshed, and to seek all possible means toward a peaceful solution.

President Nasser sent messages to both His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, and President Ahmed Ben Bella of Algeria, in which he suggested the convening of a meeting of the Heads of Government of Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, and Libya, and at the same time, expressed the readiness of the UAR to participate in seeking an agreeable solution.

The Council of the Arab League unanimously adopted a resolution calling on both Algeria and Morocco to return their forces to the posts which they had occupied before the military dispute arose. The resolution also called for the establishment of a good offices committee composed of the Heads of Delegation of Lebanon, Libya, Tunisia, and the United Arab Republic, together with the President of the Council and the Secretary-General of the Arab League, to seek measures necessary for a peaceful settlement.

A UAR official statement issued by Dr. Abdel Kader Hatem, Minister of National Guidance, also emphasized that nothing other than a peaceful solution can settle the border problem between Algeria and Morocco. This is the position of the UAR based on facts known to all concerned.

Regarding the five UAR Army officers, one can hardly interpret their presence in Algeria as having anything whatever to do with the border dispute. These Army officers are members of a UAR training mission in Algeria. In view of this fact, the UAR Government requested from the Government of Morocco their immediate release.

# ####
With the Compliments of the
Permanent Mission of Morocco
to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations
757 Third Avenue
New York 17, N.Y.

New York, 28 October 1963

CONFLICT BETWEEN ALGERIA AND MOROCCO
Chronological account of events since 30 September 1963

The Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations would like to submit the following details concerning the development of the situation since 30 September 1963.

30 September: Several hundred Moroccans were expelled from Algeria, a number of Moroccan peasants were forcibly removed from Moroccan territory by the Algerian National and Popular Army, and Moroccan air space was violated by the Algerian air force. Colonel Boumedienne, Vice-President of the Council and Algerian Minister for Defence, himself flew over the frontier, and at the same time a concentration of Algerian units was seen in the frontier region.

1 October: Intelligence agencies reported that a large-scale deployment of units of the Algerian army was taking place along the Algerian-Moroccan border region, and noted that whole battalions were being sent daily to reinforce the units already stationed in these areas. Moreover, reports from the frontier village continued to mention low-altitude overflights of Moroccan territory by aircraft of the Algerian air force. On the same day, more Moroccan peasants were abducted from Morocco by soldiers of the Algerian army.

2 October: The state of tension reached alarming proportions. In an attempt to justify the military action it was planning to take against Morocco, the Algerian Government levelled serious accusations against our country, implicating it in the Kabylia rebel movement.
3 October: After a meeting of the Council of Ministers, the Moroccan Government categorically denied the accusations levelled against Morocco by the Algerian Government and deplored the fact that the latter should have seen fit, for reasons of internal policy, to implicate Morocco, which has always conscientiously respected the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

4 October: The Algerian official radio made an even more violent attack on Morocco and its institutions. Algerian troops continued their advance towards the frontier regions. The Moroccan Ambassador, Mr. Mohamed Aouad, twice drew the attention of President Ben Bella to the gravity of the situation. These urgent representations were to culminate in the meeting at Oujda.

5 October: The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Morocco met the Algerian Minister for Foreign Affairs at Oujda. This meeting was designed to make it possible to clarify the situation and undertake the necessary efforts for removing tensions. A joint communique was, in fact, issued to this effect. It also reaffirmed the principle of non-interference by either country in the internal affairs of the other and respect for the experiment that each of them is engaged in carrying out. The communique also announced that agreement had been reached in principle on a meeting between H.M. King Hassan II and H.E. President Ben Bella.

8 October: Without waiting for the mixed commission to meet at Tlemcen, as had been planned at Oujda with a view to settling the incidents of the past few days, the Algerian army carried out a surprise attack on the post of Hassi Beida, which had been held ever since Morocco's independence by ordinary members of the Auxiliary Forces, coming under the Ministry of the Interior. This act of aggression resulted in many lost lives and injuries, as well as substantial material damage.
The Moroccan Government issued the following communique:

"The post of Hassi Beida, situated at a distance of forty kilometres from Khemid, in the province of Ourazazate, was subjected to a surprise attack by Algerian Armed forces yesterday morning.

These armed forces penetrated to a distance of a hundred kilometres inside Moroccan territory. The attack caused a number of deaths and casualties, as well as material damage. A palm-grove was set on fire by flame-projectors. The officer in command of the post has been reported missing.

As soon as this news was reported to His Majesty, the King held a meeting with all the ministers who were at Safi and several senior officers of the General Staff of the Royal Armed Forces.

Measures appropriate to the gravity of the situation were adopted. H.M. the King, who could not question the good faith of President Ben Bella, decided to send Mr. Abdelhadi Boutaleb, the Minister of Information, together with Commander Medboh, the Director of His Majesty's military cabinet, to President Ben Bella in order to draw his attention to the gravity of such incidents and the consequences that might derive from them.

His Majesty instructed his emissaries to ask the Algerian President to take appropriate measures to restore security at the borders."

Upon the return to Morocco of the mission despatched to President Ben Bella, the results of which had unfortunately been negative, a special meeting of the Council of Ministers was convened at Agadir. After the Council meeting, the following communique was issued:

"The Council heard a statement by Mr. Abdelhadi Boutaleb, the Minister of Information, and by Commander Medboh, Director of the royal Cabinet, concerning the mission on which they had both been sent by H.M. the King to President Ben Bella, as a result of the aggression committed against Moroccan territory in the province of Ourazazate, causing loss of life, casualties and material damage.

The Council of Ministers has adopted a number of measures with a view to protecting the national territory against any act of
aggression.

At the end of the meeting, H.M. the King renewed his pledge to fulfill the duties and responsibilities that were incumbent on him as protector of the independence of the nation and the territorial integrity of the Kingdom, as laid down in article 19 of the Constitution.

