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منظمة تضامن الشعوب الأفريقية الآسيوية

(م.ت.ش.أ.أ.)

THE AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLES' SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION

(A. A. P. S. O.)

THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

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القاهرة في

Dear brothers,

During the meeting of AAPSO Presidium in Nicosia, Capital of Cyprus, on February 18th 1978, we all received a shattering blow when our great martyr Youssef El Sebai, AAPSO Secretary General and Head of the Presidium, fell a victim to the treacherous bullets of two murderers, while he was fulfilling his mission in defense of the Afro-Asian causes, foremost of which the Palestinian and South African causes.

The whole world was consternated by this crime which was vehemently condemned by all the militants in the ranks of Afro-Asian Solidarity Movement, by the socialist countries and by world public opinion.

On behalf of the Permanent Secretariat and on my own behalf, I would like to transmit my sincerest thanks to the Heads of State, governments, personalities and comrades-in-arms who have addressed their telegrams and letters of condolences and support to the Permanent Secretariat on the occasion of the martyrdom of Youssef El Sebai.

Sebai was a personal friend of mine as well as a comrade in arms. He fell at this crucial moment where his presence was even more imperative. That is why the banner that he wanted to brandish higher, must remain aloft.

The bullets that were aimed at Youssef El Sebai were aimed at the heart of the Afro-Asian Solidarity. However, AAPSO, this great popular movement, which was led by Youssef El Sebai, whose name had been linked to it ever since its creation, that is for more than twenty years, this movement which lost in his person its martyr, will resolutely pursue the struggle on the same path blazed by this great militant, who led the march in the vanguard of militant ranks against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, zionism, apartheid and backwardness.

We are all to shoulder a greater responsibility that of reinforcing solidarity in order that the movement maintains its momentum in support of peoples and their future, specially those peoples struggling for liberation from the remnants of colonialism, apartheid and Zionism, in South Africa, in Zimbabwe, in Namibia, and in Palestine.

To-day, more than ever before, we need to reinforce militant solidarity among Afro-Asian peoples, socialist countries, and all the progressive and democratic forces which constitute the world anti-imperialist front.

In conformity with the organization's constitution, and on the basis of the support granted to me by the Organization's Permanent Secretariat, Egypt has honoured me by appointing me Secretary General to the Organization.

This great honour, bestowed upon my shoulders, entails a heavy burden and a great responsibility. I am therefore reiterating my commitment to exert all my efforts, as a dedicated soldier on the battlefield of the noble struggle led by the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization, with its deeply rooted traditions and great principles, which has gained in strength during twenty years of relentless action led by Youssef El Sebai, devoted to the cause of political, social, economic and cultural liberation, on a par.

Let me assure you that the organization relies on your constructive efforts to-day more than ever before, for a new drive in action to reinforce and carry forward the struggle waged by our peoples for the sake of their objectives, freedom, justice, peace, dignity and humanity.

A. R. Sharkawi
Abdel Rahman El Sharkawy
Secretary General

Enclosures:

- 1- Statement of the Presidium dated, February 19th 1978.
- 2- Statement of the Permanent Secretariat dated February 20th 1978.
- 3- Speech by the Permanent Secretariat dated March 2nd 1978.
- 4- Report on the memorial for Mr. Youssef El-Sebai, held in Nicosia, March 17th, 1978.
- 5- Speech by the Minister to the President, Mr. George Ioannides, at a gathering in memory of Youssef El-Sebai, Secretary General of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation today at the Hilton Hotel.
- 6- Speech made by Dr. Vassos Lyssarides on the occasion of the memorial of Youssef El-Sebai.

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Statement by the Presidium on the Martyrdom
of Youssef El-Sebai

"The AAPSO Presidium meeting held in Nicosia on 17-18 February 1978, expresses its deep shock and horror on the dastardly assassination of Youssef El-Sebai, Secretary General of AAPSO and Chairman of the Presidium. He was Secretary-General of the Organisation for the last twenty years from its very inception. His name is inseparable from the entire history of Afro-Asian Solidarity Movement.

Youssef El-Sebai was present and led AAPSO delegations wherever solidarity was most needed, in Vietnam, in Cuba, in Africa and in Asia. The just cause of national liberation be it in Algeria, in Southern Africa, in the Middle East, Cyprus, Korea and other regions, felt the warm pulse of AAPSO under his leadership.

The Sixth Presidium of AAPSO vehemently condemns this cowardly act of assassination as serving the cause of imperialism and Zionism. We consider this act as not only directed against the person of the Secretary-General of AAPSO, but against the entire Afro-Asian Solidarity Movement and the world anti-imperialist forces.

