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LETTER DATED 30 MAY 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GABON  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Further to the corrigendum issued by the representative of Benin - document  
S/13304/Corr.1 of 25 May 1979 - I have the honour to transmit a press release  
to you herewith.

I shall be very grateful if you will circulate this press release as a  
Security Council document.

(Signed) Léon N'DONG  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
of the Gabonese Republic  
to the United Nations

Annex

PRESS RELEASE

Further to the corrigendum issued by the Permanent Representative of Benin to the United Nations - document S/13304/Corr.1 of 25 May 1979, annex II, page 2, second full paragraph, fourth line: instead of Léon Mba, read Germain M'Ba - the Gabonese delegation wishes to reaffirm the position of its country as set forth in document S/13347 of 23 May 1979. The corrigendum of 25 May 1979 issued by the Permanent Representative of Benin does not modify the mendacious, tendentious and defamatory character of the part of the article by Jon Bradshaw concerning Gabon.

In the light of the aforementioned corrigendum, the sentence in question would read as follows: "He was instrumental in the death of Germain M'Ba, Bongo's chief political opponent, who was kidnapped while leaving a movie house in Libreville in 1968 and never seen again."

The Gabonese delegation, which is extremely surprised that an article signed and published in a magazine should have been corrected by a third party, wishes simply to recall that His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo became President on 28 November 1967 in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Gabonese Constitution. On 12 March 1968, His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Gabonese Republic, dissolved all the political parties which then existed in Gabon and established a new party - the Parti Démocratique Gabonaise - which all Gabonese without distinction were called upon to join. It was in response to that solemn appeal by the President of Gabon that Germain M'Ba voluntarily returned to Gabon to place himself at the service of his country. Some time later, he was appointed Counsellor for Economic Affairs in our Embassy in Bonn (Federal Republic of Germany), while simultaneously performing the functions of Special Adviser on Economic Affairs to the President of the Republic. Subsequently, he became Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Gabonese Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany in Bonn until 1971. Consequently, any claim that Germain M'Ba was killed in 1968 in the macabre circumstances described in the article is completely untrue and constitutes a trumped-up story in very poor taste.

New York, 30 May 1979