His Majesty also recalled the duties falling to Moroccan citizens in this respect under article 16 of the Constitution.

11 October: After the publication of this communiqué the Algerian Government, clearly embarrassed by the repercussions of the aggression committed by the Algerian army, issued no more than a terse communiqué on 11 October, containing some curious references regarding the geographic location of what it described as "frontier incidents", placing Hassi Beida and Tinjoub - for the first time in history - in Algerian territory, despite the fact that up to 8 October, which was the date of the Algerian aggression, these two places were posts of the Moroccan Auxiliary Forces, and their Moroccan character had never been contested.

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A chronological account of events therefore shows that the Algerian aggression committed on 8 October against the post of Hassi Beida marked the starting point of the violent confrontation between the two countries.
CONFLIT ALGERO-MAROCAIN

Chronologie des événements depuis le 30 septembre 1963

La Mission Permanente du Maroc auprès des Nations Unies voudrait apporter les précisions suivantes au sujet du développement de la situation depuis le 30 septembre dernier.

30 septembre: Expulsion d'Algerie de plusieurs centaines de marocains, enlèvement en territoire marocain par l'Armée Nationale Populaire algérienne de paysans marocains, violations de l'espace aérien marocain par l'aviation algérienne. Le colonel Boumedienne, vice-président du Conseil et Ministre algérien de la défense, survole lui-même la frontière tandis qu'était constatée une concentration d'unités algériennes dans les régions frontalières.

1er octobre: Les agences d'information signalent qu'un important déploiement d'unités de l'armée algérienne se développe le long de la zone frontalière algéro-marocaine et font état de ce que des bataillons entiers sont envoyés chaque jour pour renforcer les unités déjà en place dans ces régions. Par ailleurs, les nouvelles provenant des villages frontaliers continuent à signaler le survol répété à basse altitude du territoire marocain par l'aviation algérienne. Le même jour, d'autres paysans marocains sont enlevés au Maroc par des soldats de l'armée algérienne.
2 octobre : Le climat de tension prend des proportions inquiétantes. Le Gouvernement algérien, pour justifier l'action militaire qu'il préparait contre le Maroc, porte de graves accusations contre notre pays l'impliquant dans le mouvement de révolte en Kabylie.

3 octobre : À l'issue d'une réunion du Conseil des Ministres, le Gouvernement marocain dément catégoriquement les accusations portées contre le Maroc par le Gouvernement algérien et déplore que celui-ci ait cru devoir, pour des raisons de politique intérieure, mettre en cause le Maroc qui a toujours scrupuleusement respecté le principe de la non-ingérence dans les affaires intérieures des autres États.

4 octobre : La radio officielle de l'Algérie redouble de violence dans ses attaques contre le Maroc et ses institutions. L'acheminement de troupes algériennes vers les zones frontalières se poursuit. L'ambassadeur du Maroc, M. Mohamed Aoud, a attiré par deux fois l'attention du Président Ben Bella sur la gravité de la situation. Ces démarches pressantes devaient aboutir à la réunion d'Oujda.

5 octobre : Le Ministre marocain des Affaires Etrangères par interim rencontre à Oujda le Ministre algérien des Affaires Etrangères. Cette rencontre devait permettre d'éclaircir la situation et d'entreprendre les efforts nécessaires en vue de faire disparaître la tension. Un communiqué conjoint a d'ailleurs été publié dans ce sens. Il a en même temps réaffirmé le principe de la non-ingérence de l'un des deux pays dans les affaires intérieures de l'autre et le respect de l'expérience que chacun d'eux entreprend. Le communiqué annonçait également que le principe d'une réunion entre S.M.le Roi Hassan II et S.E. le Président Ben Bella a été retenu.
8 octobre : Sans attendre la réunion à Tlemcen de la commission mixte, décidée à Oujda pour régler les incidents des derniers jours, l'armée algérienne lança une attaque surprise contre le poste de Hassi Beida, tenu depuis l'indépendance du Maroc par de simples éléments des Forces auxiliaires, relevant du Ministère de l'Intérieur. Cette agression a provoqué de grosses pertes en vies humaines et des blessés graves ainsi que d'importants dégâts matériels.

9 octobre : Le Gouvernement marocain a publié le communiqué suivant :

"Le poste de Hassi Beida, situé à quarante kilomètres de Mhamid, dans la province de Ouarzazate, a été hier matin l'objet d'une attaque surprise de la part de forces armées algériennes. Celles-ci ont pénétré sur une profondeur de cent kilomètres à l'intérieur du territoire marocain. Cette agression a provoqué des pertes en vies humaines et des blessés graves, ainsi que des dégâts matériels. Une palmeraie a été incendiée par des lance-flammes. Le commandant du poste est porté disparu.

Dès que ces nouvelles ont été portées à la connaissance de Sa Majesté, le Souverain a tenu une séance de travail, groupant autour de lui les ministres présents à Safi ainsi que des officiers supérieurs de l'État Major des Forces Armées Royales.

Les mesures qu'impose la gravité de la situation ont été prises, S.M.le Roi ne pouvant mettre en doute la bonne foi du Président Ben Bella, a décidé de dépêcher auprès de lui M. Abdelhadi Boutaleb, ministre de l'Information, accompagné du Commandant Medboh, directeur du Cabinet militaire de Sa Majesté, en vue d'attirer l'attention du Président Ben Bella sur la gravité de pareils incidents et sur les conséquences qui peuvent en découler.

Sa Majesté a chargé ses émissaires de demander au Président algérien de prendre les mesures adéquates en vue de rétablir la sécurité sur les frontières."