AAPSO and Youssef El-Sebai have been consistently championing all the time the cause of Palestinian legitimate rights. Specially this Presidium Meeting devoted itself to the holding of an Extraordinary International Solidarity Conference with the Palestinian People.

Youssef El-Sebai will always be remembered as a devoted fighter in the cause of Afro-Asian Solidarity, national liberation and world peace. He died as he lived at his post. He was loved and trusted by all. He was a writer, a politician, an artist and above all a humanist.

Youssef El-Sebai always stood for the unity of all anti-imperialist forces, unity of national liberation forces, socialist countries and all progressive movements.

The Presidium is convinced that the best way to honour his memory is to continue championing the cause for which he gave his life - a life dedicated to the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, Zionism and racism.

The Sixth Presidium conveys its deepest condolences to the people of Egypt, to the Egyptian National Solidarity Committee, to all his old trusted colleagues in the Movement and to his bereaved family on this great loss to all.

The Presidium appeals to all member organisations, fraternal democratic and progressive organisations to honour his memory".

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AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLES' SOLIDARITY
ORGANIZATION

The Permanent Secretariat
89, Abdel Aziz Al-Saoud Street
Manial - Cairo - A.R.E.

S T A T E M E N T

The Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation expresses its deep thanks and gratitude to the people, government and solidarity committee of Cyprus for the great unremitting efforts they made to have the twelve hostages of AAPSO delegates released.

The last tense difficult 48 hours which ended by enforcing the release of the hostages and the arrest of the two assassins of the AAPSO Secretary General martyr Youssef El Sebai have proved that acts of terrorism are doomed to failure. Yet the Permanent Secretariat is deeply convinced that but for the efforts of the government and people of Cyprus, foremost president Kypriano and our respected colleague and vice-president of AAPSO Presidium Dr. Vassos Lyssarides, the results could have been different.

In the meantime, the Permanent Secretariat is convinced that the traditional close friendship and fraternity between the people of Cyprus and Arab Peoples will withstand any temporary unintentional misunderstanding and help overcome any negative product of the last tense 48 hours.

The Permanent Secretariat of AAPSO confirms that however tragic and painful the events of the last 48 hours were they will not lessen the insistence of AAPSO on championing the rights and aspirations of peoples, foremost the Palestinian and Cypriot people in their struggle against imperialism, zionism and reaction for their right of self-determination, freedom, and national independence.

The Permanent Secretariat of AAPSO and the delegates to its sixth Presidium feel that the events of the last 48 hours have overloaded them with a heavy burden of sorrow and pain. Yet they feel that the love and hospitality of the people, government and solidarity Committee of Cyprus have eased this heavy burden. This fact in itself gives a new momentum to our struggle for the legitimate rights of peoples including the people of Cyprus who will surely be even more peace-loving and the close friends of AAPSO.

The acting Secretary General of
A.A.P.S.O.

Nouri Abdel Razzak

Nicosia: 20th February, 1978.

Statement of the Permanent Secretariat
on the martyrdom of Youssef El Sebai

It is certainly difficult and almost impossible to find the words that could give expression to the sentiments of grief, shock and indignation felt by us, the brothers and companions of work and struggle of the martyr Youssef El Sebai at the Permanent Secretariat of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation. It is equally impossible to translate into words the profound wrath, violent rage condemnation and the flare of hatred experienced by millions of men and women at the Afro-Asian solidarity movement vis-a-vis the dastard crime of assassination whose victim has been the great militant and martyr Youssef el Sebai, our Secretary General whom we hold in high esteem and will always regard with respect. Mr. Sebai, the great militant, who was torn away from his family, friends, people and comrades in arms struggling in the arena of honour for the freedom and dignity of man everywhere. The Secretary General of AAPSO and the Chairman of its Presidium was cowardly and meanly assassinated during the Presidium meeting, at the hands of the enemies of freedom, independence, peace and democratic progress, enemies of the lofty ideals for which Youssef el Sebai dedicated and gave up his life.

Indeed we all recall that twenty years ago, on December 26th, 1957 the representatives of the peoples of Africa and Asia had gathered in Cairo for the Consultative Conference of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation which followed the historical conference of Bandung, held two years earlier at governmental level. At this time, more than half of the Asian countries and the majority of African countries were still suffering under the colonial yoke, with all its miseries, oppression, exploitation, humiliation and alienation.

Cairo, capital of the young Arab Republic of Egypt, one of the first countries to remove the chains of imperialist and feudal domination, was chosen as the seat of our organisation and one of the most illustrious sons of Egypt, our late Youssef el Sebai was entrusted with the leadership of this organisation, a responsibility that he bore up to February 18th of this year, day of his brutal death.

