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LETTER DATED 13 JUNE 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF BENIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-  
GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for publication as a Security Council document in connexion with Benin's complaint which is still before the Security Council, a special communiqué issued by the Revolutionary Military Government on the sentencing of mercenaries and their associates involved in the imperialist armed aggression of Sunday, 16 January 1977.

(Signed) Thomas S. BOYA  
Ambassador

ANNEX

IMPERIALIST ARMED AGGRESSION OF SUNDAY, 16 JANUARY 1977

DECISIONS OF THE SESSION OF THE NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY  
COUNCIL SITTING AS A NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNAL  
TO DEAL WITH THE FACTS OF THE AGGRESSION

(Special communiqué issued by the Revolutionary  
Military Government)

At the meeting of the Council of Ministers on Wednesday, 23 May 1979, the Head of State presented the decisions of the National Revolutionary Council following the conclusions of the investigations of two commissions of inquiry established after the imperialist armed aggression of Sunday, 16 January 1977: one to investigate the internal ramifications of the network of mercenaries and traitors to the Beninese cause, and the other to hear Théodore Ahoussinou, known as "Radelec", and his accomplices concerning the subversive network established by them with a view to carrying out attempts on the lives of the responsible figures of the Beninese revolution.

The National Revolutionary Council, having before it the two investigation files presented to it by the Head of State, the Chairman of the Central Committee of the Party of the People's Revolution of Benin, on the basis of ordinance No. 74-68 of 18 November 1974, which provides for the establishment, powers, composition, organization and functioning of the National Revolutionary Council and which stipulates in its article 7: "The National Revolutionary Council may sit as a National Revolutionary Tribunal to judge, without appeal, such acts and events as it declares to be political infractions and attempts against State security", sat as a National Revolutionary Tribunal on 9 April 1979 for the purpose of judging the perpetrators, accomplices and all persons involved in the events which were the subject of the above-mentioned two inquiries; this high authority of our revolution made public the record of its deliberations, the essence of which is as follows:

Everyone remembers the strange noises which on Sunday, 16 January 1977 awakened the working people of Cotonou, our economic capital.

Everyone also knows that those whistling, crackling and rumbling noises were the work of drug-maddened mercenaries armed with the most modern and sophisticated weapons for the cynical purpose of physically liquidating the responsible figures of our Party and our revolutionary State.

Everyone - except those who, entangled in their own contradictions, undermined by hatred and confusion, are struggling pitifully in an attempt to hide the truth - everyone, we say, knows that those mercenaries, vile stateless individuals, with no faith and no law, are the sadistic agents of international imperialism and its African henchmen.

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Indeed, after the proclamation of the Programme Speech of 13 November 1972, after the choice of our socialist option for development on 30 November 1974, and especially after the birth on 30 November 1975 of our vanguard Party, the Party of the People's Revolution of Benin, a Party whose task it is to educate our people, organize it and harden it for war in its revolutionary struggle of national liberation, international imperialism decided to do everything in its power to succeed in its diabolical plan of colonial reconquest with a view to safeguarding its avaricious interests and keeping our people's back forever bowed so that it could be enslaved and exploited.

Everyone is convinced that such efforts are possible only when the external network can count on the assistance and firm support of an internal network.

Everyone remembers also that after the joint session held from 7 to 12 March 1977, the Central Committee of the Party of the People's Revolution of Benin, the National Revolutionary Council and the Revolutionary Military Government, publishing the report of the special commission of inquiry, promised to deal with the matter of the internal network of that ignoble imperialist armed aggression of Sunday, 16 January 1977.

For that reason, and in conformity with that decision of the higher national authorities, there was established, by ordinance No. 77-7 of 18 February 1977 and ordinance No. 77-41 of 3 December 1977, a National Commission of Inquiry, which encircled, surrounded and dismantled this internal network of the aggression of 16 January 1977 and whose report has been submitted to the Central Committee of the Party of the People's Revolution of Benin.

Accordingly, at the close of its first regular session for the year 1979 and in application of the provisions of ordinance No. 74-68 of 18 November 1974, article 7, the National Revolutionary Council sat on 9 April 1979 as a National Revolutionary Tribunal to take note of the report of the National Commission of Inquiry and to pronounce sanctions against all the persons implicated in the internal network of the imperialist armed aggression of Sunday, 16 January 1977.