../..
10 octobre : Après le retour au Maroc de la mission dépêchée auprès du Président Ben Bella, et dont le résultat a malheureusement été négatif, un Conseil des ministres extraordinaire s'est tenu à Agadir. À l'issue de ce Conseil, le communiqué suivant a été publié :

"Le Conseil a entendu un exposé de M. Abdelhadi Boutaleb, ministre de l'Information, et du commandant Medboh, directeur du Cabinet royal, concernant la mission dont tous deux étaient chargés par S.M. le Roi auprès du Président Ben Bella, à la suite de l'agression commise contre le territoire marocain, dans la province de Ouarzazate, agression qui a causé des pertes en vies humaines, des blessés et des dégâts matériels.

Le Conseil des ministres a pris une série de mesures destinées à assurer la protection du territoire national contre toute agression.

À la fin du Conseil, S.M. le Roi a tenu à réaffirmer les devoirs et responsabilités qui lui incombent en tant que garant de l'indépendance de la nation et de l'intégrité territoriale du Royaume, ainsi que le stipule la Constitution dans son article 19.

S.M. le Roi a également rappelé les devoirs imposés aux citoyens marocains dans ce domaine, conformément à l'article 16 de la Constitution."

11 octobre : Après la publication de ce communiqué, le Gouvernement algérien, visiblement embarrassé par les répercussions de l'agression perpétrée par l'Armée algérienne, a publié le 11 octobre seulement un communiqué laconique apportant de curieuses précisions sur la localisation géographique de ce qu'il appelle "des incidents frontaliers", situant pour la première fois dans l'histoire, Hassi Beida et Tinjoub en territoire algérien, malgré le fait que jusqu'au 8 octobre, c'est-à-dire le jour de l'agression algérienne, ces deux localités constituaient des postes des Forces Auxiliaires marocaines, postes dont le caractère marocain n'a jamais fait l'objet de contestation.

Ainsi, la chronologie des événements montre que l'agression algérienne du 8 octobre contre le poste de Hassi Beida a été le point de départ de l'affrontement sanglant entre les deux pays.
NOTES ON ALGERIAN PRESS CONFERENCE

M'hammed Yazid, the special Algerian envoy, told correspondents at 11:45 a.m. today that he had just seen the Secretary-General and had informed him of the latest diplomatic and military developments in the Algerian-Moroccan conflict.

He said he had told the Secretary-General that Algeria hoped "a peaceful, just, negotiated African solution" would be achieved by the meeting tomorrow at Bamako. This was an African conflict and had to be solved between Africans. His Government did not want any U.N. intervention. It would abide by the U.N. Charter, which called for direct negotiations and regional settlement of conflicts.

He then said he wanted to make clarifications with regard to certain press reports in the U.S., which stemmed, he said, from one source: the Moroccan delegation to the U.S. Morocco, he said, was "trying to make the conditions for the intervention of certain Western countries in the conflict."

In reply to questions, Mr. Yazid said that Algeria did not have the impression that the U.S. intended to, or wanted to, intervene. The official position of the U.S. on the conflict was neutrality. France, also, was neutral, and his Government was satisfied with the French statements on the matter so far.

Asked if Algeria would bring the matter to the U.N. if the Bamako meeting was not successful, he said that it did not plan to do so and still favored the holding of a meeting of African Foreign Ministers in Africa. Algeria, he said, had agreed to meetings in Tripoli and in Tunis, previously, but the Tunis meeting had not taken place because of Moroccan conditions. The Moroccan Government was "isolated in Africa" and did not want a conference of African Foreign Ministers.

Mr. Yazid was asked numerous questions about the reported arrival of Russian ships in Algeria with military equipment. He said that Algeria had a sovereign right to get arms and equipment for its regular army from wherever it could get them. It had had military missions visiting various capitals before the conflict, and had not asked for any arms since the conflict began. He added that Morocco had more Russian weapons than Algeria had, but was not using them at the moment because it wanted to appear a champion of "Western ideals" against "some Communist threat." Moreover, Algeria was not objecting to the presence of U.S. military advisers in Morocco or to Morocco's use of U.S. planes, tanks, artillery and other weapons. Algeria had no air force or tanks, he said. He denied that there were any United Arab Republic troops in Algeria.

Asked about the military position, Mr. Yazid quoted a statement today by the Moroccan information minister to the effect that an advance had been made toward Tindouf. This was "a new act of aggression" in another area, he said, and showed what he had been saying all along: that Morocco was the aggressor.
The enclosed translation of a communication dated 26 October 1963
... is transmitted to the Permanent Missions of the States Members of the
United Nations at the request of the Permanent Representative of Morocco
to the United Nations.

28 October 1963
Ref: UN/752

Sir,

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to bring to your notice the extremely serious situation created on the north-eastern frontier between Algeria and Morocco by heavy concentrations of Algerian troops.

It should be stressed that this frontier has never been in dispute either between France and Morocco or between independent Algeria and Morocco.

The continual attacks launched by the Algerian army on many Moroccan villages since 22 October, the repeated violation of Moroccan air space by the Algerian air force, the new and powerful offensives mounted against Hassi Beida since 23 October and the rate and scale of the military preparations on the military preparations on the Algerian side are causing the Moroccan Government the most serious concern.

Specific information received by the Moroccan Government confirms that the Algerian Government has mobilized all means of transport in order to maintain a continuous movement of troops and large quantities of military equipment to the immediate vicinity of the frontier in question.

These facts indicate that a new and large-scale Algerian aggression is about to be unleashed.

These military preparations are accompanied by an exceptionally violent campaign of abuse conducted without interruption by the principal Algerian leaders and the official radio of Algeria.

Faced with this situation, Morocco refuses to be carried away by such provocations and still refrains from responding to this clearly aggressive attitude.

However, in view of the turn of events and the grave anxieties to which it gives rise, the Moroccan Government wishes you henceforth to be fully informed of the situation in case circumstances should make it necessary for Morocco to refer it to the appropriate United Nations organs.

On bringing these facts to your notice, I should be grateful if you would kindly have this note circulated to all States Members of the Organization.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Ahmed Taibi BENHIDMA
Permanent Representative of Morocco

The Secretary-General of the United Nations,
New York
2/11/63

Mr. Harasimowicz,

F.Y.I.

