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LETTER DATED 24 SEPTEMBER 1966 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, A.I. OF PORTUGAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency of the following, under instructions from my Government:

On 24 September 1966 at 9 o'clock in the morning, about 400 people attacked violently the building, housing the Embassy of Portugal, at Kinshasa, forcing open its doors, and seizing the person of the Chargé d'Affaires of Portugal, assaulted and wounded him and thereafter took him in a motor vehicle to an unknown destination. These same persons also invaded the interior of the Embassy destroying all the furniture by setting it on fire and sacking the Embassy archives of which they took possession. They also set fire to the Portuguese automobiles stationed in front of the Embassy.

There is no news concerning the other persons in the diplomatic and administrative service of the Embassy.

On the other hand, radio stations and other information organs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been addressing during the past few days frequent appeals and instigations to violence against Portuguese and against the numerous Portuguese community which has long been residing in the Congo (Kinshasa). During these last hours, they have been receiving the gravest threats to their persons and properties.

In the face of a lack of authority and the passiveness of the Congolese police who assisted the assault on the Embassy without intervening, the Portuguese Government has reasons to fear for the safety of the lives and the properties of its employees, and for the safety and the properties of the numerous Portuguese community which has long been residing in the Congo. As it is an indeclinable duty of the Congolese Government to protect the lives and properties of foreigners living in its territory, the Portuguese Government, seeing that no guarantees have been received in this respect, brings the preceding facts to the attention of the

Security Council and requests that this high organ of the United Nations will urgently call the attention of the Congolese Government to its indeclinable responsibilities in this regard, and will urge it to take immediately all measures necessary to safeguard the lives and the properties of Portuguese nationals as well as the release of the employees of the Portuguese Government sequestered by foreign persons in Congolese territory.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) António PATRÍCIO
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.