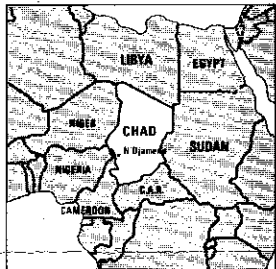


Background: A large, landlocked country strategically situated in the center of Africa, Chad has long suffered from internal conflicts based on ethnic and regional differences. These conflicts worsened in the



late 1970s; when Libyan troops intervened in 1980, Chad became the focus of major international concern. In 1982 forces led by Hissein Habre defeated those of then-president Goukouni Oueddei, who had rejected the call for a ceasefire by the Organization of African Unity (OAU). Habre occupied the Chadian capital, N'Djamena, on June 7, 1982. By late 1982 President Habre's government had established control throughout the country with the exception of the Tibesti Mountain

region and the Aozou Strip, the latter occupied by Libya since 1973. President Habre's government has received broad international recognition, including that of the UN, the OAU, and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Libyan intervention in Chad: In late 1980 some 7,000 Libyan troops entered Chad at the invitation of then-president Goukouni to put down an uprising led by former defense minister Hissein Habre. After defeating Habre's forces, which withdrew eastward, the Libyans remained as a virtual occupation force. In October 1981 Goukouni, responding to international concern over Libya's announced goal of unification with Chad, requested the complete withdrawal of Libyan troops. In November the Libyans pulled back to their entrenched positions in the Aozou Strip along the Chad-Libya border.

After Habre's defeat of Goukouni in 1982, Libya assisted the latter in reconstructing his forces in the Tibesti Mountains. In the summer of 1983, these forces, with Libyan support, launched an offensive against government positions in northern and eastern Chad. Following a series of initial reverses, Habre's army defeated the rebels. At this point the Libyans intervened directly with air and ground assaults and forced the government's troops to withdraw to the south. In response to Libya's military aggression, France and Zaire sent troops to help the Chadian Government defend itself. Upon deployment of French forces, the military situation stabilized, but the Libyans and their rebel allies remained in control of northern Chad. In September 1984 the Governments of France and Libya announced agreement for a mutual withdrawal of their forces from Chad. By mid-November 1984 all French troops were withdrawn, but Libya violated the withdrawal accord and its forces continue to occupy northern Chad.

OAU role: With the announced withdrawal by Libyan forces from most of Chad in late 1981, the OAU rapidly dispatched a multinational force to keep peace as the Libyan troops withdrew. The OAU force consisted of about 3,500 troops sent by Nigeria, Senegal, and Zaire, plus observers from Kenya, Zambia, Algeria, and Guinea-Bissau. The US allocated \$12 million to provide and airlift nonlethal equipment for these forces, actually spending some \$8 million. Following his victory in June

1982, Habre asked the OAU contingents to remain in Chad to oversee the reconciliation process, but the OAU mandate extended through June 30. All elements of the force were withdrawn from Chad by that date.

US policy: The US supports peaceful efforts aimed at restoring Chad's territorial integrity and maintaining its sovereignty, now endangered by the presence of Libyan occupation forces in the north. The US believes that resistance to Libyan domination of Chad is important for regional stability. Should Chad fall completely under Libyan control, other African countries that have been targets of Libyan expansion would feel increased pressure.

Under President Habre's leadership, Chad has achieved greater cohesion despite its divisive history and Libyan aggression. The US supports the Chadian Government in resisting Libyan aggression and in pursuing reconstruction and internal political reconciliation. Our assistance programs are designed to complement those of France, which historically has shouldered the primary Western burden in Chad.

Suffering from a disastrous drought and the ravages of continued warfare, Chad requires substantial emergency food and medical assistance in 1985. The US, in conjunction with the Chadian Government and international donor community is working to ensure that these emergency needs are met.

The US has:

- Encouraged peaceful settlement efforts that preserve the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Chad and protect the legitimacy of its government;
- Undertaken economic assistance to Chad, including substantial emergency food aid as well as relief and rehabilitation assistance to help Chad rebuild after years of drought and civil strife. This program amounts to about \$52 million in fiscal year 1985, including more than \$38 million in emergency food relief; and
- Provided emergency military assistance to help the Chadian Government meet the Libyan threat. In the summer of 1983, President Reagan authorized under Section 506(A) of the Foreign Assistance Act up to \$25 million in emergency military assistance for Chad. The US maintains a Military Assistance Program with Chad amounting to \$5 million for fiscal year 1985.