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LETTER DATED 16 OCTOBER 1972 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF SENEGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following facts:

On 12 October at about 5 p.m., a unit of the regular Portuguese army, including five armoured cars, attacked a Senegalese post in the department of Velingara, in the region of Casamance: one soldier was killed, another wounded and a civilian working in his fields was also killed by a Portuguese tank during their withdrawal.

The Senegalese army intervened immediately to defend our territorial integrity which had thus been violated and forced the enemy troops to withdraw to their base at Pirada, 3 kilometres from the Senegalese border.

It will be recalled that the Security Council has already adopted several resolutions condemning Portugal for systematic acts of aggression and provocation against Senegal. But, although this latest incident is not the first that has occurred on the border between Senegal and Guinea (Bissau), it must be considered the most serious and significant, because this time a deliberately planned act of war is involved.

Thus, Portugal is still continuing its cowardly aggression against my country, once again challenging your Council and the entire world community.

Furthermore, my Government believes that, in its constant aggressive conduct towards various African countries, Portugal's main aim is to show that the United Nations is powerless and to make its highest decision-making body appear ridiculous.

In view of all these facts, therefore, on instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request that a meeting of the Security Council should be convened as a matter of urgency, in order that the matter may be considered without delay.

S/10807  
English  
Page 2

The Government of Senegal hopes that the Security Council will react suitably to this arrogant provocation.

(Signed) Médoune FALL  
Permanent Representative of Senegal  
to the United Nations

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