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LETTER DATED 2 APRIL 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF MOZAMBIQUE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to submit herewith a letter from His Excellency Mr. Joaquim Alberto Chissano, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Mozambique, in connexion with another criminal act of sabotage and armed aggression committed by the illegal racist régime of Ian Smith against the People's Republic of Mozambique.

As it has been the custom, this latest aggressive action was once again directed at major economic and civilian installations. In this particular odious aggression, the destruction ranged from loss of innocent civilian lives to knocking down of electric lines and burning down a huge number of fuel depots of serious proportion enough to hamper the economic activities not only of Mozambique but also that of the other countries of the region such as Malawi and Zambia.

Revealing the desparation of Ian Smith and his puppets, in these latest attacks they made use of traitors and renegades interested in hindering the success of the just struggle of the people of Zimbabwe for national independence to accomplish their macabre plan.

As I request that the adjoining communication be kindly circulated as a document of the Security Council, I trust that Your Excellency will continue with your tireless effort in search for a just solution to the Rhodesian conflict.

(Signed) José Carlos LOBO
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

Annex

Letter dated 30 March 1979 from the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Mozambique addressed to the Secretary-General

Once again the enemy has perpetrated criminal action against our revolution. During the early hours of 23 March, a group of enemy agents sabotaged oil facilities at Munhava, city of Beira.

This group of murderers, who had infiltrated into the region, blew up an electricity line and oil pipelines to the pier, fired at oil storage tanks and started an intensive shootout at positions of the People's Forces for Liberation of Mozambique (PFLM). The armed forces of Mozambique immediately repelled the attack frustrating the main objective of the enemy which was the complete destruction of these facilities, which could have resulted in a high number of casualties among the population residing in the vicinity. The PFLM killed one of the enemy's agents.

The fire which was started as a result of this criminal action damaged 10 oil storage tanks and burned refined product estimated at 32 million escudos (\$US 1 million). Nine oil tanks were destroyed, 17 tanks damaged by gunfire, a gas pumping station was destroyed, as well as several metres of oil pipelines, and a high voltage electric tower was knocked down. According to the assessment already made, the total losses have been estimated at 100 million escudos (\$US 3,125,000). These losses include the installations of the following oil companies: Petromoc, Mobil, Caltex, BP-Shell. The indirect losses have not yet been estimated.

Because of the prompt action of the workers who immediately combated the fire, it was made possible to completely extinguish it in 37 hours after its deflagration. The workers' action also made it possible to restore the electric power to the city of Beira four hours after the sabotage to the electric pole.

The response of the PFLM and the action of the workers in fighting the blazes made it possible that oil supply to the provinces of Sofala and Tete was not affected.

The greatest volume of fuel destroyed by the fire was at the Mobil facilities, which were consigned to Malawi; however, the transport of refined products to this neighbouring country has already been restored.

From this criminal action of the enemy it is important to note certain fundamental aspects:

This type of aggression is conceived and prepared by enemy headquarters in Salisbury and carried out by traitors, ex-PIDE agents, renegades, Frelimo's deserters, bandits and fringe elements recruited by the illegal Rhodesian régime. They are trained in Rhodesian camps and brought into the interior of our country

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by helicopters of the illegal régime. Once the criminal actions are concluded, they are brought out of the country by the same means. These reactionaries have been used for a long time for reconnaissance operations and as guides for troops of the racist régime who are engaged in systematic violations and attacks against our country.

In exchange for promises and money as reward, this scum of lackeys and traitors accepts to murder defenceless civilians, women and children. These are the criminals who lead Smith's soldiery in the kidnapping of civilians, attacks to machimbombos (public buses) and passenger and cargo convoys, burning of machambas (farms), murdering of foreign workers as well as all kinds of massacres and attempts on our people's life. (See previous communications from the People's Republic of Mozambique.)

The use of these internal reactionaries represent a new tactic to escalate aggression against our revolution. Immediately after the proclamation of our independence, the aggressions were characterized by the temporary territorial occupation and were carried out openly by troops of the illegal régime. Today, owing to our defence forces' greater capability, the enemy is forced to use new tactics.

On the other hand, Ian Smith is trying desperately to obtain international recognition of his "internal settlement". The Rhodesian régime is trying to rectify its image as a "rebel colony". Therefore, when attacking Rhodesian refugee camps or Mozambican military targets, the régime reveals its true face and claims responsibility for the attacks which are then presented as "hot pursuit" operations. However, in case of attacks against economic and civilian targets in the People's Republic of Mozambique, it uses these murderers and lackeys as direct executors, reserving its troops for logistic support.

In the ultimate analysis, it is the same enemy who is using different tactics as a result of the increase in our defensive strength and of alternatives arising from tactical concessions of the illegal régime.

The People's Forces for Liberation of Mozambique, the defence forces of the people and of the revolution, which under Frelimo's leadership defeated the Portuguese colonial fascist army, are strongly decided to defend the sovereignty of the country, its hard-conquered independence and the security of the people and their popular State.

The attack against the oil facilities in Beira is an attack not only against the People's Republic of Mozambique but also against the other independent countries in our region.

It is also important to note that these facilities supply countries such as Malawi and Zambia. In the future, after the independence of Zimbabwe, they will supply oil to Botswana and to Zimbabwe itself. The enemy's aim is therefore very clear. To destabilize, politically and economically, the People's Republic of Mozambique, to create insecurity in the region, to destabilize economically

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the neighbouring countries and to hinder the independence of Zimbabwe. The People's Republic of Mozambique calls on the international community to implement Security Council and General Assembly resolutions e.g. S/RES/386 (1976) and A/RES/31/43 (1976) and A/RES/32/95 (1977), in order to give material assistance to our country to face the enormous difficulties arising from the application of sanctions against the racist and criminal régime of Ian Smith, and constant aggressions perpetrated by this régime. On the other hand, today we also call on United Nations Member States to give with priority military assistance and any other type of assistance which will allow us to increase our defensive capacity according to the resolution S/RES/411 (1977).

In this context, we ask His Excellency, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to see whether means can be found which will make possible the implementation of these resolutions and to eliminate the growing threat of a general war in southern Africa caused by the illegal régime of Ian Smith, and to guarantee a successful struggle for national independence by the still oppressed people.

The People's Republic of Mozambique needs peace for a rapid national reconstruction and for its development.

A Luta Continua.

(Signed) Joaquim Alberto CHISSANO
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the People's Republic of Mozambique