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LETTER DATED 29 JUNE 1979 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BENIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour, on instructions from my Government, to transmit to you herewith for distribution as a document of the Security Council, a press communiqué dated 29 June 1979 issued by the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Benin concerning the prosecution in the French courts of Gilbert Bourgeaud and his associates, who committed armed aggression against the People's Republic of Benin on Sunday, 16 January 1977.

(Signed) Patrice HOUNGAVOU
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.
Permanent Mission of the
People's Republic of Benin

Annex

Press communiqué dated 29 June 1979

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Benin has the honour to bring to the attention of the public the text of the following communiqué issued on 28 June 1979 by the Embassy of the People's Republic of Benin in Paris (France).

"The Embassy of the People's Republic of Benin in France announces: on 16 January 1977 a group of people, mostly of French nationality, embarked on armed aggression designed to overthrow the Government of Benin.

"The aggressors, who landed from an aircraft at Cotonou airport and occupied it, then tried to move towards the centre of the city.

"They were driven back, but their firing caused seven deaths and injured several dozen people.

"The documents left behind by the aggressors as they fled include a list of the names, forenames and bank account numbers of all members of the expedition, together with other documents. Among the latter were a French identity card in the name of Bourgeaud Gilbert, commander of the operation, who is none other than Bob Denard (born on 30 January 1929 at Caen, Calvados, residing at Paris 18, 14 Rue Marx Dormoy), plane tickets, bank deposit receipts, and their service records and records of army specializations and level of primary, secondary or higher education in France.

"The families of the victims accordingly instructed (lawyers) de Nordmann and Jean Michel Braunschweig to bring a criminal action, concurrently with a civil action, for voluntary homicide against Bourgeaud Gilbert, known as Bob Denard, and all other members of the gang whose documents show their nationality to be French.

"The charges were lodged today with the Senior Examining Magistrate of the Paris Correctional Court.

"Done at Paris on 28 June 1979."

By these proceedings the families of the victims are showing their determination to prosecute in the French courts, in accordance with their procedural rules, Gilbert Bourgeaud, alias Bob Denard, alias Maurin, and his gang of criminals.

The Beninese authorities will keep developments in these proceedings against this French gang of criminals under close review.
