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UN Doc. ID: A/34/597  
Distr.  
GENERAL

S/13018  
11 January 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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NOTE VERBALE DATED 10 JANUARY 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT  
MISSION OF MOZAMBIQUE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED  
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to submit herewith a letter from His Excellency, Mr. Joaquim Alberto Chissano, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Mozambique, and a communiqué issued by the Ministry of National Defense regarding the escalation of acts of aggression perpetrated by the illegal racist régime of Ian Smith and his puppets against the People's Republic of Mozambique.

Annex I

Letter dated 9 January 1979 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of Mozambique addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit herewith, for your information and for taking appropriate measures, a communiqué issued by my Government on 5 January 1979, following the escalation of armed aggression perpetrated by the régime of Ian Smith against the People's Republic of Mozambique.

These acts of aggression have, by now, taken the form of an invasion, thereby creating an atmosphere conducive to the escalation of military confrontation in southern Africa and, therefore, endangering world peace and security.

I would be very grateful if you would circulate the attached communiqué as a Security Council document.

The People's Republic of Mozambique hopes that Your Excellency will undertake appropriate measures to request the support of the international community for our country to enable us to repel the invasion, ensure peace and security throughout the territory and continue to comply with our international right in accordance with the spirit of the Charter and the decisions of the United Nations.

(Signed) Joaquim Alberto CHISSANO  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
People's Republic of Mozambique

Annex II

Communiqué issued by the Ministry of National Defense

Aggression by Rhodesian forces against our country is, at present, being escalated.

This series of acts of aggression comprises air raids, intensive air incursions in preparation for new aggressions and attacks by groups of enemy agents parachuted and helicoptered against civilian and economic targets: railroads, convoys, sabotaging bridges and roads, public transportation, communication systems, killing men, women and children, kidnapping harmless civilians.

The crimes perpetrated by the enemy and its agents have escalated in order to create a climate of panic and fear among the civilian population. The most clear examples are the bombing near inhabited regions, such as major cities in the provinces of Tete, Manica and Sofala, the sabotage of the Beira-Moatize railroad in the M'Cito region, near the frontier with Malawi, and the terrorist and savage attack against a passenger bus in Inchope region, during which 14 civilians were killed and 17 wounded.

Tete

1. On 17 December 1978, an enemy group destroyed the bridge on the Mutarara-Moatize railroad, 8 kilometres from M'Cito, near the frontier with Malawi. The locomotive and four cars fell into M'Combezi River, resulting in three people dead and two wounded. The bridge was destroyed. This operation was carried out by a group of eight mercenaries, of which six were white. The group spoke English and had an interpreter.
2. On 20 December 1978 a convoy of PFLM vehicles was bombed by enemy aircraft in Changara Province.
3. On 23 December 1978, an enemy group attacked with hand grenades our positions at the crossing between Zobwe and Angonia.
4. An enemy group was parachuted into Chinhanda Province on 24 December 1978 between Jeque and Mereque. Two children were killed in Jeque.
5. Five people were killed and four wounded on 27 December 1978 during an enemy air attack at the Zambezi River banks near the city of Tete.

### Manica

1. At 3 a.m., on 12 November 1978, the enemy launched an air invasion and parachuted men from 14 helicopters protected by four "Mirage" airplanes.
2. On 29 November 1978, the enemy bombed PFLM positions at Espungabera. Our forces repelled this attack, shooting down one plane, which crashed at Mount Chilinda at the frontier.
3. On 29 November 1978, the enemy bombed a gasoline tank four kilometres from the city of Chimoio. The tank exploded and two vehicles were destroyed.
4. On 28 December 1978, the enemy attacked our positions at Mavonde. During this attack, our forces captured the leader of the enemy group.
5. On 20 December 1978, the enemy ambushed a column of our forces between Guro and Changara. Three vehicles were destroyed by air attack. The same day, enemy aircraft bombed Guro district.
6. On 24 December 1978, a group of terrorist enemy agents was parachuted into Mavita region. They destroyed and pillaged a commune, burning 11 tractors, 3 Land-Rovers, 1 truck, 1 motorcycle and 1 bicycle, and stole a sum of money to be used for payment of salaries for workers.
7. On 28 December 1978, a group of enemy agents planted explosives in the railroad between Sofala and Manica in Inchope Province. Two cars were destroyed. The damages have already been repaired.
8. On 28 December 1978, a group of enemy agents attacked a civilian bus at Inchope, killing 20 people. Some passengers were also wounded, and their belongings were stolen.

### Sofala

1. On 18 December 1978, a hand grenade exploded in the Restaurant Oceana in Beira, killing four people instantly.
2. On 29 December 1978, at 2 p.m., the Rhodesian air force launched a terrorist attack against a refugee camp in Nhangau region, district of Beira. Seven refugees were killed. An enemy airplane was shot down.