Kindly return

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]
Sir,

I have the honour to transmit a message which His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco instructed me to convey to you.

Accept, Sir, etc.

Ahmed Taibi Benhima
Permanent Representative of Morocco
to the United Nations
New York
1 November 1963

His Excellency U Thant
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, N.Y.

This morning, just as I was preparing to announce, in a message to the nation, the positive results of the Bamako agreements and express gratification over them, I learned that the Algerian National Popular Army had attacked Figuig, a Moroccan town several hundred kilometres away from the present area of operations.

Numerous victims among the almost exclusively civilian population are unfortunately to be reported.

In order to safeguard peace and remain true to the spirit of Bamako, I immediately reiterated my official orders to the effect that the Moroccan army stationed along this frontier should continue to avoid any armed contact with the Algerian National Popular Army.

In this way the enemies of peace and stability in Africa are seeking to create a state of perpetual warfare which would force the Bamako agreements into obsolescence and void them of all content even before they were implemented.

Being unable to believe that our Algerian brethren, who negotiated and signed the declaration of 30 October at Bamako, are capable of such flagrant duplicity, I am inclined to think that they are merely the victims of an invisible but active hand that is seeking stealthily to introduce into this part of Africa certain methods and practices which are commonly encountered elsewhere.

Whatever it costs me, I am still determined to abide scrupulously by the commitments I entered into at Bamako. I hope that our Algerian partners at Bamako, by thwarting the manoeuvres of the enemies of Africa, will be able to do the same.

Signed: Hassan Ben Mohamed Ben Yousef.
Mr. Harrasimhan,

F.Y.I.

Finitely return.

Lucian

Slim, many

[Signature]

L.L.
Son Excellence Monsieur U. THANT
Secrétaire Général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies
Nations Unies - New York, N.Y.

Monsieur le Secrétaire Général,

J'ai l'honneur de communiquer à votre Excellence un message que Sa Majesté Hassan II, Roi du Maroc, m'a ordonné de vous remettre.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Secrétaire Général, l'assurance de ma très haute considération.

Ahmed el-Fadl Benhima
New York

le 1er novembre 1963

Son Excellence Monsieur U THANT
Secrétaire Général de l'Organisation
des Nations Unies
 Nations Unies - New York, N.Y.

J'ai appris ce matin, à l'heure où je m'apprêtais dans un message à la nation à expliquer les résultats positifs des accords de Bamako et m'en féliciter, que l'Armée Nationale Populaire Algérienne a attaqué FIGUIG, ville marocaine éloignée des zones opérationnelles actuelles de plusieurs centaines de kilomètres. Des victimes nombreuses, parmi la population presque exclusivement civile, sont malheureusement à déplorer.

Pour sauvegarder la paix et demeurer fidèle à l'esprit de Bamako, j'ai immédiatement réitéré mes ordres formels pour que l'Armée marocaine, stationnée tout au long de cette frontière, continue d'éviter tout contact armé avec l'Armée Nationale Populaire Algérienne.

Ainsi les ennemis de la paix et de la stabilité en Afrique souhaiteraient-ils créer une situation de guerre permanente dont la dynamique propre
rendrait caduques et viderait de leur contenu les accords de Bamako avant même leur mise en application.

Ne pouvant croire que la duplicité peut être à ce point flagrante chez les frères Algériens qui ont négocié et signé la déclaration du 30 octobre à Bamako, j'en viens à penser qu'ils ne sont eux-mêmes que les victimes d'une main invisible mais agissante qui chercherait à s'introduire pour implanter dans cette partie d'Afrique des méthodes et des moeurs fort usitées ailleurs.

Quoi qu'il m'en coûte, je demeure déterminé à me conformer scrupuleusement aux engagements par moi souscrits à Bamako. Je souhaite que nos partenaires Algériens à Bamako, déjouant les manoeuvres des ennemis de l'Afrique, puissent en faire autant.

Signé: Hassan Ben Mohamed Ben Youssef.
Ref.: NU/767

New York, 1 November 1963

His Excellency U Thant
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, N.Y.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit a message which His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco instructed me to convey to you.

Accept, Sir, etc.

Ahmed Taibi Benhima
Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations
This morning, just as I was preparing to announce, in a message to the nation, the positive results of the Bamako agreements and express gratification over them, I learned that the Algerian National Popular Army had attacked Figuig, a Moroccan town several hundred kilometres away from the present area of operations.

Numerous victims among the almost exclusively civilian population are unfortunately to be reported.

In order to safeguard peace and remain true to the spirit of Bamako, I immediately reiterated my official orders to the effect that the Moroccan army stationed along this frontier should continue to avoid any armed contact with the Algerian National Popular Army.

In this way the enemies of peace and stability in Africa are seeking to create a state of perpetual warfare which would force the Bamako agreements into obsolescence and void them of all content even before they were implemented.

Being unable to believe that our Algerian brethren, who negotiated and signed the declaration of 30 October at Bamako, are capable of such flagrant duplicity, I am inclined to think that they are merely the victims of an invisible but active hand that is seeking stealthily to introduce into this part of Africa certain methods and practices which are commonly encountered elsewhere.

Whatever it costs me, I am still determined to abide scrupulously by the commitments I entered into at Bamako. I hope that our Algerian partners at Bamako, by thwarting the manoeuvres of the enemies of Africa, will be able to do the same.

Signed: Hassan Ben Mohamed Ben Youssaf.
New York

Rét: NU/797 le 1er novembre 1963

Son Excellence Monsieur U. THANT
Secrétaire Général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies
Nations Unies - New York, N.Y.

Monsieur le Secrétaire Général,

J'ai l'honneur de communiquer à votre Excellence un message que Sa Majesté Hassan II, Roi du Maroc, m'a ordonné de vous remettre.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Secrétaire Général, l'assurance de ma très haute considération.

