

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 13 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of
Libya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the
Security Council**

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you, in your capacity as the President of the Security Council, a statement dated 11 May 2020 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the statement by France, Greece, Cyprus, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates regarding the memorandum of understanding signed between the State of Libya and the Republic of Turkey (see annex).

I humbly request that the present letter and its annex be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Taher Elsonni**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 13 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Libya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, issued on 11 May 2020, on the statement by France, Greece, Cyprus, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates regarding the memorandum of understanding signed between the State of Libya and the Republic of Turkey

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of National Accord of the State of Libya was most surprised by the joint statement by the Foreign Ministers of Egypt, Cyprus, Greece and France, in conjunction with the United Arab Emirates, which was issued after discussions on developments in the Eastern Mediterranean, and by the falsehoods and exaggerations it contains with regard to the Libyan State and its national sovereignty. It therefore wishes to state the following:

- What the statement says about the two memorandums of understanding signed between the Libyan and Turkish Governments constitutes blatant interference and an unacceptable distortion of the facts. We would point out that the memorandum on the delimitation of maritime zones was signed by the Governments of two Mediterranean States with opposite coasts in line with international agreements and covenants and that it in no way affects the rights of any third party. If the countries that now claim to be adversely affected, singling out Libya and interfering in its sovereign affairs, were sincere, they would have approached the Libyan Government, which at the time made known its willingness to discuss and explain its point of view to any party that believed its interests had been harmed. Any such party is also entitled to submit complaints to international courts, just as Libya, Malta and Tunisia have done in similar cases.
- The Ministry wishes to remind the States that signed the statement that they are Member States of the United Nations, which recognizes the Government of National Accord, headed by Faiez Mustafa Serraj, as the sole legitimate Government in Libya. The memorandum was signed by an internationally recognized Government in accordance with its national sovereignty. Any skepticism about or doubt cast on it by any Government, aside from being an affront to the national sovereignty of Libya, fundamentally damages the credibility of those Governments in the eyes of their own peoples and of the world, as they are distorting the facts to serve their own goals in the region.
- We have stated again and again that the Government of National Accord, which is recognized internationally and throughout the Arab region and Africa, has simply exercised its legitimate right to defend its citizens and protect their economic rights.
- The Ministry is astonished to see the United Arab Emirates, even though it is not a Mediterranean country, associating itself with this particular statement on the Eastern Mediterranean, suggesting that it may have other goals. Perhaps that is what prompted it to join another country that is similarly hostile to the Libyan people, given that both are interfering in the internal affairs of Libya.
- There is no mention whatsoever in the statement of the developments in the Libyan crisis brought about by Haftar's military coup in the east of the country, which has endangered the political accord in Libya and the legitimate

institutions emanating from it, or his proclamation of a dictatorship and the return of a totalitarian regime to part of the country. The statement is equally silent on the indiscriminate, intensive and unprecedented rocket bombardment that Haftar has carried out in the past two days, claiming the lives of dozens of civilians and destroying State-run civilian facilities and institutions, in his assault on the capital, Tripoli, which has been under way for more than a year. The headquarters of diplomatic missions were also hit in the bombardment. The signatories also fail to mention in their statement that throughout that period, Haftar's militias have recruited foreign mercenaries of various nationalities with the direct support of the United Arab Emirates, or that Haftar has been receiving ongoing weapons shipments and support, as has been documented in reports by the United Nations Panel of Experts.

- The Ministry calls on the Mediterranean countries that signed the statement to review their policies on the Libyan question and to take a clear stand condemning the assault on the capital, Tripoli, and the violations committed against civilians. They should realize that their interests are better served by a civilian State than by a totalitarian and dictatorial regime that uses militias and foreign mercenaries to terrorize its people.
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