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QUESTION OF TERRITORIES UNDER PORTUGUESE ADMINISTRATION

Letter dated 28 June 1973 from the Secretary-General to the
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 18 June 1973 (A/9079) in which, under instructions from your Government, you communicated to me some comments on the working paper on Guinea (Bissau) and Cape Verde prepared by the Secretariat for the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in connexion with the examination of the question of the Territories under Portuguese administration.

After carefully studying your recent letter, I find that essentially the points it raises have been covered in my reply 1/ to your previous letter dated 19 March 1973. 2/ However, permit me to explain, once again, that the working papers which are prepared by the Secretariat under the mandate of the General Assembly merely summarize information available to it in various international and Portuguese sources. All sources used are available for consultation in the Department concerned. As to your letter's reference to Mr. Inocencio Camilo in paragraph 15 of document A/AC.109/L.844, the wording will be changed in order to reflect more clearly that the relevant sentence refers to information obtained by the competent Department. The final version of the document will read: "It was reported that Mr. Camilo had joined the PAIGC...".

I wish to emphasize once again that Secretariat members in carrying out their duties to serve the General Assembly and its Special Committee neither seek nor receive instructions from any Government or from any authority external to the Organization.

* A/9000.

1/ Circulated to the Permanent Missions of all Member States under the cover of a note verbale dated 5 April 1973.

2/ Circulated to the Permanent Missions of all Member States under the cover of a note verbale dated 30 March 1973.

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In accordance with your request, your letter will be issued as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Kurt WALDHEIM
Secretary-General