Guided and inspired by the spirit of Bandung, the solidarity movement rapidly took root among the peoples of Asia and Africa and became the arena of struggle for numerous political parties and organisations as well as for the national liberation movements in Asia and Africa, bringing them together in the broad anti imperialist and anticolonialist front in spite of their divergencies in ideologies and political tendencies, yet unified by the principles of liberty, independence, dignity and justice.

During these last twenty years, the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation, under the clearsighted leadership of its Secretary General, has shown itself, actively and effectively, to be the earnest advocate of the cause of the oppressed peoples in Africa and Asia, struggling for their total liberation from imperialism, colonialism and neo colonialism as well as from the inhuman regimes of Zionism and Apartheid.

In the course of these twenty years of struggle, the great militant Youssef el Sebai was always present at the very center of the honourable arena of struggle participating in and personally presiding over all AAPSO meetings in any part of the world wherever the solidarity cause was most needed, even risking his life as was the case during the liberation battles on the fronts of Vietnam, Cuba, Algeria, Gaza in Palestine, Guinea, Tanzania, Bandung and others.

Paying tribute to the personal and effective contribution of Youssef el Sebai to the victories scored by the peoples of Africa and Asia, President Agostino Neto of the People's Republic of Angola said on February 1976: "This conference held in Luanda is an extension of the numerous conferences held in various African and Asian capitals. We can recall here the days of Bandung, Cairo, Conakry, Beirut, Tashkent, Moshi in Tanzania, Algeria, Nicosia, New Delhi, Khartoum, Tripoli, Damascus, Aden, Baghdad, Moscow, Maputo, Warsaw, Prague, Alexandria, etc... The tangible manifestations of solidarity have always constituted a positive and effective factor for the promotion of the national liberation movements. Within the framework of AAPSO, all these activities have been coordinated by its Permanent Secretariat led for long years by our dear friend, Youssef el Sebai."

This statement of President Neto of the People's Republic of Angola is the best reflection of the high appreciation and esteem that Youssef el Sebai enjoyed by world public opinion. This is to say that Youssef el Sebai, by virtue of the dimensions created by his sagacious activity at the vanguard of the anti imperialist and anti racist struggle, has transcended the frontiers of Egypt, his fatherland, and those of the Arab World, to belong to the Afro-Asian world and to the entire humanity.

As a versed politician, a meritorious writer, and a courageous militant enjoying the support of all Afro-Asian peoples struggling for their independence, Youssef el Sebai devoted his consistent efforts and extensive knowledge over

twenty years of the best of his life, to the cause of liberation of the oppressed peoples the world over. No doubt, his assassination will have a far reaching effect not only on the Egyptian people but on all national democratic and progressive forces all over the world as well as on the national liberation movements in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. That is why, on this tragic occasion, the memorial ceremony in eulogy of the cherished deceased, by affirming the Presidium statement following his martyrdom and by referring to the undreds of messages of condolences sent by Heads of State international, regional and national organisations, governmental and non governmental organisations, socialist countries and national liberation movements, we are actually commemorating our Secretary General and our departed friend, Youssef el Sebai.

For this purpose, it gives us honour to include an excerpt of the message addressed to our Organisation by H.E. President Samora Machel of Mozambique, which truly reflects the reaction of world public opinion to the assassination of martyr Youssef el Sebai: "We were shocked by the news of the brutal assassination of the AAPSO's Secretary General, a distinguished personality of the Solidarity Movement for the Afro-Asian Peoples, a well known friend of our people. This heinous crime constitutes a serious provocation by the enemies of the Palestinian people, of the Arab people and of the African and Asian Peoples who fight against imperialism, colonialism, racism and Zionism for independence, freedom, justice and progress.

Indeed our grief is profound, weeping in tears, the tears of men loathing the assassins who did not hesitate to assassinate Youssef el Sebai. We vigorously condemn that cowardly crime plotted by imperialism and Zionism.

Youssef el Sebai, shall always be remembered by us and by our peoples as a devoted militant struggling for the cause of Afro-Asian Solidarity, of national liberation and of world peace.

Youssef el Sebai died as he lived, grand, dignified, noble and great. He was killed in action. However, we are convinced that the best way to honour his memory is to continue to champion the cause for which he gave his life, a life dedicated to the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, Zionism and racism. This is, indeed, the appeal he had launched on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of AAPSO. He stated:

All the participants in the Afro-Asian Solidarity movement, in the 20th year of their great movement affirm their determination to step up the struggle for peace social progress, national independence, freedom, equality for stamping out racism and apartheid and for equitable development of nations.

