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LETTER DATED 20 MARCH 1969 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On 8 March 1969, His Excellency Francisco Macías Nguema, President of the
Republic of Equatorial Guinea, sent me the following cable:

"The President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to Mr. Thomas M. Malango,
United Nations

"I hereby appoint you, as from 5 March 1969, to the post of
Representative of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations
and to other organizations established in New York, United States. I am
notifying your appointment to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
Respects.

Francisco Macías"

I have the honour to inform you that in another cable dated Saturday,
8 March 1969, I confirmed to my President the fact that I was accepting the
appointment and assuming the responsibilities of my post in my country's present
times of historic reality, representing it in the world Organization under your
wise leadership.

I have read carefully and thoroughly all the statements issued thus far by
the Spanish Ambassador to the United Nations, namely: (1) S/9035, dated
28 February 1969; (2) S/9035/Add.1, dated 1 March 1969; (3) S/9036, dated
1 March 1969; (4) S/9036/Add.1, dated 3 March 1969; (5) S/9040, dated 4 March 1969.
I have also read the articles published in the Press under the heading "Diplomatic
Circles", or, to put it more accurately, "Spanish Diplomatic Circles". My long
silence may have been interpreted unfavourably, but the reason for it is obvious:
I was waiting for an official appointment from my Government and direct
information from the President. In a cable to the President of the Republic,
dated 3 March 1969, I wrote: "Send information urgently by cable concerning the
present situation in the country."

On 10 March 1969 I received three cables from the President; the cable which is relevant in the present case reads as follows:

"Urgent the President of Equatorial Guinea to Mr. Thomas M. Malango, Representative of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations.

"The following account explains the situation and facts that gave rise to the state of conflict in Equatorial Guinea; you are to present this account and support it objectively before any and all organizations: In early February the Vice-President travelled from Santa Isabel to Bata and ordered the lowering of Spanish flag No. 6 among the flags of the Consul's residence in Bata. In mid-February His Excellency the President ordered that the said flag should be lowered. The Consul replied personally to the President, refusing to lower the flag without an order from Generalissimo Franco. On 26 February the President returned from the interior of the province to Bata and was informed that by order of the Spanish Ambassador and Consul all fuel supplies had been cut off, Spanish forces stationed in the entire territory had been ordered to remain in their quarters, Spanish forces were occupying the airport and post and telegraph offices, Spanish forces were patrolling the principal towns, the Spanish warship RFZE IPHCOB had left for Bata carrying troops, and Spanish forces stationed in the country had distributed more than 4,000 weapons of all kinds, together with ammunition, to the resident Spanish population. The Government of Equatorial Guinea was greatly surprised at these measures, which had been taken without provocation of any kind. The Spanish forces subsequently fired on the completely defenceless Guinea civil population. These facts were communicated to the Secretary-General and the Security Council of the United Nations. Spain was called upon to order the immediate withdrawal of its forces stationed in the country. The United Nations was asked to send peace forces. Respects.

Francisco Macías"

I do not wish to contradict the statements of the Spanish Ambassador or to question, even for a moment, the veracity of Spain or of the Spanish Press, I merely beg you, Sir, to read the statements and the above text of the cable from the President of the Republic: if anything is true, it is that the violent situation and the disorders which have developed in my country were provoked by the Spanish troops. The Spanish troops provoked the disturbances, and in accordance with Chapter VI, Article 33, of the Charter of the United Nations, the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and the Madrid Government must reach agreement to restore the peace and order violated by the

Spanish troops. If they do not, the departure of the Spanish civil population will be no longer a mere evacuation but an exodus, resulting from Spanish provocations; what is more, owing to the colonial situation of the country, in which Spain has not invested any capital whatever, its economy will come to a standstill when the Spanish civil population leaves. Who will pay the wages of the thousands of workers left without employment? When the representative of Spain uses the word "humanitarian", it is not right for him to consider only the Spanish population.

While it is a fact that agreements exist, the fundamental point was that Spanish troops were to intervene only if the Government of the Republic requested it. Such was not the case. The Spanish troops provoked and brought about the disorders at Santa Isabel and Bata, and now the Spaniards would like to wash their hands of the matter; for this reason my Government has repeatedly asked for United Nations peace forces. Having analysed the situation, my Government directly accuses the Spanish forces of an act of aggression against the peace, sovereignty and integrity of the people of Equatorial Guinea.

On behalf of my Government, I wish to draw attention to the fact that the Spanish representative has distorted the events which took place, referring to them in the letter he addressed to you on 14 March 1969 as "internal problems". By arranging the exodus, Spain has shown its irresponsibility following an act of aggression against a completely defenceless people. I emphasize that these incidents began on 26 February at Bata, capital of the province of Río Muni, as a result of the colonial attitudes of the irresponsible Spanish troops stationed at Bata.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, etc;

(Signed) Thomas M. MALANGO
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to
the United Nations