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NOTE VERBALE DATED 5 FEBRUARY 1976 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF
SOMALIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Representative of the Somali Democratic Republic to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to attach hereto the contents of a telegram which has been addressed to the latter on 26 January 1976 by His Excellency Major-General Mohamed Siad Barre, President of the Supreme Revolutionary Council of the Somali Democratic Republic.

The Permanent Representative of the Somali Democratic Republic requests that the contents of the attached communication be circulated as a document of the Security Council as a matter of urgency.

Text of a telegram sent to the Secretary-General
of the United Nations by the President of the
Supreme Revolutionary Council of the Somali
Democratic Republic - 26 January 1976

I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY IS WELL AWARE OF THE CRITICAL SITUATION PREVAILING IN FRENCH SOMALILAND AND THE LATEST DANGEROUS POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TERRITORY WHICH IF UNCHECKED COULD HAVE UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE WHOLE REGION STOP FOLLOWING THE OVERWHELMING AND UNSWERVING SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE OAU AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THROUGH INTER ALIA THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION APPROVED BY 109 MEMBER STATES DECEMBER LAST TO THE PEOPLE OF FRENCH SOMALILAND FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF IMMEDIATE COMMA UNCONDITIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF FRENCH MILITARY FORCES AND BASES COMMA THE FRENCH COLONIAL POWER IS NOW RESORTING TO DESPICABLE STRATEGEMS AND MANOEUVRES AIMED AT GRANTING A FORMAL AND HOLLOW INDEPENDENCE TO FRENCH SOMALILAND IN ORDER TO APPEASE INTERNATIONAL OPINION WHILE AT THE SAME TIME CREATING A PUPPET REGIME HEADED BY ITS FAITHFUL STOOGUE ALI AREF COMMA AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DOES NOT ENJOY ANY SUPPORT WHATSOEVER FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY STOP IN ORDER TO PRESERVE ITS STRATEGIC INTERESTS IN THE TERRITORY COMMA THROUGH THE IMPOSITION OF THE ALI AREF PUPPET REGIME COMMA THE FRENCH COLONIAL POWER IS FULLY DEPLOYING ITS HUGE MILITARY FORCES STATIONED IN THE TERRITORY AND IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN THE PROCESS OF INCREASING ITS FORCES AND ENLARGING ITS DEFENCE INSTALLATIONS OF THE TERRITORY STOP THUS THE OPPOSITION PARTIES AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS COMMA WHO ARE THE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE COMMA ARE BEING SUBJECTED TO CONSTANT HARASSMENT COMMA ARRESTS AND TORTURE COMMA WHILE MANY OF THEIR LEADERS ARE SUMMARILY BEING DEPORTED FROM THE TERRITORY STOP ALL POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND OPPOSITION TO THE LOCAL REGIME IS THEREFORE PROHIBITED AND THE VOICE OF THE MASSES IS SILENCED THROUGH INDISCRIMINATED KILLINGS COMMA CONSTANT SEARCHING IN THE HOMES OF THOSE SUSPECTED OF SYMPATHIZING WITH THE PROGRESSIVE FORCES AND A STATE OF INCREASING TENSION IS DAILY DEVELOPING AND AN EXPLOSIVE EMERGENCY SITUATION IS PREVAILING THERE STOP IT IS MY CONVICTION EXCELLENCY THAT IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE CRITICAL SITUATION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE STABILITY AND PEACE IN THE REGION I DEEMED IT NECESSARY TO INFORM YOU AND APPEAL TO YOUR EXCELLENCY SO THAT YOU MAY INTERVENE IN THE MATTER AND RENDER JUSTICE AND ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF FRENCH SOMALILAND IN ORDER TO ENABLE THEM TO ATTAIN THEIR SACRED RIGHT TO GENUINE AND UNCONDITIONAL INDEPENDENCE STOP FINALLY I CONSIDER IT PERTINENT TO INFORM YOU ON THE CONSISTENT VIOLATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORMS AND PRACTICES RELATING TO THE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY STOP AS A MATTER OF FACT THE SOMALI CONSULATE GENERAL IN DJIBOUTI HAS BEEN SUBJECTED FOR MORE THAN TWO WEEKS TO A STATE OF SEIGE BY THE COLONIAL GENDARMES AND THE STAFF AND THEIR CARS ARE BEING DAILY PERQUISITIONED AND HARASSED DESPITE STRONG PROTESTS TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT BY THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC STOP IT IS UNFORTUNATE TO NOTE THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS NOT SO FAR GIVEN ANY JUSTIFICATION TO THESE VIOLATIONS STOP PLEASE ACCEPT YOUR EXCELLENCY MY HIGHEST ESTEEM STOP
MAJOR-GENERAL MOHAMED SIAD BARRE COMMA PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL
