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NOTE VERBALE DATED 19 JANUARY 1976 FROM THE
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, A.I., OF THE PERMANENT
MISSION OF ZAIRE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zaire to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit below the text of letter No. DAFECI/130/00007/76 dated 18 January 1976, addressed to the Secretary-General by the Commissioner of State of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation at Kinshasa, by message No. 130/208/76 of 18 January 1976.

Text of the letter

"Sir,

"I have the honour to inform you that on 10 January 1976 the Soviet and Cuban forces which are fighting in Angola on the side of the Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola (MPLA) blew up the rail and road bridges which link the frontier centre of Dilolo (in the Republic of Zaire) with that of Texeira De Souza (in Angola). These bridges are situated on the Kasai river, which forms the natural frontier between the Republic of Zaire and Angola.

"More than 70 per cent of our exports from the Shaba mining region are transported on the railway which, after Dilolo, joins up with the Benguela railway (in Angola). The latter railway runs from Texeira De Souza to the Atlantic port of Lobito. In addition, sizable imports of various products needed for the operation of the mining and other industries and for the use of the population of the region are also carried on that same railway.

"For some months, our exports and imports transported on the Benguela railway have been seized by the Soviet-Cuban troops which are fighting on the side of MPLA and which have disposed of them arbitrarily. This constitutes real pillaging and is a flagrant violation of all the international rules concerning trade and transport.

"In addition to the destruction of the road and rail bridges which link

Dilolo with Texeira De Souza and which are the joint property of the Republic of Zaire and of Angola, the Soviet-Cuban troops have engaged in intensive bombing of the urban centre of Dilolo, destroying schools, hospitals, public buildings, houses in the camp for the workers of the Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Zairois and private dwellings, thus forcing the population to leave the town.

"Nine large shell holes have been found. The remains of these shells which are in our possession bear the mark of their Soviet origin.

"The act perpetrated by the Soviet-Cuban forces which are fighting in Angola on the side of MPLA is in fact a casus belli which is threatening the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of the Republic of Zaire.

"I therefore wish to inform you of this matter, requesting you to bring it to the attention of the current President of the Security Council and of the President of the General Assembly and of all the States Members of the United Nations. Consequently, I request you to arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

"I thank you in advance for your attention to this letter and request you to accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

"MANDUNGU BULA NYATI
Commissioner of State"

New York, 19 January 1976