Ajimee Tahli Bembina
Son Excellence Monsieur U Thant  
Secrétaire Général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies  
Nations Unies - New York, N.Y.

J'ai appris ce matin, à l'heure où je m'apprêtais dans un message à la nation à expliquer les résultats positifs des accords de Bamako et m'en féliciter, que l'Armée Nationale Populaire Algérienne a attaqué FIGUIG, ville marocaine éloignée des zones opérationnelles actuelles de plusieurs centaines de kilomètres.

Des victimes nombreuses, parmi la population presque exclusivement civile, sont malheureusement à déplorer.

Pour sauvegarder la paix et demeurer fidèle à l'esprit de Bamako, j'ai immédiatement réitéré mes ordres formels pour que l'Armée marocaine, stationnée tout au long de cette frontière, continue d'éviter tout contact armé avec l'Armée Nationale Populaire Algérienne.

Ainsi les ennemis de la paix et de la stabilité en Afrique souhaiteraient-ils créer une situation de guerre permanente dont la dynamique propre...
rendrait caduques et viderait de leur contenu les accords de Bamako avant même leur mise en application.

Ne pouvant croire que la duplicité peut être à ce point flagrante chez les frères Algériens qui ont négocié et signé la déclaration du 30 octobre à Bamako, j'en viens à penser qu'ils ne sont eux-mêmes que les victimes d'une main invisible mais agissante qui chercherait à s'introduire pour planter dans cette partie d'Afrique des méthodes et des mesures fort utilisées ailleurs.

Quoi qu'il m'en coûte, je demeure déterminé à me conformer scrupuleusement aux engagements par moi souscrits à Bamako. Je souhaite que nos partenaires Algériens à Bamako, déjoignant les manoeuvres des ennemis de l'Afrique, puissent en faire autant.

Signé: Hassan Ben Mohamed Ben Youssèf
Le 15 mai 1964

Monsieur l'Amabassadeur,

J'ai l'honneur d'apporter réception de votre lettre du 11 mai 1964, à laquelle était joint un exemplaire du communiqué commun publié à Rabat et à Alger à l'issue des divers entretiens qui ont eu lieu récemment entre les Ministres des affaires étrangères d'Algerie et du Maroc. C'est avec une grande satisfaction que j'ai pris note de la teneur du communiqué commun.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur l'Amabassadeur, les assurances de ma très haute considération.

U Thant

Son Excellence
Monsieur Ahmed Taibi Benhima
Représentant permanent du Maroc auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies
757 Third Avenue, 23rd floor
New York, N.Y.

cc: Mr. Suslov
Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge your letter dated 11 May with which you enclosed a copy of the Joint Communiqué issued at Rabat and Algiers at the conclusion of the various talks recently held between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Algérie and Morocco. I have noted the contents of the Joint Communiqué with great satisfaction.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

U Thant

His Excellency
Mr. Ahmed Tebbi Benhima
Permanent Representative of Morocco
to the United Nations

Cc: H. Sudano
UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION FROM FRENCH

PERMANENT MISSION OF MOROCCO
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

UN/1096

New York, 11 May 1964

The Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

Sir,

I have pleasure in sending you enclosed the joint communiqué which has just been issued at Rabat and Algiers at the conclusion of the various talks that have been held since the Cairo Conference between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Algeria and Morocco.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Taibi Benhima
Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations
JOINT ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN COMMUNIQUE

Mr. Ahmed Meda Hadira, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco, and Mr. Abdellaziz Bouteflika, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Algerian Republic, have had various meetings - first at Cairo, on the occasion of the meeting of Arab Heads of State and Government, subsequently at Paris, and lastly at Lagos (Nigeria).

The Moroccan Government and the Algerian Government express their satisfaction over the work that has been accomplished to date by the ad hoc Arbitration Commission at Bamako, and reaffirm their complete confidence in this Commission as regards the continued consideration of the dossiers submitted to it.

The two Governments express satisfaction over the cease-fire agreement reached between the two Parties, which have undertaken scrupulously to observe all its provisions.

The two Governments express their firm determination to take all appropriate political, administrative and military measures to bring about a complete and prompt normalisation of relations between Morocco and Algeria, by such means as restoring all rights to those of their nationals that have adversely affected by the situation.

In keeping with the decisions taken at Bamako, Addis-Ababa and Cairo, the two Parties will refrain from all propaganda campaigns and all activities capable of causing a deterioration in relations between the two fraternal countries.

The two Governments affirm their mutual wish to promulgate and put into effect the agreements and conventions signed by Morocco and Algeria.

With a view to giving effect as soon as possible to the foregoing decisions and in order to definitively settle those aspects of the Algerian-Moroccan claims and counter-claims that were not submitted to the ad hoc arbitration commission of the CMU, the two Governments have decided to assign the consideration of the questions pending between the two countries to the Mixed Technical Commission established at Oujda on 5 October 1963. This Mixed Commission, headed by the Moroccan Ambassador at Algiers and the Algerian Ambassador at Rabat, will meet on 25 May in order to determine the practical procedure for the application of the agreements reached between the two Governments.
New York, le 11 mai 1964

Monsieur le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies

Monsieur le Secrétaire général,

J'ai le plaisir de vous faire parvenir ci-joint le communiqué commun qui vient d'être publié à Rabat et à Alger à la suite des différents entretiens qui ont eu lieu depuis la Conférence du Caire entre les deux Ministres des Affaires Étrangères de l'Algérie et du Maroc.

Je vous prie de bien vouloir agréer, Monsieur le Secrétaire général, les assurances de ma haute considération.

