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LETTER DATED 23 NOVEMBER 1964 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to refer to our conversation today concerning the situation in the Congo and to confirm the message which I gave Your Excellency from Her Majesty's Government.

My Government have taken note of the letters which the representatives of Belgium and the United States sent on 22 November to the President of the Security Council concerning the danger to the lives of innocent civilians in the region of Stanleyville in the Congo. The United Kingdom Government were requested to provide certain facilities in Ascension Island in connexion with the action then proposed by the Belgian and United States Governments. In the light of the humanitarian objective of this action, Her Majesty's Government granted the facilities. Her Majesty's Government are gravely disturbed at the apparent threat to the lives and safety of civilians in the rebel-held area of the Congo and sincerely hope that you and all Members of the United Nations will take what steps are open to you and to them to urge the rebels to treat these people in accordance with normally accepted rules relating to the treatment of civilians in time of conflict.

I avail myself etc.

(Signed) CARADON