### Gaza

1. On 17 December 1978, the enemy launched a land attack in Vouga region.
2. On 18 December 1978, an enemy unit attacked Machaila and Chipirrie regions, two PFLM were wounded. The prompt counter-action by our forces forced the enemy to run away, leaving behind various war matériel.

3. On 21 December 1978, the enemy forces launched a violent attack against our forces at Lagoa, 7 kilometres from Chicualacuala.

4. On 22 December 1978, enemy "Mirage" jets heavily bombed Mapai, wounding five of our soldiers. Our forces reacted and shot down three enemy planes.

The PFLM reaffirms its determination to continue, with every possible means and without hesitation, ignoring sacrifices, under the leadership of FRELIMO and the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique and its Commander-in-Chief, President Samora Moises Machel, to fight for the defence of the national independence, the integrity of the country and the revolution.

A LUTA CONTINUA

Maputo, 5 January 1979

To acquaint you with FRELIMO's attitude in this situation, I have the honour to send you, as well, a statement issued also on 5 January 1979 by the Permanent Political Committee of FRELIMO:

Mozambican people,

Our country is being deliberately attacked by imperialism, who, in order to perpetrate its crimes, utilizes its faithful agent, the illegal régime of the British colony of Southern Rhodesia.

Since the last week of November until today there have been repeated acts of aggression and provocations by the enemy against the provinces of Tete, Manica, Sofala and Gaza.

The enemy has launched attacks by air, transported troops by helicopters, paratroopers, and infiltrated groups of mercenaries and terrorists.

They have attacked our communication system - railroads, bridges, telephone lines; transportation system - convoys, civilian buses, trucks; production system - tractors, agricultural equipment. PFLM installations - garrisons, warehouses - have been bombed by enemy jets. Civilian property has been pillaged and destroyed, and money of civilians stolen.

Men, women and children have been kidnapped and murdered; soldiers of Defence and Security Forces have died for the defence of the country.

People engaged in economic and social projects have been the target of deliberate attacks by the enemy in the frontier zones.

The intensification of these attacks, now reaching zones near the major cities in the provinces, the use of jets and helicopters, napalm bombs and explosive bombs of high potential destruction, have shown an escalation of the acts of aggression against our people which can result in a total war.

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The hideous and barbaric crimes perpetrated against the lives and property of the civilian population show the cruel attempt to spread panic and fear and to force our people to capitulate.

By these actions, the racist Rhodesians have been shown to be followers of the barbaric methods of the Portuguese colonialists and imperialists throughout the world. They will have the same fate.

Why do the racists attack us?

We cannot say that this act of aggression is perpetrated by the racist Rhodesians alone. "Mirage" jets are beginning to be used in air attacks against us. American helicopters of modern manufacture have been delivered to Rhodesia.

We are attacked by imperialism. It attacks us, hiding behind the mask of the racist régime in Rhodesia.

It attacks us because we refuse to betray and to sell the people of Zimbabwe.

It attacks us because in our country the schools are ours, the health service serves the people, exploitation of men by men has been eliminated.

It attacks us because the people have the power and the desire to develop their economy in order to improve their lives.

They attack newborn socialism to prove that socialism is no good. They attack our freedom to show to the oppressed people in southern Africa that racist tyranny is the strongest.

They want to destroy the example given by our People's Republic.

What must we do?

We are stronger than the racists. We are stronger than imperialism.

The Portuguese colonialists were also an imperialist tool, and they had even more soldiers and planes than the Rhodesian régime. They were defeated by our people. They were defeated by our people's unity, determination, organization and initiative under the leadership of FRELIMO.

We will now defeat this new act of aggression.

We will defeat it by organizing our defence, the protection of our houses, of our property, of our equipment, our convoys, our trucks, our buses, our tractors, our telephone lines, our roads, our bridges, our railroads.

We will repair immediately each thing destroyed. Each town, each people's assembly, must organize itself to defend and rebuild its region.

We will increase our production to meet the goals of our plan. We will guarantee the outflow of our production. We will guarantee the provisions and supplies.

Let us apply the resolutions of the fourth session of the Central Committee of our Party.

The Mozambican youth must join forces to defend our country and our economy, to reconstruct the devastated regions, to develop and increase production.

Our State will make the necessary laws rapidly to suppress severely the mercenaries and terrorists who are paid by racists and imperialists to perpetrate the most hideous crimes against our people.

The Party and the State will support the organization and the work of the populations which are most threatened.

The PFLM, the security forces, will intensify their fighting to annihilate completely the aggressors and their lackeys, and to neutralize the desperate imperialist attempt to provoke a general war in southern Africa.

By punishing severely the enemy who attacks us and reinforcing the support for the people of Zimbabwe, we defend our country, we defend peace and guarantee our progress.

A LUTA CONTINUA

The revolution will win.

Socialism will triumph.

Maputo, 5 January 1979