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LETTER DATED 16 JUNE 1971 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the extremely grave events which have occurred on the boarder between Senegal and Guinea (Bissau) during the month of June 1971.

On 5 June 1971, a military vehicle of the 7th CFV, based at Samine, struck a mine which had been laid in Senegalese territory by the Portuguese forces. Seven persons were wounded, two of them seriously. (One sustained a severe head injury.) All were evacuated to Dakar by military aircraft.

On 6 June 1971, the village of Simbour, district of Diatta Coumda, department of Sedhiou, was attacked by elements of the Portuguese Army. Grenades were thrown, killing a seventeen-year-old girl, and four head of cattle were stolen.

Previously - on 26 April 1971 - the village of Salikégné, district of Dabo, department of Kolda, had been attacked by elements of the regular Portuguese Army. Six shells were fired on that occasion, wounding two persons.

On 4 May 1971, it was discovered that explosives had been set for the purpose of destroying the bridge situated between the localities of Salikégné and Saré Sissao, district of Dabo. There were two explosive devices on and under the bridge, each composed of nine bags of yellow powder together with 750-gramme sticks of TNT bearing the inscription "Petardo Ted Pex No. ASRO/68"; each charge had a detonator cord ending in a detonator and a slow fuse. The two fuses had been lit and had burned to within 10 cm of the detonators. The devices had unquestionably been placed there by a 25-man Portuguese patrol which had been seen in the area.

On 9 May 1971, an anti-personnel mine was discovered in the village of Bambato, district of Diatta Coumda, department of Sedhiou, and an anti-vehicle mine was found near the same village on the right side of the Ziguinchor-Tanaff

road. The mines had apparently been laid by soldiers from the Bediene base in Guinea (Bissau), since there is a trail leading from the Senegalese locality in question to the base and footprints left by ranger boots, found at the place where the mines had been laid, were followed along the trail towards Bediene as far as the frontier.

On 21 May 1971, a mine-clearing operation was carried out between the villages of Saré Mansaly and Tidelly, Coumbacara sector, district of Dabo. The operation took three hours. Two anti-personnel mines were removed at a point 800 metres from Saré Mansaly; their removal was witnessed by the prefect of the department of Kolda, the sector chief, a non-commissioned officer in the Gendarmerie and the captain serving as commandant, the GMI at Kolda. Before the arrival of the prefect and his aides, a third anti-personnel mine was discovered on a heavily travelled trail. Three policemen, Oumar Samb, Oumar Cisse and Moussa Sy, exploded it so that there would be no danger to the villagers. Two anti-vehicle mines were also removed at a point 200 metres north-west of the village of Tidelly; they bore the inscription "NULOZKA 116/53 200 C format 30 cm x 15 cm, grey colour" and were in a rectangular wooden box. They were designed to explode on pressure. The footprints (Pataugas shoes) found around the mines led to the village of Saré Bakary in Guinea (Bissau), where there is a Portuguese base. The mines had apparently been laid during the night of 19 May 1971.

On 23 May 1971, in connexion with the preparations for the visit to be made on 24 May by the departmental prefect, the frontier sector chief, Abdou Diasee, left Kolda at 2 p.m. in his official vehicle (No. 3889 SO) together with a policeman, Daouda Bâ. At a point four kilometres from the village of Saré N'Diaye, the vehicle struck a mine which had been laid between the latter village and the village of Medina Alpha Sadio. The explosion hurled the vehicle a distance of 7.5 metres; the sector chief was thrown two metres from the spot where the vehicle landed to a point one metre north of the trail, and the policeman was thrown six metres in the direction of Medina Alpha Sadio. The two were taken by military ambulance to Kolda, where sector chief Abdou Diasee died of his wounds during the evening of 23 May. The policeman was seriously wounded and the vehicle completely destroyed.

The laying of mines in Senegalese territory by the regular Portuguese armed forces constitutes an obvious and flagrant violation of Senegal's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

This complaint is further to the complaint communicated to you on 27 April 1971, which we are, of course, still pressing.

I reserve the right to request a meeting of the Security Council when I have received fuller information from my Government.

In the meantime, I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official Security Council document.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) Ibrahima BOYE
