



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/8857
20 October 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-seventh session
Agenda item 22

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Letter dated 20 October 1972 from the Permanent Representative
of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the President
of the General Assembly

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to make reference to the letter circulated as General Assembly document A/8853 of 19 October 1972, and to invite attention to the following:

1. When the Fourth Committee approved, by majority vote, on September 1972, a decision to admit in an observer capacity, with the right to participate in its deliberations, the representatives of certain movements claiming to be from the Portuguese overseas provinces in Africa, the delegation of Portugal pointed out that such a decision was illegal and in violation of the provisions of the United Nations Charter, and placed on record its most formal reservations. These reservations (see A/C.4/SR.1974 and 1975) are hereby reiterated for all useful purposes.
2. The Portuguese delegation now wishes to record the expression of its most emphatic objections regarding the procedural device of publishing as an official document a letter purporting to be addressed by someone without any right or qualification to do so, in terms of the Charter and the relevant regulations governing the work and activities of the General Assembly.
3. In the circumstances in which this has been done, the Portuguese Government cannot but construe that this gesture, at once useless and derogatory of the provisions of the United Nations Charter, is one more designing manoeuvre for which the responsibility lies with the pressure groups actuating within the Organization, with a view to assailing the sovereign rights of Portugal to represent its peoples.

I shall appreciate it if Your Excellency directs that this letter may be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) António Patrício
Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations