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LETTER DATED 8 MARCH 1969 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
SPAIN, ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Having learnt in document S/9053/Add.1 of the cable Your Excellency sent on 7 March to the President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, I take pleasure, on behalf of the Spanish Government, in thanking Your Excellency for appointing Sr. Marcial Tamayo as your Representative and for the dispatch with which he intends to proceed to Equatorial Guinea. I trust that in this way Your Excellency will receive direct information on the circumstances in Equatorial Guinea, which I have been reporting to you as my Government learned of what was taking place.

Nevertheless, I am obliged to inform Your Excellency that, as a result of the arming of a Youth Militia which does not fall directly under the constitutional authorities, the situation for Spanish subjects still residing in Equatorial Guinea has grown worse and they remain exposed to serious danger.

As a result of the reports circulated by the international news agencies, the disclosures of the refugees of different nationalities who have managed to leave Equatorial Guinea and the statements made by some victims concerning the ill treatment to which Spanish citizens are exposed, Your Excellency will have noted the distress my Government feels in following a situation which may directly affect many of its nationals.

I would draw Your Excellency's attention to the fact that the Spaniards in Equatorial Guinea are now defenceless, since the Spanish public security forces which were stationed in that territory at the request of the Government of Equatorial Guinea are staying in their barracks and have not left them since the incident concerning the flag at the Spanish Consulate at Bata, of which I informed Your Excellency in my Note No. 30 of 28 February (S/9035).

In addition, the Spanish nationals, in compliance with an order issued by the Guinean authorities relating to the surrender of arms belonging to all foreigners, some weeks ago, and prior to the outbreak of the present situation, handed in all their arms, which were mostly sporting weapons.

From eye-witness accounts, my Government has learnt that there are injured Spanish citizens in the hospital at Bata, the capital of the province of Río Muni, and that some of them have suffered ill-treatment. It has also learnt that the Spanish doctors working in the hospital wish to be evacuated as soon as possible, because of the personal risks they have to face in carrying out their humanitarian work.

As a result of this situation, the Spanish Government has applied to the International Red Cross Committee for assistance and, through me, would ask Your Excellency to consider whether the World Health Organization could examine the desirability of helping in some way in operating the hospital and health services in Equatorial Guinea when the Spanish specialists who have been working there up to now are evacuated.

So far, the Spanish Government has not succeeded in obtaining an appropriate guarantee from Equatorial Guinea of the protection to which Spanish citizens are entitled or the necessary permission for Spaniards to leave the territory if they wish to do so.

Furthermore, it has not received permission from the Guinean authorities to establish contact with the Spanish citizens living in the interior of the country who, because of the lack of protection, may be in a difficult situation.

In view of the foregoing circumstances, I should be grateful if Your Excellency would inform your representative, Sr. Marcial Tamayo, of the Spanish Government's urgent interest in obtaining as soon as possible, on the one hand, the protection which the Guinean authorities must provide for all foreign nationals and, on the other, the essential co-operation of those authorities so that all Spanish citizens wishing to leave may be evacuated quickly and safely.

I should be grateful if Your Excellency would distribute this letter as a document of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) Jaime de PINIES
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Spain
to the United Nations