Notwithstanding that the departed martyr is one of us, a comrade and brother in the struggle, and while receiving the condolences of others on his death - although nothing is consolatory for his loss - we address sincere condolences to his small family - to his bereaved wife, sons and relatives - and to his larger family - the entire Egyptian people - which lost one of her best sons. However, the banner he held with honour and courage during his lifetime will continue to wave as high as ever, the banner of struggle for the lofty ideals in which he took faith and for which he fought, ideals of freedom, justice, dignity, love, peace and welfare of mankind.

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R E P O R T

On the memorial for Mr. Youssef El-Sebai, held
in Nicosia, March 17th, 1978

The memorial was sponsored by the Cyprus Committee of AAPSO and held in Hilton Hotel and attended by over 100 peoples.

The atmosphere was solemn and in silent and deep meditation. There were five speeches delivered, 3 in English and 2 in Greek.

The Minister to the President of the Republic of Cyprus was the first speaker. He stressed on the contribution of Mr. Youssef El Sebai to the cause of the liberation movement and to the struggle of the people of Cyprus for unity and sovereignty as "a defender of the freedom of small peoples and a precious friend and firm champion of the right of Cyprus". He said that the President, the Government and people of Cyprus were participating in the mourning of the friendly country of Egypt and its people over the loss of its distinguished son as well as a son of mankind.

The representative of Cyprus ruling Democratic Party, Mr. Ambizas said it was "the pinnacle of insanity to claim that the murder of such a man, a champion of the freedom of people could serve the national liberation struggle of any people.

Mr. Phuc read his speech prepared in advance from Cairo which pays warm tribute to Mr. Youssef El-Sebai for his successful leadership of AAPSO's movement, mentioned the high appreciation from Heads of States on the valuable contribution of Mr. Sebai to the liberation struggle and thanked the Cypriot people for having organised this memorial. The AAPSO's speech was asked by the Cyprus Radio Agency for emission.

Dr. Vassos Lyssarides was the last speaker. He spoke with emotion about his relationship with Mr. Youssef El-Sebai, about the support of AAPSO and Mr. Sebai himself to the Cyprus cause, and about the friendship and help granted by Mr. Sebai to him during the difficult moments of the Turkish invasion. He asked all the participants to observe a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Sebai.

The memorial was attended by the President of Cyprus, Mr. Kyprianou.

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Herewith:

Speeches of 1- of Georges Ioannides (Minister to the Cyprus President)
2- of Dr. Vassos Lyssarides.

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Speech by the Minister to the President, Mr. George Ioannides,
at a gathering in memory of Youssef El-Sebai, Secretary
General of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation
today at the Hilton Hotel.

We pay tribute to the memory of a prominent man who dedicated his whole life to the promotion of the noble ideals of freedom and justice. We honour a defender of the freedom of small peoples and also a precious friend and firm champion of the rights of Cyprus, Youssef El-Sebai, who was murdered by cowardly terrorists while on the bastions of the struggle for world peace and international solidarity with all peoples struggling for freedom and human dignity.

For twenty years he worked hard and with consistency for the prevalence of the principles declared at the Bandung Conference in April 1955, at which Cyprus was represented by the late Archbishop Makarios, the enlightened leader of the Cypriot people, who grasped the message of the times, the message of enslaved people calling for coordinated action for their liberation and independence from the shackles of the colonial rule. Two years later, at the initiative of the late President of Egypt, Nasser, the Afro-Asian Solidarity Movement was established on the basis of the principles of the Bandung Conference, which introduced a new element in international relations, particularly in the non-aligned camp. Youssef El-Sebai became the guiding spirit of the Movement, and his figure dominated the Afro-Asian scene.

The Cairo Conference, which adopted the ten principles of Bandung, strengthened the faith of peoples in the worth of the United Nations and gave a moral content to the struggle of enslaved peoples for the restoration of their independence. Sebai, as Secretary General of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation struggled hard and shouldered the responsibility for the implementation of these principles which include, *inter alia*, respect for the fundamental rights of man and for the principles and aims of the U.N. Charter, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all peoples, refraining from acts of aggression and threats as well as the use of force against the security and political independence of another country, non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries and the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means.

Sebai faithfully served these principles which he turned into an ideological banner. He raised his voice for justice and freedom from international forums. From the same forums he blazened forth the justice of the Cypriot cause and defended it to his last breath.

