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LETTER DATED 23 NOVEMBER 1964 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ITALY ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the very serious and impending danger threatening a number of foreign civilians in Stanleyville, including about 100 Italian citizens. These are persons who are actually being mistreated in violation of the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, in spite of the fact that they are in no way connected with the present conflict in the Congo and have never committed any acts that might be construed as interference which could justify their present detention.

For these reasons the Italian Government has given its full support to the highly humanitarian initiative of Prime Minister Kenyatta and has joined in the appeal launched by thirteen countries with a view to allowing the International Red Cross to carry out its activity aimed at alleviating the conditions of the civilian population in all parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including those regions to which access has been denied.

The Italian Government expresses the hope that those who are responsible for the safety of civilian foreigners in Stanleyville will abide by the fundamental human rights which are the very foundation of the Charter of the United Nations and which alone can ensure peaceful conditions of living for all.

The Italian Government considers that it is its duty to bring to the attention of the members of the Security Council the seriousness of the situation and I should appreciate it, therefore, if you would circulate this letter as a document of the Council.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Piero VINCI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Italy
to the United Nations