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QUESTION OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-first year

Letter dated 8 March 1976 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Mozambique to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to send you herewith a full text of the statement made on 3 March 1976 by His Excellency President Samora Moises Machel, President of the People's Republic of Mozambique. In his address, President Machel proclaimed the imposition of sanctions against the illegal minority racist régime of Southern Rhodesia, in accordance with the decisions of the United Nations.

In view of the significance of this statement and its relevance to the United Nations efforts against the minority racist régime in Southern Rhodesia, I shall be grateful if you would circulate it as an official document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

For the Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the People's Republic of Mozambique:

(Signed) José Carlos LOBO
Director of International
Organizations and Conferences
in the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs

* A/31/50.

ANNEX

Statement made by Mr. Samora Moises Machel, President of
the People's Republic of Mozambique, on 3 March 1976

Comrades,
Members of the Central Committee,
Members of the Executive Committee,

Comrades,
Members of the Council of Ministers,

Comrades,
Party, State and FPLM cadres,

Excellencies,
Ambassadors and Chargés d'affaires in the People's Republic of Mozambique,
Members of the national and foreign press,
Compatriots,

In the name of the Central Committee of FRELIMO and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique, I have come to inform you that Mozambicans, men, women, old people, children, are being killed. Our territory is being attacked, our people are being massacred, the People's Republic of Mozambique is under attack.

The criminal and irresponsible régime of Ian Smith has launched a war of aggression against the People's Republic of Mozambique. Less than 18 months after signing the Peace Agreement with Portugal, the Mozambican people are once again forced to confront the desperate acts of aggression of a colonial fascist.

After a long series of armed provocations against the People's Republic of Mozambique, on the night of 23 and 24 February, the forces of Ian Smith's racist régime launched a large-scale attack against our national territory, concentrated against the villages of Pafúri and Mavúe. The attack began at 2100 on the 23rd and continued into the 24th. On the 24th there were air raids. Jets, bombers, helicopters, artillery and infantry troops participated in the attack.

As a result of the racist forces' criminal attack against the zone of Pafúri, the following were killed:

1. Albertina Maguguzo Cossa, aged 36.
2. Lucas Valentim Pedício, aged 35.
3. Picane Milane, aged 29.
4. Laurentina Valentim, aged 18 months.

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Wounded were:

1. Ester Pedício, aged 60.
2. Mulhave Mulave, aged 48.
3. Feniasse Vilanculos, aged 22.
4. Phefu Mulave, aged 21.
5. Berta Nhampule, aged 19.

Disappeared:

Sabão Munhangane, aged 65.

In the attack against Mavúe three women and a child were assassinated and a man and an 11-year-old child wounded.

The fighters of the Mozambique People's Liberation Forces, supported by the paramilitary forces of Customs and Immigration, repelled the invader, severely punishing him, shooting down two planes, a jet and a helicopter.

Ten fighters suffered various injuries, two of them seriously. Two other comrades sacrificed their lives in defence of the people and our sovereignty.

This act constitutes an open act of aggression, an act of war. It is a true crime against peace and a war crime, as defined by the International Nuremberg Court.

Why does Ian Smith attack us? Why does the racist Salisbury régime make war on us?

What leads him to assassinate women and children, to burn houses, massacre peaceful peasants?

To answer this question correctly we must say that Ian Smith does this because this is what he had always done against Mozambique.

In 1965 when he proclaimed his pseudo-independence, Ian Smith joined in the Portuguese colonialist war of aggression against our people.

Thus, at that time his troops were sent to Niassa Province.

Since then the Salisbury régime has got used to committing crimes against our people, made a habit of attacking Mozambique.

Up to the end of the colonial-imperialist war, the forces of Ian Smith participated in the most serious crimes against our people, in Niassa, Tete and Manica.

The sadly famous Mucumbura massacres were perpetrated by Ian Smith's soldiers.

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In August-September 1973, Salisbury's troops actively participated in the great tripartite offensive against the district of Zumbo.

In March-April 1974, numerous Rhodesian planes were shot down north of the Zambezi while they were bombing the populations in the liberated areas.

