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UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/10053
22 December 1970
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 22 DECEMBER 1970 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF SENEGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that I carefully read document S/10045 of 19 December 1970 reproducing a letter from the representative of the Republic of Guinea and that on behalf of my Government I note with surprise the following in the message of President Ahmed Sékou Touré: "Large military formations are massed along our frontiers with Portuguese Guinea and Senegal".

I should like to point out that on 22 November 1970, on the night of the invasion of the Republic of Guinea, I proceeded without hesitation - and I was the only one to do so that evening - to take a place at the Security Council table, with your permission, in order to register my country's full support for the Government and people of Guinea, whose security was endangered. I did so on the basis of the document made public by the Secretary-General, which he had received through Mr. Hoffman from the UNDP representative at Conakry. I did not wait, as some complained, until proof positive of the invasion was available in order to come before you with high-flown or demagogic speeches. No one can gainsay this attitude of solidarity which I have always adopted towards Guinea in the United Nations in keeping with my Government's instructions.

We take this attitude not only because Senegal and Guinea are targets of Portugal's regular armed forces but also because of the historical, social and geographical bonds which have traditionally linked our two countries. Indeed, we have founded a sub-regional group known as the Organization of the Senegal Riparian States (OERS).

The Guinean authorities know perfectly well that our villages in the southern part of the country are subjected almost daily to Portuguese shelling, pillage and looting.

You will recall that on three occasions Senegal requested a meeting of the Security Council to bring to its knowledge grave acts committed against it by the Portuguese authorities.

Quite recently, on 16 December, members of the Security Council and General Assembly were informed, through a letter which I addressed to you and which you were good enough to have circulated, of acts of Portuguese aggression against Senegal.

Just after the invasion, the Senegalese delegation with others from OERS went to express by word of mouth its sympathy and support for the Republic of Guinea. President Ahmed Sékou Touré made a point of thanking President Senghor in very warm terms.

At the special Foreign Ministers meeting of the Organization of African Unity held at Lagos, Nigeria, the Senegalese delegation strongly supported the Guinean cause.

The friendly and fraternal relations existing between our two Heads of State, our Governments, our peoples and our two missions in New York should have urged prudence and in any case should have required more reliable information before those interested in dividing us were offered such an opportunity for rejoicing.

Be that as it may, my Government is of the view that the reports given out by Radio Conakry are extremely serious since they cast suspicion, within the international community, on the sincerity of its position.

How can anyone believe for a moment that Senegal, itself a victim of grave acts of Portuguese aggression, might be used as a drill-ground for Portuguese or for mercenaries preparing to invade Guinea, a country which suffers from Portuguese colonialism as much as does Senegal?

The Republic of Guinea has an embassy at Dakar. How can the Guinean authorities believe a report from "a Guinean living at Dakar", when the members of their diplomatic mission beginning with its chief did not, as far as we know, transmit the allegations broadcast by Radio Conakry?

It is for these various reasons that on behalf of my Government I submit an emphatic and indignant protest against the Radio Conakry news reports.

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Lastly, my Government and the Senegalese people sincerely regret that manifestly groundless reports of the kind broadcast by Radio Conakry should give credit to rumours of an adverse internal situation in Guinea, rumours which my Government has always rejected and will continue to reject unless and until there is reason to act otherwise.

I should be grateful, Sir, if you would arrange to have this letter circulated as a Security Council document, and I extend to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Ibrahima BOYE
