JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT TO LIBERIA OF HIS EXCELLENCY MOKTAR OULD DADDAH, PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA.

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Upon the invitation of President William V. S. Tubman, the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, His Excellency Moktar Ould Daddah, made a State Visit to Liberia from March 6 to 11, 1967. The Mauritanian Head of State was accompanied by among others:

Honourable Saad Bouh Kane, Member of the National Political Department of the Mauritanian People's Party and President of the National Assembly;

Honourable Wane Birane Mamadou, Member of the National Political Department of the Mauritanian People's Party and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Planning;

Honourable Abdallahi Ould Hassan, Member of the National Political Department of the Mauritanian People's Party and Charge of Mission to the Presidency;

Honourable Maloum Ould Braham, Minister for Rural Economy;

Honourable Ba Ould Ne, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;

Dr. Fall Papa Daouda, High Commissioner of Industrialization and Mining;

Honourable Fall Malick, Deputy of the National Assembly and Secretary General of the Mauritanian Workers Union;

Honourable Sall Aboudoul Aziz, Director of the President Cabinet; and

His Excellency Bakar Ould Ahmedou, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in West Africa.

During his stay in Liberia, His Excellency Moktar Ould Daddah made visits to the Legislative and the Judicial Branches of Government and also visited some agricultural, industrial and cultural centres and the Port astablishment at Buchanan.

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The Mauritanian Head of State and his Suite were very.

impressed with the achievement of the Liberian Government and
people in the economic, cultural and social fields.

In the most cordial, friendly and brotherly atmosphere, the two Heads of State at Totota and Monrovia engaged in an extended and fruitful exchange of views on current, world and African Affairs.

President Ould Daddah and President Tubman were pleased to note their complete identity of views on all the problems and issues discussed.

They have therefore decided to implement their desire for closer cooperation through bilateral, cultural, economic and commercial agreements and the conclusion of a Convention for the free movements of their respective nationals between Mauritania and Liberia. These agreements and this Convention will be concluded and signed at Nouakchott during the impending State Visit of President Tubman to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. Concerning cultural cooperation in particular, the two Presidents have agreed for the exchange of students. The Government of Liberia will offer scholarships to students from Mauritania to attend schools in Liberia and the Government of Mauritania will offer scholarships for the study of Arabic at the Institute of Higher Islamic studies at Boutilimit and will put at the disposal of the Liberian Government professors of Arabic.

With regard to the establishment of an Iron and Steel Complex for West Africa, President Moktar Ould Daddah has agreed for the establishment of this project, the exact location of which is to be determined after a complete study is

made in all of the States of West Africa

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The President of the Republic of Liberia and the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania have reaffirmed their faith in African Unity and have expressed their determination to work jointly for the consolidation and preservation of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations.

They unequivocally condemn colonialism in all its forms and especially that which is practiced in South Africa.

The two Presidents are also of the conviction that the Government of Portugal is responsible for its iniquitous policy and inhuman treatment of the African people under its most oppressive yoke, and indite the racist, illegal minority regime of Ian Smith as an open and blatant attempt to ridicule and disgrace the African people in a manner not distinguishable from apartheid.

The two African Heads of State regret that on their Continent feuds and differences exist among their Sister States. In this regard, they firmly believe that it is absolutely necessary that the Organization of African Unity enter upon honest and persistent efforts to resolve these feuds and differences which seem to have their major origins in disputes centered around territorial and border claims.

The two Leaders feel that the Commission of Mediation,
Conciliation and Arbitration promulgated in the Charter of the
Organization of African Unity should be activated in order that
it may enter upon the discharge of its duty of settling
disputes. In this regard, they proposed that at the ensuing
Summit of African Heads of State this matter should be
included on the Agenda and decided

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The two Presidents expressed their concern on recurring Coups d'etat in Africa and whilst they conceded that these developments are strictly internal matters of sovereign African States on which no general rule could be made by any international or regional organization, nevertheless, they viewed internal wars and fratricide as unfortunate which can only retard national progress, create distrust and hatred, thus destroying the adhesion and cohesion of its peoples.

The two Heads of State have acknowledged that the Visit of President Moktar Ould Daddah to the Republic of Liberia has served to bring the two Leaders closer together and has further strengthened the bonds of brotherhood and friendship between the Governments and peoples of their respective countries.

The two Presidents have agreed for their countries to enter bilateral discussions whenever problems of a regional or international character may arise and on the highest possible level whenever this is necessary.

The President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania has reiterated to President Tubman his profound thanks for the enthusiastic and brotherly welcome extended him and the members of his Suite during their visit to Liberia.

Finally, President Moktar Ould Daddah has renewed to President William V. S. Tubman the invitation he extended him in November, 1966, to pay a State Visit to Mauritania in 1967.

The President of the Republic of Liberia has confirmed to the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania his acceptance to pay a State Visit to Mauritania in 1967, the date of the Visit to be fixed.

DONE IN MONROVIA, MARCH 11, 1967.

William V. S. Tubman

PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA

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Moktar Ould Daddah PRESIDENT OF MAURITANIA