If the provocations and armed aggressions diminished in the transition period - in favour of subversion, the recruitment and training of armed bands of mercenaries and assassins - they were rapidly and progressively intensified in the period following independence, until they reached the present phase of aggressive war.

Without trying to present an exhaustive list of enemy actions in the last six months, we would like to draw attention to the following:

1. Tete Province

In the second two weeks of August 1975, in the lake region of Cabora Bassa, a group of Rhodesians was detained attempting to introduce illegally into the Republic an amount equivalent to 35,000 contos in Rhodesian money, destined to purchase national currency on the black market.

On 27 August, racist troops penetrated the locality of Gondo in the zone of Luíã and kidnapped a peasant. Two days later, on the 30th, in the same place, they killed a peasant and wounded two others.

On 1 September, racist troops set up an ambush against our force patrolling the zone from Luíã to Mucumbura and wounded three comrades.

On 20 January 1975, still in the zone of Luíã, the enemy mined the paths and one of our patrols touched off an anti-personnel mine, and a combatant lost a leg. Shortly afterwards, two vehicles carrying enemy troops penetrated our national territory, supported by two helicopters and two reconnaissance planes.

From 17 February onwards, the racist air force began systematically to violate Mozambican air space in the zones of Mucumbura, Luíã, Chioco and Changara.

2. Manica Province

On 5 August 1975, in Vista Alegre, while the people worked in the fields, enemy troops opened fire. One of our patrols came and neutralized the enemy's fire. On the following day the racist forces, supported by a helicopter, crossed into national territory at 0900 hours to a depth of one kilometre. The helicopter opened fire, mortally wounding one combatant. The enemy was repelled at 1330 hours.

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On 11 August, in the same region, an enemy infantry group came deep into national territory to the north of Vista Alegre. Our forces intercepted and forced the enemy to withdraw.

On 13 August, a helicopter violated our air space in Vista Alegre.

At the same time in Timba, an enemy infantry force having penetrated our national territory to commit crimes, was punished by our patrols abandoning four corpses.

On 28 August, in the same region, the enemy opened fire, wounding one fighter.

On 31 August, the enemy penetrated in the Timba region near the river Nhangalula and ransacked a shop, after wounding one child in the arm and another in the buttocks, having also murdered a peasant named Panzura Apalekwamanja. The racist soldiers remained in national territory from 0900 to 1400 hours, opening fire many times.

On 14 September, in Rotanda, the enemy opened fire with 120 mm mortars. Our forces answered back and forced the enemy into silence. The enemy suffered four casualties.

On 16 December, racist forces murdered two civilians in Inhamacaze.

On 9 January 1976, an enemy aeroplane violated our air space in Espungabera at 1030 hours. Enemy aircraft had bombed a neighbouring zone on the previous day.

On 28 January, one reinforced enemy company, supported by four helicopters and three planes, penetrated to a depth of 1 1/2 kilometres in the Penhalonga region.

On 8 February, at 0400 hours, the enemy penetrated in the region of Espungabera with 10 helicopters which bombed the zone of Mude.

3. Gaza Province

On 11 November 1974, four planes violated our air space in Choa for 15 minutes, before being expelled by anti-aircraft fire.

On 4 February, about 2400 hours, racist police attempted to penetrate national territory in the zone of Malvéria. They were repelled by our fighters.

On 6, 7, 13, 14 and 15 February, our forces were obliged to open fire against enemy planes that violated our air space.

On 14 February, about 2400 hours, the enemy penetrated the zone of Pafúri with infantry and artillery forces and began to ill-treat the local population. They captured a peasant and wounded two other people, a man and a woman.

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The FPLM, supported by Customs, intervened at 0420 hours. Then two jets and three helicopters came to help out the enemy.

In the course of the combat at about 1300 hours, a bomber was hit and fell about 10 kilometres inside enemy territory.

Comrades,
Excellencies,
Compatriots,

This far from exhaustive list of provocations and armed aggressions by Ian Smith along the borders between the People's Republic of Mozambique and the British colony of Southern Rhodesia shows the racist régime's insistence in wanting to launch a war of aggression against our people and our State.