After hearing the said report and after extensive discussion, the National Revolutionary Tribunal ruled case by case and pronounced the following sanctions by simple majority in a secret ballot:

IMPERIALIST ARMED AGGRESSION OF SUNDAY, 16 JANUARY 1977:

Sentenced to death:

(1) - Beninese traitors

- Joseph A. Fadest
- Nicolas Takin
- Achille Zogo

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- Emile Derlin Zinsou, twice condemned to death
  - Gratien Pognon
  - Amadou Assouma, known as Tchinnin
  - Amédée Adotevi, once condemned to death
  - Paul Darboux
  - Bertin Babliba Borna, once condemned to death
  - Idelphonse Lemon, once condemned to death
  - Adrien Hounghbedji, once condemned to death
- (2) - African mercenaries
- Marc Soglo
  - Juste Parfait Rustico
  - Cossi Paulin Tohoue
  - Antoine Kohoun
  - Mathias J. Adeochoun
  - Roch Augustin Aissi
  - Lucien Zogo
  - Issa Aliou Djato
  - Ousman Boukari
  - Mazou Idrissou
  - Alpha Ba Oumarou
  - Ibrahima Kaba
  - Saliou Diallo
  - Mohamed Dowgound
  - Mamadou Ba
  - Mamadou Diallo
  - Ali Diawara
  - Kalilou Kone
  - Mamadou Sako
  - A. Koholin
  - A. Maman
  - Barro Ba
  - Bakary Zoumarou

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- Lamine Kaba
- Oumar Sy Savaneh
- Ibrahima Diallo
- Abdourahmane Kaba

(3) - European mercenaries

- Bob Denard, alias Colonel Maurin, alias Gilbert Bourgeaud
- Marc Aubert
- Eric Berardengo
- Robert Bermont
- Siegfried Birnbaum
- Dominique Boucher
- Daniel Bourrel
- Gervais Boutanquod
- Philippe Boyer
- Roger Bracco
- Jacques Buteri
- Guy Lefevre
- Dominique Cabot
- Louis Capasso
- André Cau
- Michel de la Contrie de Charette
- Benoît Charrier
- Jean Michel Chesse
- Hugues de Chivre
- Jean Bernard Chretien
- Marc Colot
- Olivier Danet
- Bernard Delrue
- Jean Pierre Delstanches
- Christan Despres
- Philippe de Doyard
- Jacques Guillots

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- Helmut Gruber
- Alfons Holzapfel
- Yvon Jouguet
- Werner Kolibius
- Francis Leal
- Jean Paul Lecorgne
- Taddée Surma
- Gérard Lejon
- Jean Yves Le Meur
- Michel Loiseau
- Patrice Loth
- Michel Lourdais
- Frantz Heimann
- Dominique Malacrino
- Hugues Wagner
- Thierry Richelles
- Jean Pierre Malivert
- Gérard Michel
- Jean Louis Milliote
- Dominique Musial
- Pierre Paillard
- Jacquy Perrin
- René de Sars Resciniti
- Laurent de Sarnez
- Guy Scheeck
- Raymond Schenpf
- Denis Simon
- Didier Souppart
- Jean Pierre Sutter
- Raymond Thomann
- Gérard Thuret
- Guy Touni
- Jean Pierre Van Den Berghe

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- Gérard Peyre
- Mercier and associates

Sentenced to imprisonment for 10 years:

- Justine Caitano, wife of Marc Soglo

Sentenced to imprisonment for 5 years:

- Lucien Gnonhoue
- Keita Sanfa

Acquitted:

- Franck Lahami
- Rémy Aizansi
- Odette Noudogbessi
- Codjo Paul Soglo. This person shall be subjected to a military sanction, in accordance with the statute of the People's Armed Forces of Benin.

THE MATTER OF THEODORE AHOUSSINOU, KNOWN AS "RADELEC", AND HIS ASSOCIATES

The following persons were acquitted outright:

- Théodore Ahoussinou, known as "Radelec"
- Thomas Bodea
- Jean Kodoko Agbessi
- Désiré Adihou
- Maurice Guedegbe
- Martial Gohoungo
- Cathérine Ahouandjinou
- Paulin Zohoungbogbo

Death to the traitors!  
Death to the mercenaries!  
Ready for the Revolution!  
The struggle continues.

Cotonou, 24 May 1979

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