Ahmed Taibi Benhima
Représentant Permanent du Maroc auprès des Nations Unies

Le Gouvernement marocain et le Gouvernement algérien marquent leur satisfaction devant le travail accompli à ce jour par la Commission ad hoc d'arbitrage à Bamako, ils réaffirment leur entière confiance en cette Commission pour la poursuite de l'examen des dossiers qui lui ont été soumis.

Les deux Gouvernements se félicitent de l'accord de cessez-le-feu intervenu entre les deux parties, qui se sont engagées à en respecter scrupuleusement toutes les clauses.

Les deux Gouvernements proclament leur volonté délibérée de prendre toutes mesures utiles, tant politiques, administratives que militaires pour aboutir à une normalisation complète et rapide des rapports entre le Maroc et l'Algérie, notamment en faisant rentrer dans la totalité de leurs droits ceux de leurs ressortissants qui auraient subi des préjudices du fait de la situation.

Conformément aux décisions prises à Bamako, à Addis-Ababa et au Caire, les deux parties s'abstiendront de toute campagne de propagande et de tout acte de nature à détériorer les relations entre les deux pays frères.

Les deux Gouvernements affirment leur commune volonté de promulguer et de mettre en application les accords et conventions signés entre le Maroc et l'Algérie.
Dans le but de concrétiser dans les meilleurs délais les décisions précédentes et en vue de liquider définitivement la partie du contentieux algéro-marocain non soumis à la Commission ad hoc d'arbitrage de l'OUA, les deux Gouvernements ont décidé de confier l'examen des questions pendantes entre les deux pays à la Commission technique mixte constituée le 5 octobre 1963 à Oujda. Cette Commission mixte, conduite par l' Ambientateur marocain à Alger et l' Ambientateur algérien à Rabat, se réunira le 25 mai en vue d'arrêter les modalités pratiques d'application des accords intervenus entre les deux Gouvernements.
TO : The Secretary-General
FROM : Jean Gezerian

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

DATE : 7 MAR 1967
The enclosed translation of a communication dated 1 March 1967 is transmitted to the Permanent Missions of the States Members of the United Nations at the request of the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations.

2 March 1967
Sir,

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to deliver to you officially the attached letter, addressed to you by His Majesty Hassan II, King of Morocco.

In view of the exceptional importance which my Government attaches to this document, I should be grateful if you would be good enough to have it circulated to the States Members of the United Nations as an official document.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Dey Ould SIDI BABA
Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations

The Secretary-General
of the United Nations
United Nations
New York
Sir,

It gives Us great pleasure to express to you once again the deep satisfaction which We derived from Our talks with you during Our recent visit to the United Nations, both on international problems and on those of particular concern to Morocco.

We informed you of the latest developments in relations between Our country and the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and stated Our views on what diplomatic circles are now referring to as the armaments race in North Africa, particularly between Morocco and Algeria.

This situation does involve certain realities, the gravity of which it would be idle to conceal and which cause serious concern to Our country.

In view of the importance of this problem, We have deemed it necessary to give you a fuller account of it, thus bringing to your attention some additional relevant elements to supplement the talks which We had on the subject.

In Our international relations, We have constantly applied Ourselves to setting aside all factors which are likely to aggravate whatever disputes may exist between us and other countries. These principles continue to constitute Our rule of conduct, just as they continue to form the basis for Our actions in relation to all Our international obligations. They lead Us from the very outset to exclude, today as in the past, the use of violence as a means of making the right prevail, however legitimate it may be, or of settling a dispute, however serious it may be.

It is incumbent on Us to reiterate to you that the territorial dispute between Algeria and Morocco is a fact which no one can deny. As Sovereign of Our country, We personally bear a heavy responsibility, national, historical and constitutional, as everyone must be aware. However, We continue to believe that a settlement of this dispute can be sought through dialogue, through candid discussion and through the production of evidence in support of the right.

Unfortunately, We are obliged to note that this readiness, which We have always displayed, to approach a consideration of the problem has not had the desired result. Indeed, not only does Our right continue to be ignored or rejected, but the presence in Algeria of vast amounts of arms, the quality and quantity of which is known to all diplomatic circles, causes Us concern for the future of our region.
You, Sir, are aware of the conviction with which Our country has always supported the efforts of the United Nations to prevent or reduce the growth of military potential in the world and to halt the armaments race in certain regions where the tension is a particular cause of concern.

If, then, it is Our desire that such tensions should cease in various regions of the world, We could not agree to their existence in a continent of which Our country is a part and in which there are neighbour States and neighbour peoples between whom a long history and identical struggles have woven strong ties and who ought to share a common hope.

Furthermore, Our country having freely chosen non-alignment and having felt that that was a wise choice and a policy in keeping with the interests of the developing countries, it is only logical for it to shun any undertaking calculated to jeopardize its non-alignment, to strengthen mistrust and to develop tensions.

In fidelity to those principles and because of the national obligations which We bear, We have applied Ourselves to a total mobilization of Our resources with a view to ensuring the development and progress of Our country and the prosperity of Our people.

As you know, the achievement of such goals is by no means easy. We are devoting to it all Our own human and material resources and all the aid which We receive from international agencies and friendly countries. We have even reorganized our institutional and administrative structures in terms of this economic and social priority which We have chosen and on the achievement of which We are at present concentrating all Our efforts.

For all these considerations, and in order that this conviction may be reflected in political reality, We should like the principle of disarmament to be extended also to the region of which Our country is a part. To that end, We propose that you should set up, under United Nations auspices, a commission which would have a dual task:

(1) To recommend Algeria and Morocco to renounce any increase in their respective military potentials, in order to preserve North Africa from the dangers of the armaments race,

(2) To carry out an on-the-spot inspection, by appropriate ways and means, of the armaments held by each of the two parties in quality and in quantity, and to evaluate the level of the respective needs for the maintenance of order in each of the two countries.
We believe that Algeria and Morocco would be displaying great wisdom if they agreed to such a recommendation. Morocco, for its part, is quite prepared to receive such a commission and to co-operate with it, without restriction, in carrying out this inspection and evaluation, thus proving its good faith and its peaceful intentions.

