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LETTER DATED 26 NOVEMBER 1964 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the statement on the Congo situation issued by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on 25 November, in terms similar to those of the letter addressed to you on 25 November by the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Referring to the Soviet statement the Foreign Office issued the following statement in London today:

"Her Majesty's Government of course reject the terms of this statement. The description given in it of the rescue operation is far from the truth. Her Majesty's Government have made it clear that this operation was a humanitarian one designed solely to rescue civilians held prisoner in Stanleyville, including a number of women and children. Her Majesty's Government were asked for, and granted, certain facilities, including the right to stage through Ascension Island, and the operation only took place in view of the refusal of the rebel leaders to give guarantees of the safety of the civilians in Stanleyville or to treat them in accordance with the normally accepted rules of war."

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a Security Council document.

I avail myself, etc.

(Signed) (CARADON)