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LETTER DATED 30 JANUARY 1976 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF PORTUGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour, upon instructions of my Government, to inform Your Excellency, that on 27 January 1976, the Portuguese corvette João Roby detected the presence of two Indonesian warships on the southern coast of Timor, near Betano. At the same time, it detected four radar echoes and, later, six more radar echoes in the same region.

According to news also brought to the attention of the Portuguese authorities, on 28 January 1976 cars and helicopters were unloaded in Betano, with eight Indonesian ships in proximity, and Indonesian land forces were present in the region between Same and Betano.

It can be pointed out that the acts of aggression by Indonesia on East Timor have been amply recorded by the mass media and information services.

It seems unnecessary to underline the illegality of such acts, as well as their gravity from the point of view of the people of Timor being able to decide freely their own destiny. But it is perhaps pertinent to note that the Indonesian activities in the zone of Betano and in other locations have raised new problems as regards the visit of Your Excellency's special representative to certain areas of East Timor.

I should be grateful if Your Excellency would direct that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) António da COSTA LOBO
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.,
of Portugal to the United Nations