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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Letter dated 21 November 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
Madagascar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a telegram, dated 19 November 1979, addressed to you by His Excellency the President of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for it to be circulated to Member States as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 18.

(Signed) Blaise RABETAFIKA

ANNEX

Telegram dated 19 November from the President of the
Democratic Republic of Madagascar to the Secretary-
General

1. We have just received from the United States Government an aide-mémoire setting out the reasons which impel the United States to increase considerably the offensive military potential of Morocco through deliveries of sophisticated weapons. Respect for the right of peoples and the future of peace in Africa make it a duty for me to inform you of our serious concern at this action.
2. In our view, the United States initiative is designed, in the first place, to perpetuate the occupation of the territory of the Democratic Saharan Arab Republic by Morocco, thus implicitly acknowledging the successes of the heroic armed resistance of the Saharan people against all who seek to flout its right to self-determination. The unjustifiable increase in American military aid is also detrimental to peace and justice in the region because, in addition to impeding one of the last processes of decolonization in Africa, this delivery of arms, perhaps accompanied by "advisers", seems to us likely to cause an internationalization of the conflict, which Morocco would clearly like to extend to its neighbours, particularly Algeria, which to our knowledge has no territorial claim on the Sahara and has never threatened the Kingdom of Morocco. The bellicose impulses of the Moroccan leaders and their repeatedly expressed expansionist tendencies could not receive better encouragement.
3. Lastly, we cannot fail to mention that the United States action comes at a time when the Heads of State of OAU and of the non-aligned movement, and the General Assembly of the United Nations, have just adopted a clear and appropriate position on the question of Western Sahara, recalling once again that what is involved is a problem of decolonization, the only solution of which is self-determination for the Saharan people - a solution for which the POLISARIO Front has been working since its establishment.
4. In view of this disturbing situation and its foreseeable consequences, it seems to us urgent and important that you should call on the States Members of the United Nations to combine their efforts with a view to preventing the United States from taking such a decision and inducing it to rethink its position on the problem of the Sahara and on the decolonization of Africa in general; for it is difficult to see how, on the one hand, the United States Government can make an additional sale of modern weapons to Morocco after the General Assembly of the United Nations has taken a position on the question of the Sahara while, on the other hand, the same Government asserts that, along with the rest of the international community, the United States does not recognize Morocco's claims to sovereignty over Western Sahara.

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5. Knowing your unfailing respect for the right of self-determination of peoples, and appreciating your untiring efforts for peace, we are sure that you will give your best attention to the concerns we have expressed in this telegram.

(Signed) Didier RATSIRAKA
President of the Democratic
Republic of Madagascar