

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL



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LETTER DATED 2 MARCH 1966 ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALI

With reference to the letter dated 26 February 1966 addressed to the members of the Security Council by the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations in his capacity as President of the Council for the month of February 1966, I have the honour to bring the following to your attention.

You will recall that on 1 February 1966, when the Security Council had before it the letter dated 31 January 1966 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, I stated that in the opinion of the Government of the Republic of Mali, the Security Council was not the appropriate forum for the discussion of the problem of Viet-Nam. For reasons which I made clear in the course of the meetings held on 1 February 1966, the Government of the Republic of Mali remains convinced that discussions in the Security Council cannot lead to any satisfactory solution capable of restoring peace to Viet-Nam. These reasons are so obvious that I have no need either to repeat them in this letter or to stress the ardent desire of the Government of Mali to see the Viet-Nam conflict settled in a manner compatible with the legitimate aspirations and inalienable rights of the Viet-Nameese people.

In view of the position which I set out during the discussions, and in view of the fact that the meetings of the Security Council on 1 and 2 February 1966 were devoted to procedural discussions relating solely to the adoption of the agenda, the Government of Mali wishes to enter the most express reservations regarding both the principle and the motives of the letter dated 26 February 1966 from the Permanent Representative of Japan.

Consequently, the delegation of Mali considers itself bound neither by the procedure used nor by the contents of the letter dated 26 February 1966 from the Permanent Representative of Japan, for as no discussions have been held on the

question there can be no grounds for drawing any conclusion or claiming to detect any common feeling binding the members of the Security Council. Moreover, the communication dated 26 February 1966 cannot constitute a valid precedent in the practice of the Security Council.

For these reasons I should be grateful, Mr. Ambassador and dear colleague, if you would ask the Secretary-General of the United Nations to circulate this letter as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Sori COULIBALY
Permanent Representative of Mali
to the United Nations
