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QUESTION OF TERRITORIES UNDER PORTUGUESE ADMINISTRATION

Letter dated 18 June 1973 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the working paper dated 24 May 1973, prepared by the Secretariat on the Portuguese Overseas Provinces of Guinea and Cape Verde, for the use of the Special Committee of Twenty-Four (A/AC.109/L.844) and to communicate to you what follows:

1. It is noted with surprise that the Secretariat, as evidenced by this document, has based its argumentation on the premise that the existence of so-called liberated areas in Portuguese Guinea has been recognized as a proven fact. In this connexion, it needs to be recalled that in May 1972 an invitation was addressed to the Secretariat, on behalf of the Portuguese Government, to send its representatives to Portuguese Guinea to verify this false and disputed claim of the PAIGC, and that the invitation was declined. Thus, the position now assumed by the Secretariat in preparing this document is, to say the least, paradoxical, since it is not known how the Secretariat can assume as proven a claim which is emphatically disputed and which it declined to verify.
2. Furthermore, the entire document has been prepared from a partisan, anti-Portuguese standpoint, and abounds in statements of fact, which, to the knowledge of the Secretariat, are untrue. Thus, for example, it is stated in paragraph 15 that Mr. Inocencio Camilo, the accused killer of Amilcar Cabral, "had joined the PAIGC some three years ago as a defector from the Portuguese armed forces". No attempt is made to explain on what authority this statement of the alleged previous connexion of that individual with the Portuguese armed forces is now made. The Permanent Mission of Portugal, in press release No. 2/73 dated 1 February 1973, issued a clear and unequivocal statement to the effect that "at no time has he held any post in the Portuguese armed forces; nor has he been in any other manner connected with the administration of Portuguese Guinea".

* A/9000.

3. This press release along with other pertinent documents concerning the death of Amilcar Cabral were sent by the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by letter dated 5 March 1973, and were circulated to all delegations by the Secretary-General's note verbale TR 100 (2)POTE of 8 March 1973, and also issued as OPI press release NV/332 of 12 March 1973. It seems therefore all the more difficult to understand the reason why the Secretariat prefers to persist in stating as fact what it knows to be false.

4. The Permanent Mission of Portugal cannot refrain from once again drawing attention to the openly partisan character of the work done by the Secretariat, in clear contravention of the provisions of the United Nations Charter in this respect.

5. I shall appreciate it if Your Excellency directs that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) António PATRICIO
Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations
