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LETTER DATED 4 FEBRUARY 1976 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, A.I., OF
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, upon instructions from the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, to transmit to you the following message in connexion with the Security Council debate on the French Government's intension to hold a referendum in the island of Mayotte on 8 February 1976.

"With reference to the Security Council debate on France's proposed referendum in the island of Mayotte, I wish to clarify the position of the Organization of African Unity on the matter:

"1. Mayotte island is an integral part of the Republic of the Comoros, which proclaimed independence in July 1975.

"2. The proclamation of independence was unanimously acclaimed by the OAU, which admitted the Republic of the Comoros as a full member of the Organization and undertook to support the Government of the Republic of the Comoros in its efforts to safeguard its territorial integrity.

"3. Any attempts, therefore, by France to conduct any referendum on Mayotte island constitutes gross interference in the internal affairs of an independent OAU member State and must be deemed an act of aggression.

"4. Recent history has shown French referenda in her colonial territories to have the effect of perpetuating French colonial status in Africa. It is in the full knowledge of this fact that the overwhelming majority of the population of the Comoros, through the referendum of 22 December 1974, totally rejected France's manoeuvres on the archipelago and expressed their desired to accede to full independence.

"5. Already the Republic of the Comoros is facing serious difficulties as a result of France's retaliatory measures. On behalf of the OAU I call upon France to stop these malicious policies towards the Republic of the Comoros and I appeal to the world community to assist the young Republic to consolidate its hard-won independence.

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"This message is being copied to the Secretary-General of the OAU for the information of member States.

AL-HAJJI FIELD MARSHAL IDI AMIN DADA,
VC., DSO., MC.,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AND
CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU"

I should like to request that this message be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) H. E. L. ACEMAH
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.
