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Letter dated 31 May 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
Zaire to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a press release dealing with the article by Jon Bradshaw published in the 27 March 1979 issue of Esquire, a copy of which was sent to you by the Permanent Mission of Benin.

The Executive Council of Zaire would like to set right once again some of the misunderstandings contained in this article.

Like other delegations which have dealt with the same question, I have the honour to request you to circulate this press release as a Security Council document.

(Signed) KABEYA wa MUKEBA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

PRESS RELEASE

The article by Jon Bradshaw, published in the 27 March 1979 issue of Esquire, on the career of Bob Denard, the well-known mercenary, is certainly not without interest for the international community. What is lamentable, however, is the fact that its author is ill-informed, a short-coming which he tries to remedy by using his fertile imagination. An example of this is the statement by the author that Bob Denard "recruited 30 mercenaries to support President Mobutu of Zaire's invasion of oil-rich Cabinda" (S/13304, annex II, p. 2).

This unfounded assertion evidences the unreliability of the author, who, although dealing with an interesting subject (mercenaries), spins his story around dubious facts.

It has never been the intention of the Zairian authorities to practise a neo-imperialistic policy. The Republic of Zaire has no need to covet the natural resources within the territory of a neighbouring country because it has enough of its own.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zaire takes this opportunity to remind international opinion of the main lines of Zaire's foreign policy. They rely in the following principles:

1. Authentic Zairian nationalism, involving two corollaries: positive neutralism or, in other words, non-alignment, and openness to the world without complexes and without exclusions;
2. Zaire's dedication to Africa. It is within this very context that Zaire has sheltered certain liberation movements.
3. Authenticity, which is the permanent quest for original solutions, adapted to each situation, to the various problems confronting the contemporary Zairian society.

The Permanent Mission of Zaire questions the credibility of the facts recounted in this article.

New York, 31 May 1979
