

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/7605
1 December 1966

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 1 DECEMBER 1966 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour, on instructions from my Government, to inform you of yet another case of territorial violation and provocative action by Portugal against the United Republic of Tanzania.

On 29 November 1966 at approximately 0500 hours, Portuguese military personnel crossed the Mozambique-Tanzania border and entered the territory of the United Republic at a village called Mahurunga in Mtwara District. They laid anti-personnel mines on roadways which later exploded causing the instant death of four persons of Tanzania nationality and severely wounding five others.

It should be noted that this is not the first such incident which has occurred as a result of Portugal's policy of provocation and aggression against African States. Earlier incidents have been reported to the United Nations by my Government through Your Excellency, and by other African States. Some of these incidents, as is known, have been the subject of recent discussion and action by the Security Council.

It need hardly be stressed that such provocative acts would not have occurred were Portugal not able to base its activities in neighbouring territories, which she occupies against the will of the African inhabitants thereof, and only serve to increase the need for early and effective action to eliminate this danger to regional and international peace and security.

My Government takes the most serious view of this latest incident, for which the Government of Portugal will have to bear the full responsibility of any consequences.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a Security Council document.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) John W.S. Malecela
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the United
Republic of Tanzania

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