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LETTER DATED 12 SEPTEMBER 1963 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-  
GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from Mr. A. Gromyko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, in reply to your circular letter of 18 August 1963, concerning the Security Council resolution of 31 July 1963 on the situation in the territories under Portuguese administration.

Accept, etc.

Sir,

With reference to your circular letter of 19 August 1963, concerning the Security Council resolution of 31 July 1963 on the situation in the territories under Portuguese administration, I have the honour to state the following.

The Soviet Union has consistently upheld the principle of self-determination with respect to peoples still under the colonial yoke and strongly advocates the immediate and universal implementation of the General Assembly's Declaration of 14 December 1960 on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples.

With regard to the territories under Portuguese administration it is a well-known fact that Soviet representatives at the sessions of the United Nations General Assembly and the meetings of the Security Council have constantly urged that an end should be put to the harsh repressive measures carried out by the Portuguese colonialists against the indigenous inhabitants of their colonies, that the supply to Portugal of arms and military equipment, which are used by the Portuguese Government to carry on colonial wars, should cease, and that independence should be granted immediately to the peoples of the territories under Portuguese administration. The Soviet Union, specifically, voted in favour of the Security Council resolution to which you refer in your letter.

The Soviet Union has no diplomatic, consular or economic relations with Portugal. Needless to say, the Soviet Union has not supplied and is not supplying the Portuguese Government with arms or military equipment and has not given and is not giving Portugal any other kind of assistance which might be used by it for carrying out repressive measures against the peoples of the territories under Portuguese administration.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter issued as an official document of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) A. GROMYKO  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

