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LETTER DATED 3 AUGUST 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF SEYCHELLES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of a press release issued by the President's Office at the State House of the Republic of Seychelles announcing the pardon and subsequent deportation of the six foreign mercenaries sentenced to death or long prison terms last year by the Seychelles Supreme Court for their part in the armed aggression against the Republic of Seychelles on 25 November 1981.

I should be grateful if this letter and the text from the President's Office be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Giovinella GONTHIER
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Annex

Text of a press release issued by the State House of the
Republic of Seychelles on 22 July 1983

State House announced today that the six foreign mercenaries who were sentenced to death or long prison sentences by the Seychelles Supreme Court last year for their part in the armed aggression against Seychelles on 25 November 1981 have been pardoned and are being deported from the country.

Four of the men were under sentence of death and the others had been jailed for prison terms of 10 and 20 years. They have all been in prison here since their capture in November 1981.

The communiqué from the President's Office at State House said that the men have been pardoned under article 100 of the Seychelles Constitution which confers on the Head of State prerogatives of mercy on humanitarian grounds.

The six mercenaries are Martin Dolincheck (South African), Bernard Carey (British), Robert Sims (South African), Jeremiah Puren (South African), Audrey Brooks (formerly Rhodesian) and Roger England (British). They will be deported to South Africa by the British Airways flight to Johannesburg which leaves early tomorrow morning (Saturday).

The State House communiqué said that this humanitarian action of clemency followed the decision by President Rene on Liberation Day - Seychelles' national day - this year to pardon some Seychellois convicts, an exercise which is continuing.

The communiqué continued:

"It is in sharp contrast to the practice in some countries where, more often than not, national and international calls for clemency are simply ignored.

"It will be recalled that when, in March this year, President Rene asked the South African Government not to execute three members of the African National Congress on humanitarian grounds, the South African Prime Minister replied that justice must be allowed to take its course and the three men were subsequently executed."

The mercenaries had been shown clemency in spite of the gravity of their offence and past attempts at destabilization of the country by those who recruited them, State House said.

"The Seychelles Government is of the opinion that the mercenaries who attacked Seychelles were falsely made to believe that the Seychellois people were unhappy and wanted to be saved, that we were a cruel and bloodthirsty régime.

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"The world should know that this is not true. Who else can say this better than those who were falsely induced to attack us - those who have spent two years in this country and who have been able to learn something about our people and their customs.

"This act of clemency," the State House communiqué continued, "shows the measure of the confidence of the Government and people of Seychelles in the stability and internal security of their country.

"It also shows that the Government and people of Seychelles have no fears of the few trouble-makers whose past actions have proved them to be nothing more than opportunists bent on personal gain and publicity".

However, State House added that the clemency shown to the mercenaries and other prisoners had to be seen in relation to the words of President Rene on Liberation Day this year when he said: "... when a country pardons those who have been punished, it does so to give them a chance to reform their lives ... If we are prepared to forgive once more, we must also make it quite clear that this is the last time ...".

"The people of Seychelles want to live in peace and friendship with all other peace-loving peoples of the world and have taken steps to guarantee their peaceful existence. The freeing of the mercenaries is another example of their confidence in their future."