The oppressive régime facing armed insurrection by the people of Zimbabwe is isolated internationally and tries to solve its internal contradictions by spreading out the conflict.

The Republic of Botswana and the Republic of Zambia have been, like ourselves, victims of numerous criminal actions by the Salisbury régime.

Ian Smith wants to deny the correctness of the liberation struggle of the people of Zimbabwe by trying to create the impression that there is war in Zimbabwe only because foreign forces want it.

In doing this Ian Smith is only imitating Portuguese colonialists and other aggressors who have always denied the existence of liberation struggles.

Ian Smith is trying to extinguish the flames of war which he kindled with his oppression, by committing new crimes, seeking to involve other countries in the conflict he has already unleashed at home. Like a madman he wants to extinguish the fire by pouring petrol on it.

Ian Smith wants to transfer to our country the contradictions and the struggle going on in his territory.

Ian Smith, who deliberately violated South African air space to attack us from South Africa on the 24 February attacks, also wants to divert our attention from the target, wants to set off an even greater conflict, a conflict over the whole subcontinent.

In the desperation of the aggressor condemned to defeat, Ian Smith is trying by all means to provoke a generalized war in the whole of southern Africa, with the criminal hope of avoiding his downfall by increasing the number of destructions and corpses.

He will fail, like all those who rise against the people, like all those who dare to attack the people. Ian Smith will be erased from history like other colonialists before him.

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The war is in Zimbabwe. The war is a result of exploitation and oppression by Ian Smith's régime against the people of Zimbabwe. The war will end with the inevitable victory of the people of Zimbabwe.

Comrades,
Compatriots,

We liberated our country from colonialism. Today, we must defend our country, which is under attack; we must support the just fight of our brother people of Zimbabwe.

To fulfil our task we need the invincible strength of our unity, our organization. Our freedom is defended by the immense creative energy of the people, organized and led by FRELIMO.

We are going to apply our creative energy to defend our independence and support our brothers of Zimbabwe.

To this end:

1. In the villages, in the suburbs, in the schools, in the hospitals, in the factories, in the offices, in the shops, in the fields, at the wells, at the rivers, everywhere we must build air-raid shelters. With these air-raid shelters we can protect ourselves from the enemy attacks. We must build these air-raid shelters after normal working hours.

We must intensify the creation of communal suburbs to better organize our defences.

The FPLM must raise their political and technical level to support the masses in the organizing of their defences.

2. Our production must be organized. During the liberation war we always said: production supports the war and the war creates the conditions for us to produce better.

To this end:

- We must accelerate the formation of communal villages where, organized, we will produce; where, organized, we will defend ourselves against the enemy;
- We must increase production in our factories. We must make our work more rapid and efficient in the ports, on the railways, in aviation. We must be quicker and more efficient in the construction and repair of roads, houses and buildings.

We want every worker, together with his comrades, to discuss and find ways of producing more, better and more quickly.

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3. Owing to enemy aggression, some economic activities could be paralysed or slacken. The main consequence of this could be that our compatriots, workers, will be temporarily unemployed. It is the duty of all of us to support them, creating conditions so they can work. The main work we have, where our conditions permit us to absorb all the unemployed, is in the rural areas, in agriculture and animal husbandry. All those whose work is affected will be able, with the support of the State, to organize themselves in communal villages and start agricultural production and animal husbandry.

4. How to fulfil our internationalist duty to Zimbabwe?

By supporting the struggle of Zimbabwe, we are defending Mozambique. By supporting the development of the fight of our Zimbabwe brothers we are pushing the enemy away from our frontiers, consolidating our independence and creating conditions for the establishment of peace. So we say, support and solidarity are not charity, they are not a favour, they are mutual help between forces that are fighting for the same objective.

Our support to the just fight of our brothers in Zimbabwe is:

- moral support;
- political support;
- material support.

We shall support morally and politically organizing ourselves in our Grupos Dinamizadores to study and learn about the struggle of Zimbabwe, to make the struggle of Zimbabwe live in our flesh and nerves. We shall support by singing about the struggle and our internationalist duty to support her; we shall support by explaining the struggle, discussing the struggle; we shall support by accepting sacrifices, overcoming sacrifices, in order to fulfil our internationalist duty.

