

# UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL



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LETTER DATED 3 JUNE 1961 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
PORTUGAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that I have received instructions from my Government to communicate the following in connexion with the convening of the 950th meeting of the Security Council.

The Portuguese Government presents a strong protest against the action of the signatories of the letter dated 26 May 1961 who, basing themselves on distorted facts and on entirely groundless accusations, intending to give an appearance of veracity to an alleged threat to international peace and security, on account of the situation existing in the northern region of the Portuguese Province of Angola, requested the inscription in the Council's agenda of a matter which pertains exclusively to the jurisdiction of the Government of Portugal, i.e., the maintenance of internal security and public order.

My Government wishes it to be emphasized that such action on the part of the proponents of the item not only disregards the provisions of Article 2 (7) of the Charter of the United Nations, but also pursues the dangerous tendency to lead the Security Council to exceed its specific powers as defined in Article 24 (2) of the Charter. Indeed, to override the provisions where the Charter defines the precise circumstances in which the Council can acquire jurisdiction and authority, as laid down in Chapters VI, VII, VIII and XII, can only bring illegality, confusion and chaos into the present and future work of the Organization.

Furthermore, all Members of the United Nations without exception must seriously consider the grave consequences of the precedent, which would be confirmed if the proposed inscription should be accepted, whereby questions of internal security and public order are presented as international disputes; the doors would be open for the discussion of any national problem, no matter how clear the exclusive jurisdiction of the Government concerned might be, even in

cases such as the present one, where a group of countries merely desired to follow a course of political propaganda and international agitation.

The Portuguese Government has no doubt that the procedure recommended is unlawful within the terms both of the Charter and of International Law; and because it does not want to remain silent in the face of an action which can only contribute to weaken the prestige of the Council, a consideration which all Members of the Organization should view with concern, the Portuguese Government has also instructed me to request Your Excellency that the Permanent Representative of Portugal, as an exceptional treatment granted by the Council in similar occasions, be heard in the discussions for the inscription of the item proposed on the Council's agenda.

I also have the honour to request Your Excellency to cause the present letter to be circulated among the members of the Council and to be good enough to call its contents to the attention of the Council, at the opening of the 950th meeting.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Vasco Vieira Garin  
Permanent Representative of Portugal

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