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LETTER DATED 10 JULY 1971 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES a.i. OF THE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Senegal, dated 6 July 1971, placing before the Security Council a complaint against Portugal, which was circulated as document S/10251.

My Government regrets that the Government of Senegal should have considered its duty to ask for the convening of the Security Council of the United Nations, without having first sought recourse to the procedure, provided in the Charter, for seeking to clarify, by means of direct contacts, the truth of the facts, as has otherwise always been and continues being the desire of the Portuguese Government. For a long time past, the Government of Senegal has been complaining of incidents taking place on the Luso-Senegalese frontier, the responsibility for which it has systematically been attributing to Portugal, without in the meantime ever having it proved. On the other hand, the Senegalese Government refuses to recognize that the Portuguese continue to suffer from aggressions that are due solely to the facilities granted by the Senegalese authorities to a subversive group, which organizes, prepares and promotes, in Senegalese territory, armed attacks directed against the populations of the Portuguese province of Guinea. The activities of this group have, for the rest, been growing intensified, during recent months, in the territory of Senegal, by reason of the utter repudiation and complete hostility it has been experiencing on the part of all the populations of Portuguese Guinea; and have even gone to the point of including frequent bombardments with guns installed in the territory of Senegal itself, carrying from there death and destruction into Portuguese territory. For the rest, my Government has not let pass any occasion for inviting the attention of the Government of Senegal to the

circumstance that all the problems that have arisen in our respective frontier areas are exclusively the result of the activities of the subversive group that calls itself PAIGC. This group seeks, at all cost, to create in those areas a climate of tension, with a view to achieve its objective of aggression against the people of Portuguese Guinea, for which it needs to impede friendly relations between Portugal and Senegal, which would be beneficial to the interests of the two peoples, and which Portugal has never ceased to desire, as is also well known to the Government of Senegal.

As regards the contents of the letter to which a reference has been made above, I wish to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that it is not understood for what reason the Government of Senegal presents it as evidencing a complaint against Portugal, seeing that in that letter mention is made only of explosion or of discovery of mines in Senegalese territory, without indication being given of any factual elements which might permit clarification regarding those who might have placed them there. For the rest, on more than one occasion, it is shown that what is in question are mines of Russian origin, a circumstance which would appear rather to confirm it as being a manoeuvre of the PAIGC, with the objective already indicated. For, it is known to all, and the leaders of that movement have themselves affirmed it, that their armaments have, in great part, come from that origin. On the other hand, there does not appear to exist the knowledge of any data or reports indicating proof of any sale of Russian armament to Portugal.

At another point in the same letter, mention is made of the actuation of a group of "mercenaries", from which the Government of Senegal itself would appear to recognize that it is dealing with actions of bands of the PAIGC, seeing that the Portuguese Government does not utilize the services of mercenaries for the defence of its frontiers, safeguarding its sovereignty by the presence of Portuguese security forces.

For these reasons, my Government cannot accept that the aforementioned letter presents any justified accusation against Portugal, but rather it seems that it ought to be considered as a complaint of the Government of Senegal against the groups which, in the interior of its territory, disturb the peace and the security of its populations, and by whom Portugal is also victimized. Notwithstanding, the Portuguese, who have so frequently suffered the treacherous

consequences resulting from the placing of mines utilized by the terrorists of PAIGC, do not find any consolation in the knowledge of similar consequences suffered by the Senegalese. Since those groups of irregulars dedicated to violence benefit from the hospitality and the very special privileges accorded to them by the Government of Dakar, a circumstance that permits them to act with the greatest irresponsibility, the Portuguese Government thinks that it is by maintaining order in the interior of its own territory and not through gratuitous and unfounded accusations made against Portugal in the Security Council that Senegal must find a remedy for the evils of which it now complains, and which derive solely and exclusively from its own policies.

On its side, Portugal repudiates with the utmost firmness the Senegalese accusations, and categorically rejects any responsibility for the alleged incidents, in which it did not have the least participation.

I shall thank Your Excellency very much to direct that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council in the usual manner.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Rui de MEIRA-FERREIRA  
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. of Portugal  
to the United Nations

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