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Note verbale dated 10 August 1973 from the Permanent Mission of Zambia
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to its note verbale, dated 6 August 1973, concerning the publication "as an official document of the United Nations", of the text of a statement issued by the representatives of non-aligned countries at the United Nations on the situation in Cambodia and to the statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs made in response to that note, contained in document A/9115, dated 7 August 1973.

The Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs stated that the statement by the Non-Aligned Group at the United Nations on the situation in Cambodia was not circulated as an official document of the United Nations because "this subject is not on the provisional agenda of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, nor is it related to any item on the provisional agenda".

* A/9100.

** Note by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs. Inasmuch as the existing practice for the circulation of communications at the request of Member States, whatever their content, sometimes gives rise, as in the present case, to difficulties and misunderstandings, it should be given serious attention by Member States. In this connexion, it may be recalled that in document A/9040 the Secretary-General announced his intention to bring the question of the circulation of communications from Member States at their request as documents of the General Assembly to the next session of the General Assembly for review of the current practice and for guidance.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia wishes to disregard, without conceding the point, that the "statement" is not related to any item on the provisional agenda of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly. It is necessary to point out, however, that in Security Council document S/10855 dated 2 January 1973, the question of aggression against the territory and civilian population of Cambodia is listed as item 62 amongst "matters of which the Security Council is seized". Since the Secretary-General was requested to circulate the statement on Cambodia "as an official document of the United Nations", it could have been circulated as a document of the Security Council.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia is now making an explicit request that the statement be so circulated. 1/

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia wishes to point out, at the same time, that "when there has been no indication of the agenda item by the Member State concerned", the requesting delegation should be afforded the opportunity to indicate the agenda item to which the document is related before a decision is taken to publish it under a note verbale. Had the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia been given that opportunity, it would have been able to indicate that the statement is related to item 38 on the provisional agenda of the twenty-eighth session - Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security. To reinforce the point, it may be pointed out that General Assembly resolution 2880 (XXVI), in operative paragraph 3, "calls upon all States to respect the national unity, political independence and territorial integrity of every State, to refrain from the threat or use of force..." and resolution 2993 (XXVII), in operative paragraph 6, "requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the Declaration". General Assembly resolution 2880 (XXVI), operative paragraph 11, contemplates as acts of implementation of the Declaration statements such as that issued by the Non-Aligned Group on the situation in Cambodia.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia requests that this note be circulated as an official document of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

1/ See S/10982.