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QUESTION OF TERRITORIES UNDER PORTUGUESE ADMINISTRATION

Note verbale dated 30 July 1973 from the Permanent Representative
of Zambia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to request him to circulate as an official document of the United Nations the attached text of a statement on Portuguese massacres in Mozambique, issued by the representatives of non-aligned countries at the United Nations on 26 July 1973.

* A/9100.

STATEMENT BY THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP AT THE UNITED NATIONS
ON PORTUGUESE MASSACRES IN MOZAMBIQUE

The representatives of the non-aligned countries at the United Nations met on 26 July 1973 to consider the reports, particularly the eyewitness accounts of the missionaries, of the genocidal atrocities which have been inflicted upon the people of Mozambique. They paid tribute to the missionaries who had the courage to bring to public knowledge the commission of these atrocities.

They recorded their horror and indignation at the genocidal crimes which have been committed by Portuguese military units and by the troops of Ian Smith's racist régime in brutally massacring thousands of civilians in the area of Mucumbura in 1971, at Wiriyamu in December 1972 and at other villages of Mozambique, and condemned them as crimes against humanity. They were most horrified by the bestialities of live burning, disembowelling of pregnant women and decapitations.

They condemned the Government of Portugal for suppressing and persisting in denying and leaving uninvestigated the information which was brought to their attention about the perpetration of those atrocities. They regard that conduct of the Government of Portugal as evidencing collusion in the commission of these atrocities. They regard those bestialities as indicating the level of depravity and inhumanity to which the Portuguese Government and military forces in Africa have sunk. The stubborn and short-sighted policy of the Portuguese authorities in trying to maintain their colonial domination must be condemned without reservation by all mankind.

They reaffirmed their unstinting moral and material support for the just struggle of the liberation movements of southern Africa - and, in this particular case, that of FRELIMO - which have been leading with admirable determination the struggle to free their country from Portuguese racist colonial domination. This struggle of the liberation movements has had to be continued for far too long. The representatives of the non-aligned countries therefore call upon the international community to support morally and materially to the fullest possible extent the struggle of the liberation movements to achieve freedom and independence for their countries.

The conduct of the Government of Portugal in these matters should convince the entire international community, particularly the allies of Portugal in NATO, that they should join with the non-aligned countries in condemning those bestial and genocidal atrocities. The occurrence of those crimes against humanity, which the Portuguese authorities still persist in denying in the face of conclusive evidence, should convince the world that no credibility can be given to any statements of the Government of Portugal. It is necessary for the United Nations and the International community as a whole to take effective measures to compel the Portuguese authorities to end their colonial domination immediately.