We should be most grateful to you if you would be good enough to consider this proposal with the greatest interest and to believe in our renewed assurance that we shall co-operate fully with the United Nations in all circumstances.

The objective of our country is peace, which it wishes to extend and consolidate through mutual co-operation and coexistence. We refuse, whatever the circumstances, to be the first to use force or to allow ourselves to be dragged into the chain reaction of the armaments race and preparations for war.

Morocco solemnly makes these undertakings before the United Nations and reaffirms its desire to devote all its efforts and all its resources to the development and prosperity of its people. It believes that such a choice could be its contribution to general prosperity, to international stability and to the security of all peoples who sincerely believe in the principles of the United Nations, of peaceful coexistence and of international co-operation.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Done at our Palace at Rabat,
18 Lkaada 1386
(28 February 1967)

HASSAN II
King of Morocco

His Excellency U Thant
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York
King Hassan II of Morocco has appealed to Secretary General Thant to set up a commission of investigation to avert an arms race between Algeria and Morocco.

Reports from Morocco last month said that official sources there had aggressive intentions.

A letter from King Hassan to Mr. Thant dated yesterday and made public today said: "The presence in Algeria of enormous amounts of arms, the quality and quantity of which is known to all diplomatic circles, evokes the concern for the future of our region."

Algeria and Morocco have been reported to have been on a border on a visit to the United States last month seeking for United States defense aid to counterbalance the Soviet arms. It is said to have been promised "modest" aid but no details have been published.

In the letter, the King stressed his country's desire for peace and relaxation of tensions everywhere.

In his dual task, he said, "we propose that you should set up under United Nations auspices a commission which would have a dual task."

The first part of the said would be to seek to see that both countries maintain their respective military potentials in order to preserve North Africa from the dangers of the arms race."

Second, he said, it should be to see that both countries in quality and quantities of their arms match the level of the respective needs for the maintenance or order in each of the two countries.

King said reference for the said would be to the United Nations Charter and the Secretary General would be given an initiative in the building up of the commission.

Answering a question on recent reports from Morocco-Algeria, foreign minister of Algeria said relations between Morocco and Algeria have been normalized.
UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., March 13—Algeria rejected today Morocco’s request to Secretary General Thant that the United Nations investigate an alleged arms race between the two countries.

Benseddik Kader Azouz, Algeria’s acting permanent representative, said after a meeting with Mr. Thant that Morocco’s request was an attempt to “internationalize” a border issue between the two countries.

“This is very bad,” said Mr. Azouz, who was called in by Mr. Thant to be advised. Normally of the letter received from King Hassan of Morocco March 12 that there was an arms race.

The border dispute has:

hostilities between the two countries in 1961. A cease-fire was reached on Oct. 10 of that year, and the dispute was referred to the Organization of African Unity, where according to Mr. Azouz, it is being handled adequately.

In his letter King Hassan asked that a United Nations commission investigate the arms situation on the spot. He called on Algeria to enter into an agreement under United Nations auspices to renounce any increase in the military potential of the two countries “in order to preserve North Africa from the dangers of an arms race.”
The Secretary-General of the United Nations, U Thant, asked the Algerian Chargé d'Affaires to the U.N., Mr. Hadj Ben Abdelkader Azzout, to see him on Monday night and officially communicated to him the terms of the letter of 28 February by which the King of Morocco, Hassan II, suggested the creation of a disarmament commission for Algeria and Morocco.

Mr. Azzout informed the Secretary-General of the attitude which his Government has adopted vis-a-vis the Moroccan initiative and especially emphasized that Algeria saw no reason to internationalize the Algerian-Moroccan dispute which has been and continues to be before the Organization for African Unity.

In addition, the Algerian Chargé d'Affaires emphasized that there could not be such a thing as an "arms race" between Algeria and Morocco since Algeria acts completely within its sovereignty when it undertakes to modernize its National Liberation Army.

Mr. Azzout asserted that Morocco vainly endeavoured to present its territorial dispute with Algeria as a colonial problem of the type of Spanish Sahara and to act "as if Algeria were the administering power of its own territory".
Monsieur l'Ambassadeur et cher ami,

Le Secrétaire général m'a demandé de vous remettre en son absence le texte de la lettre ci-jointe qu'il tient à vous adresser dès avant son retour, et dont la tenue a été approuvée par lui.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, les assurances de ma très haute considération.

Le Chef de Cabinet

C.V. Sarazinhan

Son Excellence
Monsieur Tewfik Bouattou
Ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire
Représentant permanent de l'Algérie
au sein de l'Organisation des Nations Unies
730 Third Avenue, 14th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10017
UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

11 April 1967

Mr. Ambassador and dear friend,

The Secretary-General has asked me to transmit in his absence the text of the attached letter which he wished to address to you before his return and whose tenor has been approved by him.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

C.V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet

His Excellency
Mr. Teurik Bouattoua
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Algeria
to the United Nations
750 Third Avenue, 14th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10017
Monsieur l’Ambassadeur,

J’ai l’honneur de vous faire savoir que j’ai reçu le 1er mars 1967 une communication du Représentant permanent du Maroc me transmettant une lettre qui n’était adressée par Sa Majesté Hassan II, ROI du Maroc. Dans cette lettre, qui a été distribuée comme Note verbale à la demande du Représentant permanent du Maroc et dont je vous joins copie, Sa Majesté Hassan II me demande d’examiner une proposition visant à établir, sous les auspices de l’Organisation des Nations Unies, une commission concernant les armements de l’Algérie et du Maroc. Vu le caractère exceptionnel d’une telle proposition, je souhaiterais beaucoup connaître personnellement les vues de votre Gouvernement à ce sujet.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur l’Ambassadeur, les assurances de ma très haute considération.

