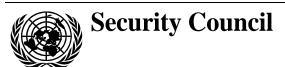
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Letter dated 15 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you in my capacity as the coordinator of the Troika of Observer States to the Angolan peace process for the month of September to convey to you a press statement which the Troika issued earlier today (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would draw the attention of the members of the Security Council to the present letter and its annex, and have them circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) António **Monteiro** Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

00-64780 (E) 180900

Annex to the letter dated 15 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Press statement issued by the Troika of Observer States to the Angolan peace process, New York, on 15 September 2000

The Troika of Observer States to the Angolan peace process agreed today in New York, through the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of Portugal, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, respectively, António Monteiro, Sergey Lavrov and Richard Holbrooke, on the following statement:

The Troika discussed the latest developments on the ground and considers it imperative to continue moving towards a peaceful resolution of the Angolan conflict in full consultation with the Angolan Government of Unity and National Reconciliation. The Troika continues to believe that only an integral respect for the Peace Agreements and the Lusaka Protocol will lead to lasting peace and an inclusive democratic process.

The Troika remains committed to assisting in this process in all respects and will continue to actively cooperate with the United Nations, and in particular its office on the ground, as needed.

The Troika reiterates its commitment to the principles contained in the Lusaka Protocol and the Peace Agreements, including those provisions related to the extension of State administration to the whole territory, demobilization and demilitarization, and national reconciliation.

The Troika discussed the need to strengthen the existing United Nations sanctions regime against UNITA and stressed the fundamental importance of the full cooperation of Member States with the Security Council in its implementation.

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