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LETTER DATED 12 DECEMBER 1966 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, a.i.,
OF PORTUGAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With reference to the letter of the Permanent Mission of Zambia, of 5 December 1966, I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the allegations made in that document are totally without foundation, and therefore the Portuguese Government categorically denies the accusations made and rejects any responsibility.

The Portuguese Government avows itself surprised with the accusations made and wishes to stress that it was the Government of Zambia who allowed and continued to allow illicit activities in its territory, by individuals who commit acts of aggression against Portuguese territory, as has been pointed out by the Portuguese Government to the Government of Zambia on more than one occasion.

The Government of Portugal cannot, therefore, refrain from drawing, once more, the attention of the Government of Zambia to the necessity of putting an end to such activities, in accordance with the written commitments which it assumed, and of conforming with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of good and peaceful neighbourliness that the same lays down. Otherwise the relations between Zambia and Portugal will be affected, and in these circumstances the Government of Portugal, as of now, rejects all responsibility for the damage which the interests of the Republic of Zambia might suffer. In this respect the Government of Portugal wishes to recall the exchange of Notes made between the Governments of Zambia and Portugal, on 29 September 1966 and 21 October last, and to remind the Government of Zambia of the consequences, stated in the Portuguese Note, that can result from the hostile position assumed by land-locked countries towards the Portuguese territories and their legitimate interests.

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

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) António PATRICIO
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.