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ORIGINAL: FRENCHCOMMUNICATION DATED 27 AUGUST 1960 FROM THE PRESIDENT
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

I feel bound to draw your attention to the flagrant inaccuracies contained in the cable from Mr. Modibo Keita, President of the Government of the Republic of Sudan (formerly also of the Federation of Mali): (1) Under the Federal Constitution, internal security is within the exclusive competence of the federated States. A state of emergency could not, therefore, be ordered by the Federal Government for reasons unconnected with external security. Moreover, in the absence of any legislation on a state of emergency, an emergency could not legally be proclaimed in Mali. This measure consequently constituted an illegal coup de force. (2) Colonel Soumare was not legally the Chief of the General Staff of the Malian army, since his appointment had been unconstitutional. He nevertheless sought to assume control of the Senegalese security forces several days before the events. (3) Colonel Soumare's orders required him to surround the residence of President Yenghor and the Senegalese Legislative Assembly, and not solely to protect unequipped federal buildings. (4) The colonel of French nationality seconded to the gendarmerie as part of technical assistance to Mali was wholly innocent of any intervention on behalf of the French authorities. This officer never summoned Colonel Soumare, who went to the Senegalese gendarmerie headquarters of his own free will. (5) Under the Malian decree of 10 August concerning the gendarmerie service, signed by Mr. Modibo Keita himself, this service forms part of the army organized and paid for by the Federation but is placed under the exclusive authority of the Governments of the federated States. The gendarmerie was thus under the exclusive command of the Government of Senegal, which was alone competent to order it to maintain the peace. (6) It was only after the illegal calling-out of the Senegalese gendarmerie by Mr. Modibo Keita

and Colonel Soumare, and after the unconstitutional military operations ordered by this officer had begun, that the Minister of the Interior of Senegal, on orders from the Head of Government, authorized the arrest of Colonel Soumare by gendarmes. (7) It is not part of the functions of the Government of Senegal to judge the grounds for President Modibo Keita's belief that in attempting his coup de force, he could call for the assistance of French troops. The Government of Senegal, for its part, parried the coup with its own security forces alone and without calling for any outside help. (8) Senegal, having become independent through the unanimous will of its people, has available amply sufficient forces to ensure the maintenance of internal order. (9) The establishment of the capital of the Federation of Mali at Bamako is constitutionally impossible. The Senegalese Government denounces this new manoeuvre designed to conceal the fact that, as a result of the failure of the attempted Sudanese coup, the former Federation has collapsed.

(Signed) Mamadou Dia
