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LETTER DATED 21 MAY 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
A.I. OF HAITI TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that in a letter of 20 May 1968 sent at the express request of my Government to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, notification was given of the armed aggression of which the Republic of Haiti has been the victim since yesterday. In view of the danger which this armed aggression represents for the maintenance of international peace and security, I have, on behalf of my Government, requested the Secretary-General, in accordance with Article 99 of the Charter, to draw the Security Council's attention to this threat to the peace, a situation covered by Article 39.

A copy of yesterday's letter to the Secretary-General, in which the facts are set forth, is attached for your further information.*

It is to be noted, in addition, that at the time when the National Palace in Port-au-Prince was being bombed by the pirate aircraft, two jets flew over the area of Gouave, a small island forming part of the territory of Haiti, about 60 kilometres from Port-au-Prince.

It must be pointed out that the situation created by this armed aggression against Haiti is paradoxical. General mobilization has been ordered in the Dominican Republic and there has been a concentration of Dominican armed forces on the Haitian-Dominican frontier. The Dominican authorities seem to have jumped to the conclusion that the aggression against Haiti is ultimately aimed at the Dominican Republic, where, according to them, General Caamaño wants to set up a régime of a Castroist and communist kind. It is even reported that some United States military units have been placed on the alert in the Caribbean, ready to deal with any eventuality.

* Circulated as document S/8592.

In this unfortunate affair which began yesterday against Haiti, moreover, prophecies abound. Some United States newspapers predicted in advance an act of aggression which would directly threaten the life of the President of the Republic. The principal aim of yesterday's bombing was in fact to destroy the National Palace and its occupants. Last Sunday, without any apparent reason, NBC television devoted a quarter of an hour to Haiti. During the programme, the commentator, whose comments on the Government were anything but sympathetic, claimed that chaos was imminent in Haiti as a result of the disappearance of the President, which would shortly occur. He concluded by stating that the United States, which had occupied Haiti from 1916 to 1934, had made all the necessary arrangements to intervene in that event.

For over three years, moreover, a radio broadcast organized by a group of Haitian exiles known as "La Voix d'Union" has been putting out every morning between 6 and 6.30, from a New York radio station, a programme which is insulting to the person of the Head of State and the senior officials of the public administration and which also incites the people of Haiti to revolt against the Government. For some time, the tone of this broadcast has been getting more violent and more specific about the nature of the events to be expected. Despite all the Haitian Government's notes of protest, these broadcasts preaching revolt in Haiti and organized on United States territory have never been stopped. They have done and still are doing much to create the threat to peace which now exists in Haiti.

This is a combination of facts and circumstances which threatens international peace and security and which should be remedied as soon as possible with a view to strengthening the aims which the United Nations has set itself.

Accordingly, I have the honour, on the orders of my Government to ask you to be good enough to convene the Security Council as soon as possible, so that after the facts have been established, appropriate measures can be taken in accordance with Article 39 of the Charter to reduce this state of tension which threatens international peace and security.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) Raoul SICLAIT
Ambassador, Permanent Representative a.i.
of Haiti