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LETTER DATED 13 FEBRUARY 1964 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the message sent on  
10 February 1964 by N.S. Khrushchev, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of  
the USSR, to the Prime Minister of Somalia.

I request that arrangements be made to circulate the text of the message  
as an official document of the Security Council.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) N. FEDCHENKO

MESSAGE DATED 10 FEBRUARY 1964 FROM N.S. KERUSHOEV, CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE USSR, TO ABDIRASHID ALI SHERMACHEE,  
PRIME MINISTER OF THE SOMALI REPUBLIC

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

I am distressed to learn that clashes resulting in casualties and damage to property have taken place on the frontier between Somalia and Ethiopia. I am deeply convinced - and I think you will agree - that such clashes between two neighbouring African States which have before them the major tasks of strengthening their national independence and developing their economy and culture for the good of their people, cannot serve the interests and aspirations of either party.

As I understand it, the clashes which have occurred on the frontier between Somalia and Ethiopia are connected with the fact that one party has its own interpretation regarding certain districts over which the other party is exercising sovereignty. It is true that disputes of this kind exist between many States, not only in Africa but also in other continents. Naturally, it is necessary to seek ways of settling these disputes, to find methods which would help to solve them to the satisfaction of the parties concerned. However, the Soviet Government is convinced that in our times there are no territorial disputes or unsettled frontier problems - and there cannot be any - that can only be solved by recourse to arms.

This is fully applicable to the differences concerning the frontier questions between Somalia and Ethiopia. Today, guns have gone into action, blood is being shed, and if this conflict is not snuffed out, if it is allowed to spread, who knows what it may lead to? Somalia and Ethiopia will exhaust one another in a useless war, with both sides throwing more and more soldiers, arms and material resources into the fighting. More and more lives will be lost in both Somalia and Ethiopia.

Of course, in spite of all this, elements can be found which will be only too glad to see a military conflict between two neighbouring African countries, and, what is more, will not fail to exploit an opportunity to weaken, to undermine from within, the unity of African countries in their fight against colonialism, for their independence, for their sovereignty.

It is not towards the settling of accounts with one another by force of arms, nor towards attempts to settle territorial disputes in their favour by military means but towards constructive goals that all the energy, all the forces of the African peoples should be directed. That is why I take the liberty of appealing to you to adopt all necessary measures, to do everything that is humanly possible, to bring about an immediate cease-fire along the Somali-Ethiopian frontier, and not allow the flames of a frontier conflict to turn into the conflagration of war between the Somali Republic and Ethiopia.

Deeply respecting, as I do, your statesmanship, your steadfastness in upholding the principles of peaceful co-existence of all States, I should like to express the hope that the dispute between Somalia and Ethiopia will be settled peacefully in the interests of the peoples of both countries.

As I send you this message, Mr. Prime Minister, I am addressing a similar appeal to the Emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie I.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) N. KERUSECHEV  
Chairman of the Council of Ministers  
of the USSR

Moscow, The Kremlin,  
10 February 1964

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