We shall support materially, producing, producing to feed and clothe our country, producing to feed and clothe the fighters that defend our frontiers, producing to feed and clothe our brother guerrillas of Zimbabwe. We shall support materially by reducing our imports, ceasing to import that which is not fundamental for the economy of the country.

We shall support materially, paying every month our contribution to the Solidarity Bank that we created on 3 February, Mozambican Heroes' Day.

Comrades,
Excellencies,
Compatriots,

The People's Republic of Mozambique has been in existence for little over eight months. From the very beginning of her existence she firmly declared that her internationalist duty was not subject to compromise or negotiations.

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We are ardent defenders of peace. For 10 years we were subjected to a colonial-imperialist war of aggression. We are therefore well aware of the sacrifices demanded by the defence of our freedom and independence.

But as we did yesterday we accept everything. Our borders were sealed by the blood of our people. Our internationalist duty was fed by the countless sacrifices of the peoples of the whole world.

Conscious of this reality, the Central Committee of FRELIMO and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique have charged me with taking appropriate measures to safeguard the inviolability of our borders, the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

They also charged me with taking the necessary decisions to ensure the internationalist support of FRELIMO, our State and our people for the just liberation struggle of the brother people of Zimbabwe.

Ian Smith's aggressions have already mixed our blood with the blood of the people of Zimbabwe.

In support of the liberation struggle of the people of Zimbabwe and in accordance with the decisions of the United Nations Organization and the Organization of African Unity, as from today, 3 March 1976, the People's Republic of Mozambique closes all its borders with the British colony of Southern Rhodesia; forbids all forms of communication with territory dominated by the racist régime; denies passage through our territory and air space of any persons or goods to or from Southern Rhodesia. The People's Republic of Mozambique will apply full sanctions against the British colony of Southern Rhodesia.

The People's Republic of Mozambique confiscates all goods belonging to the illegal régime, to firms based in the territory of the British colony of Southern Rhodesia and to citizens of that territory who recognize the illegal régime.

Mozambicans,

On 25 September 1964, in order to liberate the land and the people, our oppressed country, the Central Committee of FRELIMO proclaimed the general insurrection of the Mozambican people. Today, once again, in order to defend our national territory the Central Committee of FRELIMO calls on the Mozambican people from the Rovuma to the Maputo to defend our country under attack.

Excellencies,
Ambassadors and Chargés d'affaires accredited to the People's Republic of
Mozambique,

All your countries have firmly and unanimously condemned the racist rebellion of Ian Smith. Your countries upheld sanctions against the criminal régime.

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The measure taken by our State corresponds to the demands of all humanity to live free from colonial and racist domination.

We are conscious that your peoples and your States will know how to be in solidarity with us at this difficult moment, in which our country is victim to aggression launched by the minority criminal régime.

This is the fight of the Mozambican people and also of the whole of Africa, of all progressive humanity.

We address ourselves to Africa, that it may be with us, that it may support us in the defence of our sovereignty and in the liberation of the continent.

We address ourselves to our natural allies, the socialist countries, so that they may be with us, as they always were, supporting our working people in the defence of their Revolution and the fulfilment of their internationalist duty.

We address ourselves to all our friends, to all the States that value freedom and peace, so that they may support us in the defence of our freedom and the re-establishment of the just peace in our zone.

Comrades,
Compatriots,

We have started a new phase of our Revolution, a phase in which our sacrifice, our blood will, as in the past, fertilize, cement and consolidate our unity, our freedom, our independence, our revolutionary conquests.

Fighters of the FPLM and people, united will conquer the enemy, will smash the aggressor that violates peace and comes to massacre our people.

We pay vibrant homage to all our comrades who sacrificed themselves and, inspired by their example, united by FRELIMO, developing our production, reinforcing our vigilance, we shall build our victory.

We say firmly,

A LUTA CONTINUA!

And as we repeated yesterday,

INDEPENDENCE OR DEATH!

WE SHALL WIN!
