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LETTER DATED 3 JANUARY 1967 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF ZAMBIA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to refer to the letter of the Permanent Mission of Portugal of 12 December 1966, addressed to the President of the Security Council for the month in reply to my statement of complaint against the Portuguese Government dated 5 December 1966, in which, on the instructions of my Government I drew the attention of the President of the Security Council to acts of aggression being perpetuated by the Government of Portugal on Zambian soil adjoining the Portuguese territory of Angola.

The Portuguese Government has not only denied their aggressive acts against Zambian subjects on the border, but have gone on to accuse the Government of Zambia of allowing, I quote, "illicit activities in its territory, by individuals who commit acts of aggression against Portuguese territory". The Zambian Government wishes to point out that these allegations are completely false and unfounded. It is a well known fact that it is not the Zambian Government which indulges in colonialism and the subjugation of other human beings; it is not the Zambian Government which perpetuates the racial conflict in Angola and Mozambique; on the contrary, it is the Portuguese Government which is engaged in a war against the local inhabitants of Angola and Mozambique who have committed no crime except asking for their inalienable human rights and freedom of which they are entitled in accordance with the declaration of the United Nations Charter on human rights. It is the Government of Portugal which is responsible for the unrest which now exists in Angola and Mozambique and all along our common border. Because of the Portuguese Government's policy of domination over the black people in Angola and Mozambique and their policy of suppressing the demands of the people by force, thousands of refugees have fled and crossed over into Zambia causing a major refugee problem in our country. Most of these refugees do so while fleeing away from the ferocious Portuguese troops. It is the Government of Portugal which is

responsible for this state of affairs and not the Government of Zambia. No less than three thousand refugees are known to have crossed the border from Angola into Zambia - not at the invitation of the Zambian Government. The Zambian Government has rightly offered political asylum to all refugees in accordance with the international refugee agreement. It is, therefore, unjustifiable and irresponsible to accuse the Zambian Government of "allowing activities in its territory by individuals who commit acts of aggression against the Portuguese Government." No Zambian citizens are known to be carrying out or have carried out any activities against the Portuguese territories. Such activities are being carried out by their own subjects who are being hunted like hares by the Portuguese troops, but not from Zambian soil.

The Portuguese Government has gone further to warn the Government of Zambia and to draw the attention of the Government of Zambia, and I quote, "to the necessity of putting an end to such activities, in accordance with the written commitments which it assumed, and to conform with the principle of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of good and peaceful neighbourliness that the same lays down." The Government of the Republic of Zambia would like to make it quite clear that at no time has it ever allowed, encouraged, or consorted with elements who carry out or wish to carry out activities against the Government of Portugal. The Government of the Republic of Zambia would like once more to draw the attention of the Government of Portugal to the fact that in August 1966, the Vice-President of the Republic of Zambia visited and addressed refugees in camps, and clearly, and firmly informed all refugees that they were not to carry out any activities against the neighbours of Zambia, they were being offered only political asylum as refugees. He stressed the fact that if anyone should be found carrying out political activities in Zambia he would be dealt with severely. This remains the avowed policy of the Government of Zambia to date.

In the light of this clear policy it is, therefore, hard to understand why the Government of Portugal should accuse the Government of Zambia of aiding, supporting, and allowing its territory to be used by those who wish to carry out activities against Portuguese territories. It is hard to understand why the Government of Portugal adopts an aggressive attitude whenever the Government of Zambia draws the attention of that Government to an infringement of Zambia's

territorial integrity which can be proved, instead of co-operating. Obviously Portuguese intelligence of the activities of their own subjects who are fighting for freedom and independence is somehow at fault. They appear to assume, without valid evidence, that these African leaders are supported by the Zambian Government. This is not the way to solve their own internal problems. In any event there can be no peace in Portuguese territories as long as that Government continues to give a deaf ear to the will of the majority. It must be made clear here that Zambia stands for complete decolonisation, freedom, self-determination and independence for all the people of Africa.

The denial of the incident which occurred between the 21st and 22nd of November to which I drew the attention of the Government of Portugal has come as a surprise for it is a fact, an unrefutable fact. The Zambian officers in charge of the area were eye witnesses to the Portuguese activities and in his report the Resident Secretary says, and I quote, "On the afternoon of 22 November I received a report that the Portuguese had attacked and bombed a village known as Musala in the Chimandumba section of Chavuma area. I was accompanied by the Officer in Charge, Zambia Police, Balovale, the District Secretary and his Assistant. On my way to this place I received another report saying that the people of Chavuma had gathered together and wanted to travel to Balovale to protest against inadequate Government protection."

"Chingi is a new border post which is just being built. As I was approaching this post I saw a Portuguese landrover carrying armed soldiers coming in our direction. As they approached these soldiers pointed their rifles at us. Chingi villagers told me that the Portuguese soldiers had planned to bomb the village that night so I told them to evacuate the village. The Portuguese soldiers then went inside Zambia to inspect their target. When they left, I went to Musala which is about four miles east of Chingi. I found that this village had been machine gunned and bombed with nine hand grenades. On inspection of the village I found the following articles:-

- 13 - 303 live ammunition
- 63 - 303 empty shells
- 134 - 9 mm empty shells
- 1 magazine containing 24 live 9 mm ammunition
- 2 live hand grenades

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1 empty shell of unidentified glass and half a pair of canvas shoes of the type which are used by the Portuguese soldiers."

"Musala houses had several bullet holes in their walls. One house was set on fire and was completely damaged and its occupant was shot in the foot."

I regret to inform you that while the Portuguese Government were busy refuting the incident of 22 November 1966, on 20 December 1966, Portuguese troops shot and killed a Zambian citizen inside Zambia in Kalabo area by the name of Chindano Kangombe, while he was hunting. On 22 December 1966, another man Josiah Kakusa, was shot and wounded inside Zambia at Bowensoko village in the same area. And again on 23 December 1966, a Zambian villager named Samusamba was shot and killed by Portuguese troops. Thirty-one spent shells were left in the village. Up to 27 December 1966 Portuguese soldiers were known to be still in Kemba village in Zambia. It is a known fact that Portuguese incursions into Zambian territory are occurring almost daily. As a precautionary measure and in order to protect Zambian citizens against any further attacks the Zambian Government has dispatched a small contingent of militiamen to guard and protect the border and to meet any eventualities.

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

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) J.B. MWEMBA  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of  
Zambia to the United Nations

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