Cyprus has found in this unyielding and indefatigable fighter for freedom and in the Afro-Asian Solidarity Movement firm supporters for the international projection of its problem and the furtherance

of its struggle for justice, freedom and survival. In the person of Sebai, Cyprus found a sincere and unselfish friend and fellow-fighter who left the imprint of his struggles on our efforts for the prevalence of the principles and the implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations. His love and concern for Cyprus and its struggle will never be forgotten. His humanism, his generosity, his self-sacrifice, his faith in the worth of man and in freedom have elevated him in our esteem and won him a place in the hearts of our people.

Our land will always echo with his last speech, a speech of support for our struggle, which was written with his blood. His contribution to Cyprus was great and his loss has been an enormous blow to our struggle.

The President of the Republic, the Government and the people of Cyprus are participating in the mourning of the friendly country of Egypt and its people over the loss of its distinguished son, the loss of a distinguished son of mankind.

Great is our grief and pain and great is our gratitude to him for what he did for our country, for what he did for our struggles. Sebai, the fighter, has fallen. But his struggles, his ideals and the bastions he created live on.

Cyprus pays tribute to his sacrifice and gives the assurance that it will continue the struggle for peace, for freedom and for justice.

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Speech made by Dr. Vassos Lyssarides on the occasion of the memorial of Youssef El-Sebai

I could not be sentimental when speaking about a life-time dear friend. We are not here only to condemn a horrible crime against not only Youssef El-Sebai, but humanity and specifically Cyprus.

We are here to pay homage to a man who spent his life in the service of justice, of freedom, of humanity and of noble principles.

I had the privilege to be an intimate friend of Youssef El-Sebai for almost twenty years. He headed a movement that proved to be the effective headquarters for all the anti-colonial and later the anti-neocolonial struggle of all the people of Asia and Africa. Dedicated, calm, resolute, he offered his services and his life for the success of a struggle that became the main scope of a lifetime. Wherever people were engaged in a liberation struggle Sebai was present: Vietnam, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, Middle East, Cyprus.

Today I will deal mainly with his relations with Cyprus. From the very start he became a major factor of solidarity for the struggle of the people of Cyprus. Repeated AAPSO resolutions were achieved through his personal support. In the process he became a personal friend of our great leader Archbishop Makarios.

Cyprus is particularly grateful for his contribution during and after the coup and the invasion. I will never forget his personal interest not only in the fate of the country, but also of myself and his continuing efforts to protect my life. With his initiative an international conference was convened in Cairo, shortly after the invasion. I was still hiding from the murderous attacks during the post-coup regime. My wife, which was exiled by the putschists, represented Cyprus. She reported about the personal role of Sebai. This was the first international voice that was raised in support of Cyprus. The signature was; Youssef El-Sebai.

After the attempt against my life, Youssef El-Sebai cabled the then acting-President not only to protest, but to warn about responsibilities for the consequences and to ask for international vigilance to protect my life.

He was a protagonist for the return of President Makarios. Soon after his return he convened a Presidium in Cyprus to express the Afro-Asian Solidarity to the continuing struggle of the Cypriots and the AAPSO support to the only legitimate President, the Ethnarch Makarios. His last contribution was the resolution on Cyprus of

of the last Presidium, hours only before his death. (Definition of Sebai's contribution to resolution).

The name of Youssef El-Sebai became a symbol of solidarity among the Cypriot masses which knew, loved and respected their great friend.

Youssef El-Sebai was murdered in Cyprus, the country that he considered as his second fatherland. His memory will be kept alive. Sebai will live in the hearts of the people for whom he fought and died.

Sebai through his life and death became the unbreakable link between the Cypriot and the Egyptian people, he became the link which will guide us to continue his struggle for complete liberation of the Arab lands, for ~~the~~ complete restoration of the national rights of the Arab Palestinian, for the elimination of racial discrimination and the remnants of colonialism, for freedom and justice.

This task became much more imperative today when Israel has launched a criminal barbaric aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinians whose only crime is that they are not prepared to ~~write off~~ their fatherland as we ^{are} not prepared to write off our occupied territories. But the gallant struggle of the Palestinians frustrated the criminal aggression which reminds us of the worst Nazi tactics. And the whole world turn with admiration now to South Lebanon.

AAPSO, whose Sebai has been the Secretary General since its establishment will continue to offer practical solidarity to all the people engaged in a struggle for freedom, in Palestine, in Cyprus, in the Arab occupied territories, in Southern Africa, in Asia, in Latin America.

The people of Cyprus will keep Sebai in their memory and honour him as a friend that contributed to our struggle.

We, that had the privilege to know intimately the gentle personality of Youssef El-Sebai, will keep him in our hearts for ever.

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