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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN
AS A ZONE OF PEACE

Letter of 11 March 1974 to the Secretary-General from the Permanent
Representative of Madagascar to the United Nations

I have the honour to transmit to you the attached copy of a communiqué from the Malagasy Government concerning the United States-United Kingdom project to expand port and air installations on the island of Diego-Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

I would be grateful if you would circulate the communiqué as an official document of the General Assembly under the agenda item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace".

(Signed) Blaise RABETAFIKA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/9600.

ANNEX

Communiqué from the Government of Madagascar

The Government of the Malagasy Republic is profoundly concerned by the announcement of the United States-United Kingdom project to expand port and air installations on the island of Diego-Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

This project, which would include the construction of a large fuel tank, the expansion of the port and the extension of the 2,400-metre runway, would make Diego-Garcia a sizable air and naval base in the Indian Ocean.

The project is aimed at counterbalancing growing activities and Soviet naval expansion in the Indian Ocean should the Suez Canal reopen.

In view of this situation, the Government of the Malagasy Republic, true to its policy of peace and non-alignment and of national integrity and independence, in accordance with the spirit of the United Nations Charter, of the non-aligned countries and of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and in conformity with General Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971 entitled "Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace" and General Assembly resolution 3080 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973 of which Madagascar was a sponsor:

1. Denounces the project, considering it likely to be seriously prejudicial to peace and security in the Indian Ocean.
2. Reaffirms its most vehement opposition to any policy of "zone of influence" and hegemony and also to any construction of military bases outside national territory.
3. Appeals to all the forces of peace and progress throughout the world, particularly to the non-aligned countries and to the members of the OAU, to bring pressure to bear on the United States of America and the United Kingdom so that they abandon their project.
4. Requests all the great Powers and the "super-Powers" to do everything they can to strengthen peace and security in the zone of the Indian Ocean - which has so far escaped military conflict - particularly at a time when active efforts are being made to restore peace and tranquillity in the neighbouring area of the Middle East.
