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UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Letter dated 8 March 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to send you the attached with the request that it be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 80 of the preliminary list.

(<u>Signed</u>) Elisio de FIGUEIREDO
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative to the United Nations

^{*} A/34/50.

ANNEX

Message issued on 8 March 1979 by the Organization of Angolan Women on the occasion of International Women's Day

- 1. On the occasion of International Women's Day, OMA (Organização da Mulher de Angola), the Organization of Angolan Women, wishes to express its solidarity with women all over the world, especially those in areas where they are fighting oppression and exploitation.
- 2. The women of Angola have been equal partners with the men in their common struggle against imperialism, colonialism, racism and apartheid. On this day, OMA would like to share with its sisters all over the world the patriotism and revolutionary spirit exemplified by Comrade Deolinda de Almeida and her companions who heroically faced imperialist brutality and paid with their lives for their fidelity to their country, their people and the revolution.
- 3. It was examples such as theirs which have made it possible for the Angolan people, under the leadership of Comrade President Agostinho Neto and the MPLA-Workers' Party, to advance on the road to independence and socialism.
- 4. OMA has sought to fulfil its role in the massive task of national reconstruction. It has been most active in the economic field, unstinting in its efforts to ensure broad participation by Angolan women in areas such as the currency exchange campaign, various voluntary work campaigns in agriculture and on the ONA farm. In the field of medical care and social assistance, OMA's participation in the vaccination campaigns, health education, its creation of a corps of health defenders and the setting up of the Mother Samba Brigades are outstanding examples of OMA's dedication. In education, OMA has made efforts to involve as many women as possible in its literacy programmes.
- 5. The involvement of Angolan women in defence has increased dramatically with large numbers joining the People's Defence Organization, enabling them to defend with equal ardour the ideals of their revolution.
- 6. The women of Angola are active in efforts to forge ties with progressive women's organizations and movements everywhere, thus creating another defence against imperialism which seeks to oppress peoples, not only in its colonies, but also in its own territory.
- 7. The militants of OMA and the other mass organizations of the MPLA-Workers' Party take this opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to revolutionary principles and to offer support to progressive sister organizations in the common fight for the liberation of all oppressed peoples.
- 8. On this day, OFA would also like to pay tribute to the memory of women everywhere who have suffered and often fallen in the battle against exploitation and imperialism. As members of a group that forms more than half the population of this small planet, OMA is well aware of its responsibilities to the Angolan nation, to the African continent, to the third world, and, ultimately, to the world at large.

The struggle continues. Victory is certain.