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LETTER DATED 23 AUGUST 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ZAMBIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit, herewith, a statement by the Government of the Republic of Zambia, made by the Foreign Minister the Hon. R.C. Kamanga M.P., to the National Assembly on 22 August 1968 concerning the situation in the Czechoslovakia Socialist Republic, and it reads as follows:

"Mr. Speaker, no doubt honourable members of the House are aware of the shocking events in Czechoslovakia involving the occupation of that country by armies of the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary and East Germany. Before the invasion of Czechoslovakia by these foreign troops, all sorts of pressure were brought to bear on that country to abandon its policy of democratic liberalization in accordance with the express wishes of its people. His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, at the time condemned such interference in the domestic affairs of the independent and sovereign State, though belonging to the socialist camp in Europe.

"When today the whole world was stunned by the news of Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia, President Kaunda described this outrage as 'NAKED AGGRESSION'. Aggression indeed: for it is unthinkable that the Soviet Union, which has not failed to condemn colonialist and imperialist act of aggression against colonial peoples, should find herself committing this monstrous act full of dire consequences for humanity and for the lovers of fundamental human rights.

"What right has any nation, big or small, nuclear Power or non-nuclear Power to impose its will on another nation by force of arms? What moral justification has the Soviet Union and its allies to trample on the sovereign will of the people of Czechoslovakia?

"Mr. Speaker, I invite the House to join the President in denouncing Russian imperialism in Czechoslovakia and calling upon the Soviet Union and some of her allies in the Warsaw Pact to withdraw their troops from that country in conformity with international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

"This country, which has known what foreign domination can mean expresses its deepest sympathies to the people of Czechoslovakia in their hour of great trial. We shall never fail to express our solidarity with the oppressed people on this globe, believing that justice will always triumph in the end."

I should be very grateful if this statement could immediately be circulated to all the members of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Vernon J. MWAANGA
Permanent Representative of Zambia
to the United Nations