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QUESTION OF TERRITORIES UNDER PORTUGUESE ADMINISTRATION

Letter dated 29 November 1973 from the Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey the following telegram from the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago which was received for transmittal to you.

"A current examination of the position of Trinidad and Tobago in respect of the world "energy crisis" has revealed petroleum transactions, direct or indirect, between oil companies operating in Trinidad and Tobago and Angola contrary to the stated policy of Trinidad and Tobago. Imports of crude oil from Angola ceased in June 1973. Exports appear to have been made through an arrangement known as the West African Replenishment Programme, which is understood to be a volunteer co-ordination among the oil companies in respect of shipments to West African countries north or south of the Ivory Coast. The Cabinet of Trinidad and Tobago decided this morning to direct all oil companies operating in the country to cease forthwith all oil transactions with Angola which involved Trinidad and Tobago, whether directly or indirectly. This prohibition will extend to any area under liberation or reclamation by Africans opposing Portuguese colonialism. Trinidad and Tobago has always opposed Portuguese colonialism in Africa, especially as a member of the Committee of Twenty-four; in a recent Cabinet decision, it announced that it would provide Trinidad facilities for Africans in anticipation of the inevitable independence of these colonial Territories in conformity with paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 312 (1972), of 4 February 1972, and paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 2918 (XXVII) of 14 November 1972. The Cabinet has decided to present to Parliament, which is now prorogued, as soon as it is reconvened, legislation to extend to Portugal, Angola and Mozambique the prohibition in force since 1967 on trade with South Africa and Rhodesia in accordance with the decision of Cabinet.

I am also sending copies of this telegram to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and to the oil companies operating in Trinidad, both to their international headquarters and to their local representatives.

Highest consideration."

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 71.

(Signed) Eustace SEIGNORET  
Permanent Representative

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