U Thant

Son Excellence
Monsieur Toufik Bouattoura
Ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire
Représentant permanent de l’Algérie
auprès de l’Organisation des Nations Unies
730 Third Avenue, 14th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10017
11 April 1967

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I received on 1 March 1967 a communication from the Permanent Representative of Morocco, transmitting a letter which was addressed to me by His Majesty Hassan II, King of Morocco. In this letter, which was distributed as a Note verbale at the request of the Permanent Representative of Morocco, copy of which is attached, His Majesty Hassan II asks me to examine a proposal which would establish, under the auspices of the United Nations, a commission concerning Algerian and Moroccan armaments. In view of the exceptional character of such a proposal, I would very much wish to know personally the views of your Government on this matter.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

U Thant

His Excellency
Mr. Tewfik Bouattoura
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Algeria
to the United Nations
750 Third Avenue, 14th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10017
PERMANENT MISSION OF MOROCCO
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
757 Third Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10017

1 March 1967

YN/3286

Sir,

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to deliver to you officially the attached letter, addressed to you by His Majesty Hassan II, King of Morocco.

In view of the exceptional importance which my Government attaches to this document, I should be grateful if you would be good enough to have it circulated to the States Members of the United Nations as an official document.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Dey Ould SIDI BABA
Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations

The Secretary-General
of the United Nations
United Nations
New York
Sir,

It gives Us great pleasure to express to you once again the deep satisfaction which We derived from Our talks with you during Our recent visit to the United Nations, both on international problems and on those of particular concern to Morocco.

We informed you of the latest developments in relations between Our country and the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and stated Our views on what diplomatic circles are now referring to as the armaments race in North Africa, particularly between Morocco and Algeria.

This situation does involve certain realities, the gravity of which it would be idle to conceal and which cause serious concern to Our country.

In view of the importance of this problem, We have deemed it necessary to give you a fuller account of it, thus bringing to your attention some additional relevant elements to supplement the talks which We had on the subject.

In Our international relations, We have constantly applied Ourselves to setting aside all factors which are likely to aggravate whatever disputes may exist between us and other countries. These principles continue to constitute Our rule of conduct, just as they continue to form the basis for Our actions in relation to all Our international obligations. They lead Us from the very outset to exclude, today as in the past, the use of violence as a means of making the right prevail, however legitimate it may be, or of settling a dispute, however serious it may be.

It is incumbent on Us to reiterate to you that the territorial dispute between Algeria and Morocco is a fact which no one can deny. As Sovereign of Our country, We personally bear a heavy responsibility, national, historical and constitutional, as everyone must be aware. However, We continue to believe that a settlement of this dispute can be sought through dialogue, through candid discussion and through the production of evidence in support of the right.

Unfortunately, We are obliged to note that this readiness, which We have always displayed, to approach a consideration of the problem has not had the desired result. Indeed, not only does Our right continue to be ignored or rejected, but the presence in Algeria of vast amounts of arms, the quality and quantity of which is known to all diplomatic circles, causes Us concern for the future of our region.
You, Sir, are aware of the conviction with which Our country has always supported the efforts of the United Nations to prevent or reduce the growth of military potential in the world and to halt the armaments race in certain regions where the tension is a particular cause of concern.

If, then, it is Our desire that such tensions should cease in various regions of the world, We could not agree to their existence in a continent of which Our country is a part and in which there are neighbour States and neighbour peoples between whom a long history and identical struggles have woven strong ties and who ought to share a common hope.

Furthermore, Our country having freely chosen non-alignment and having felt that that was a wise choice and a policy in keeping with the interests of the developing countries, it is only logical for it to shun any undertaking calculated to jeopardize its non-alignment, to strengthen mistrust and to develop tensions.

In fidelity to those principles and because of the national obligations which We bear, We have applied Ourselves to a total mobilization of Our resources with a view to ensuring the development and progress of Our country and the prosperity of Our people.

As you know, the achievement of such goals is by no means easy. We are devoting to it all Our own human and material resources and all the aid which We receive from international agencies and friendly countries. We have even reorganized our institutional and administrative structures in terms of this economic and social priority which We have chosen and on the achievement of which We are at present concentrating all Our efforts.

For all these considerations, and in order that this conviction may be reflected in political reality, We should like the principle of disarmament to be extended also to the region of which Our country is a part. To that end, We propose that you should set up, under United Nations auspices, a commission which would have a dual task:

(1) To recommend Algeria and Morocco to renounce any increase in their respective military potentials, in order to preserve North Africa from the dangers of the armaments race,

(2) To carry out an on-the-spot inspection, by appropriate ways and means, of the armaments held by each of the two parties in quality and in quantity, and to evaluate the level of the respective needs for the maintenance of order in each of the two countries.
We believe that Algeria and Morocco would be displaying great wisdom if they agreed to such a recommendation. Morocco, for its part, is quite prepared to receive such a commission and to co-operate with it, without restriction, in carrying out this inspection and evaluation, thus proving its good faith and its peaceful intentions.

We should be most grateful to you if you would be good enough to consider this proposal with the greatest interest and to believe in Our renewed assurance that We shall co-operate fully with the United Nations in all circumstances.

The objective of Our country is peace, which it wishes to extend and consolidate through mutual co-operation and coexistence. We refuse, whatever the circumstances, to be the first to use force or to allow ourselves to be dragged into the chain reaction of the armaments race and preparations for war.

Morocco solemnly makes these undertakings before the United Nations and reaffirms its desire to devote all its efforts and all its resources to the development and prosperity of its people. It believes that such a choice could be its contribution to general prosperity, to international stability and to the security of all peoples who sincerely believe in the principles of the United Nations, of peaceful coexistence and of international co-operation.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of Our highest consideration.

Done at Our Palace at Rabat,
18 Lkaada 1366
(28 February 1967)

HASSAN II
King of Morocco

His Excellency U Thant
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York