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Note of the Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Western Asia received the following statement from the head of the delegation of Iraq to the seventh session of the Commission:

" Sir,

.... " I request the circulation of the attached statement as one of the documents of the seventh session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia

" Accept, Sir, the assurance of our highest consideration.

(Signed)

Head of the Delegation of Iraq"

"After a study of the statement issued by the representative of the Sadat régime on the retention by Egypt of its full membership in the Economic Commission for Western Asia and on the possibility that it should benefit from the activities and projects incorporated in the programme of the Commission, we would like to clarify the position of Iraq on the misrepresentations contained in the statement of the representative of that régime. We all know that the admission of Egypt to membership in the Commission came as a result of the conviction of all the member States, at the time, that Egypt, by joining the Commission, would constitute a factor that would contribute to economic co-operation and to the reinforcement of joint Arab development efforts and of measures designed to achieve economic integration among member States. The essence and the function of the Commission, as defined by decision of the Economic and Social Council, stipulate that it should initiate and participate in measures designed to facilitate co-ordinated action for construction and development among the member States on the one hand, and between them and other countries of the world, on the other. Consequently, the deviation of the Sadat régime from the will of the Arab nation and its desertion to the ranks of those hostile to the vital interests of the Arab nation, including the interests of the member States of the Commission, confirms the need for the Commission to isolate the Sadat régime from all the Commission's activities and functions, including projects to be carried out within its programmes. The Commission should also expose the dangers to which the vital interests of the member States and other Arab countries are exposed as a result of the creation of the Zionist entity, its expulsion of the Palestinian Arab people and its continued occupation of Arab territories. Any allegation or attempt designed to isolate Arab political interests from the economic and technical activity of the Commission is a flagrant continuation of the policy of destroying Arab interests and of the drive to fragment joint Arab economic and political co-operative efforts. The allegation contained in the statement of the representative of the Sadat régime is totally inconsistent with the objective nature of the link between national economic interests and Arab political and economic interests.

"Regardless of the claims of the representative of the Sadat régime regarding the legality of its continued membership in the Commission, the reservation of all member States on the presence of this régime at the meetings of the Commission is a clear rejection of the participation of the delegation of the Sadat regime and of its seating among the participants; irrespective of the attempt of the representative of the Sadat régime to use cordial expressions, the fact remains that the member States which have officially expressed reservations reject categorically any attempt to offend Arab national sensitivities by false allegations made by the representative of the Sadat régime. Member States of the Commission have reached their decision. Prior to that, the Arab countries decided at summit meetings in Baghdad in 1978 and in Tunis last November to suspend the membership of the Sadat régime in the League of Arab States and in all the agencies affiliated to it, including its Economic and Social Council, the Council of Arab Economic Unity and other Arab federations and specialized agencies, to boycott that régime politically and economically and to strive to isolate it, together with the effects of the treasonous Camp David accords that it concluded, after its collaboration with the enemies of the Arab nation and of its vital interests. Consequently, regardless of the formalities of relations with the Commission, all member States have already declared their adherence to the boycott of the Egyptian régime and are in full agreement on the dangers posed by the presence of the Sadat régime within the Arab grouping, inasmuch as it is a means enabling destructive Zionist economic and political methods and instruments to penetrate the Arab nation. A glaring example of this can be found in the divisive and destructive attempts, employing Zionist methods, to provoke hostility among member States, as exemplified by today's statement by the representative of the Sadat regime. We will continue to insist on the isolation of the Sadat régime from the Arab community - which includes the member States of this Commission - until the Arab people of Egypt are able to impose their free Arab national will and get rid of the Sadat régime. We are confident that our Arab people in Egypt will smash the policies advocated by Sadat. When that time comes, we will enthusiastically welcome the return of Egypt and its great people to share with us in maintaining the struggle for the economic, political and social advance of the Arab community.

"Mr. Chairman,

"The delegation of Iraq requests the secretariat to consider the present statement as an official document of the session, to bring it to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to submit it to the Economic and Social Council along with the reservations expressed by the member States at this morning's meeting. The secretariat is called upon to respond to the wishes of the member States of this Commission by refraining from the introduction or implementation of any project forming part of the programme of the Commission that may, in any manner whatsoever, serve the treasonous Sadat régime and redirect such efforts to the least developed member States and to activities that would strengthen economic and technical co-operation among the member countries. Thank you."
