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LETTER DATED 7 JUNE 1965 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wish to draw your attention to an instance of gross distortion of the meaning of an important statement of the Soviet Government, issued as an official Security Council document (S/6411, dated 3 June 1965), in the translation of the statement into English. The Soviet Government said in its statement that "the imperialist forces in the United States are trying to arrogate to themselves the right to intervene under the OAS flag in the internal affairs of other Latin American States". In the translation, however, the words "under the OAS flag" were replaced by the words "under the United Nations flag". I need not emphasize the importance of the accurate translation of documents, especially of important statements by Governments, and most particularly in the Security Council, which is the principal United Nations organ for the maintenance of international peace and security.

We cannot refrain from recalling the fact that the Permanent Mission of the USSR to the United Nations has already observed in a note addressed to you on 7 April 1965, that instances of inadmissible distortion, misrepresenting the position of the Soviet Union, had recently become more frequent in the translations issued by the United Nations Secretariat. In reply to that communication, assurances were given to the effect that the United Nations Secretariat would take the necessary steps.

Unfortunately, however, we are compelled to observe not only that the situation has not improved but also that occurrences which cannot but evoke a protest from the Permanent Mission of the USSR to the United Nations are continuing to take place.

I should be grateful if you would take the necessary steps to ensure that in future there will be no distortions of the Soviet Union's position in either the interpretations or the written translations furnished by the United Nations Secretariat.

I should be grateful if you would take the necessary steps to have this letter circulated as an official Security Council document, since the distortion that occurred in the present case is of a very serious nature.

(Signed) N. FEDORENKO
