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LETTER DATED 16 APRIL 1986 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF  
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF MADAGASCAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a message dated 16 April 1986 from His Excellency Mr. Didier Ratsiraka, President of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, addressed to His Excellency Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India and current Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, concerning the situation in the Central Mediterranean.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this message circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Noël RAKOTONDRAMBOA  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Message dated 16 April 1986 from His Excellency  
Mr. Didier Ratsiraka, President of the  
Democratic Republic of Madagascar, addressed to  
His Excellency Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister  
of India and current Chairman of the Movement  
of Non-Aligned Countries

Recent events in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya have once again stirred the conscience of the countries of the third world in general and those of the Non-Aligned Movement in particular. It is with gratification that I have learned of your initiative in condemning, on behalf of our Movement, the unspeakable acts of aggression committed against the fraternal people of Libya.

For its part, the Democratic Republic of Madagascar and its revolutionary power, on the basis of unchanging principles, cannot but express their deep and strong condemnation of the aerial bombing of Libyan cities, including the capital, which has claimed the lives of innocent people.

We have had occasion to speak out against acts of international terrorism, among which we naturally do not include acts of violence committed on the battlefield by peoples whose dignity has been trampled underfoot in their own land and who are struggling for their freedom, for example, in South Africa, Namibia and Palestine. No pleas are acceptable as justification either for acts of undeclared war or acts of blind violence.

The ordeal suffered by our Libyan brothers shows up in the harsh spotlight the shortcomings that sap the strength of the non-aligned countries. Because it failed to equip itself in good time for effective solidarity on a sound economic basis, our Movement, though rich in its values, is in danger of losing the initiative in building a world of peace, justice and respect for mankind.

To be sure, warmongers and other champions of "might is right" risk universal condemnation, but because of the historically significant damage to the cause of the third world, we should resolutely commit ourselves to strengthening our Movement and living up to the expectations of our oppressed peoples.

(Signed) Didier RATSIRAKA

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