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NOTE VERBALE DATED 1 DECEMBER 1977 FROM THE PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF MOZAMBIQUE TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to bring to his urgent attention the information contained in three documents annexed to this letter which relate to the latest attacks perpetrated against the People's Republic of Mozambique by the armed forces of the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia.

The documents show the large scale of the attacks and the disastrous human and material consequences caused by these latest criminal acts of the Ian Smith régime.

Indeed, by launching constant aggressions against Mozambique, Ian Smith is not only challenging the international community but is demonstrating his systematic refusal to accepting a negotiated solution of the Rhodesian problem. Moreover, by violating the territory of a sovereign State, where his troops have barbarically massacred defenceless civilians, mostly children and women, Ian Smith intends to internationalize the conflict between his régime and the people of Zimbabwe.

It is regrettable that Ian Smith's action is backed by some countries which violate not only the sanctions decreed by the international community against the Smith régime but also the air space of Mozambique. Such is the case of the plane from an African country which has frequently violated Mozambican territory to serve purposes contrary to the decision of Security Council resolution 253 (1968). The Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique cannot but deplore this fact, because, while the United Nations is seeking a solution to the problem of Zimbabwe, some of its Member States are creating further difficulties to the solution of such a problem.

The international community should not remain indifferent to the aggressions a United Nations Member State has been victim of. It should pay special attention to this situation, taking adequate measures with a view to implementing the decisions contained in Security Council resolution 411 (1977) which, inter alia, called for assistance to increase the defensive capability of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

The international community is urgently requested to provide substantial humanitarian support to the Zimbabwean refugees, whose difficulties have been increased as a result of these murderous attacks. They need without delay medicines, clothing, food-stuffs and shelter.

The Permanent Representative would like to mention that as of 30 November the Ian Smith forces which launched the latest attack on Mozambique were still operating inside Mozambican territory, continuing their acts of aggression. A Government delegation is touring the affected region to collect all possible information on the casualties and losses suffered by the population. A further report will be sent to the Secretary-General on this matter as soon as the delegation completes its investigation.

The Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of Mozambique is confident that the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Security Council, will find the best solution to deal with the situation faced by Mozambique - a solution that will contribute to establishing peace and justice in that region of the African continent.

The Government of Mozambique would be grateful if this communication circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) José Carlos LOBO  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative of the People's Republic  
of Mozambique to the United Nations

Annex I

Text of a communication received from Maputo on 3 November 1977  
concerning Rhodesian attacks against Mozambique

In total disregard of world public opinion, after last May, a month about whose events we informed the Security Council, Ian Smith's criminal troops continued their attacks on various places of our country.

In the Province of Gaza they violated the border 34 times, between May and October 1977, and attacked the border regions of Mapai, Wenezi, Combomuni, Chicualacuala, Muzamani.

During these attacks they killed 46 persons, wounded 27 and destroyed railway wagons and houses.

In the Province of Manica they violated the border 24 times and attacked the districts of Rowela, Mavonde, Mavuzi, Chazuca, Musurizi, Vila Manica, Lusito, Gogoi, Espungabera, Penhalonga, Rotandan and Luenha.

There were killed 7 persons, and 10 were wounded; they destroyed 3 shops, 1 school, some houses of the civilian population.

The attacks were carried out by planes which bombed in support of armoured cars.

In the Province of Tete they violated the border 47 times and attacked the border regions of Mucumbura, Estima, Cuchamane, Chioco, Gento, Chinhaga, Zumbo, Magoe and Changara, and killed 32 persons and wounded 11.

The intruding troops destroyed 1 mill, 5 small boats, civilian houses, including 1 hospital, 1 school, 4 shops, 4 concrete houses used by functionaries and 503 huts. They burned 3,000 sacks of maize and cattle. The attacks were carried out by air and by land.

To sum up, between May and October, there were 105 border violations; 85 persons killed and 48 wounded; 507 houses destroyed or burned; 7 shops, 2 schools and 2 hospitals destroyed; and 3,000 sacks of maize burned.

Our forces have been resisting with courage and repelling the aggressors on all fronts, but, due to the obstinacy of Ian Smith, the attacks are repeated.

Ian Smith intends to make the world believe that he controls the internal situation, whereas the reality is that the Zimbabwean people's fight, led by the Patriotic Front, is intensifying.

Annex II

Official communiqué issued on 29 November 1977 by the People's  
Republic of Mozambique on the latest Rhodesian aggression

On 23 November, at 07<sup>45</sup>, the armed forces of the British colony of Southern Rhodesia unleashed a large-scale attack on a refugees' transit centre situated 20 kilometres to the north-east of the town of Chimoio, between the Maparangue and Mumbenzi Mountains.

This centre, in which there are exclusively civilians, is meant for receiving the refugees before they are distributed to the various camps. The enemy attacked with jet bombers, which dropped drums of napalm and fragmentation bombs. The bombings continued until the afternoon of 24th instant.

Ten helicopters and two DC-3 planes dropped parachutists and many times landed troops. The helicopters further carried out machine-gunning operations on the ground. The enemy attack had as its fundamental objective the deliberate massacre of defenceless civilians. There were found victims placed in groups of three inside petrol drums and machine-gunned.

The corpses were mined. Groups of persons tied and killed with bayonets were found.

Until now there were traced a total of 85 corpses, 55 of which were of children, 21 women and the remaining 9 men. Eight persons are still missing. The number of wounded reached 534, of which 234 still need medical assistance and whose majority are women and children. Three Mozambican civilians were wounded by the criminal aggressors.

Our forces started a campaign of search and pursuit of the disembarked enemy troops, forcing them to retreat by air. Likewise, our troops extended protection to the victims, having succeeded in saving over 2,000 refugees.

The fact that the enemy seized the refugee camp in the beginning prevented our forces from using powerful means which would endanger the lives of the refugees.

It must be pointed out that the civilian population, within their dynamising groups and democratic mass organizations, offered a big help to the victims.

Annex III

Official communiqué issued on 29 November 1977 by the Government  
of the People's Republic of Mozambique on the shooting down of a  
foreign plane violating Mozambican national territory

On 26 November, at about 0625 p.m., in the Province of Tete and to the east of Zumbo, a DC-4 plane with the registration number 90 CAM was shot down by the People's Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique (FPLM) as it illegally overflew the territory of the People's Republic of Mozambique, coming from the British colony of Southern Rhodesia.

The plane belongs to the "African Lux" airline, which has its headquarters in the Republic of Zaire and, according to the registration inscription 90 CAM, it is registered in that African State.

In violation of the sanctions decreed by the international community, the plane was transporting 8,500 kilograms of frozen meat from Rhodesia for the "Cafrigel Company" of Lumumbashi, in Zaire.

The plane had landed in Salisbury at 0600 a.m. on 26th instant and had taken off at 0430 p.m. local time.

In accordance with the first informations, this was the fourth flight (trip) effected by that plane in November transporting meat between Salisbury and Lumumbashi.

The captured pilots, Leopold Mouzon and Jean-Pierre Nibolle, declared being Belgian citizens.

The People's Republic of Mozambique wished to remind that on 3 March 1976, in accordance with United Nations decisions, in a communication made by the President of the Republic and transmitted to all OAU and United Nations Members, she closed all her borders with the British colony of Southern Rhodesia and that, in the same communication, she expressly prohibited overflying the national territory by any plane bound for, coming from or stopping over in the rebel colony.

This determination was communicated by the aeronautic authorities to all their counterparts, by the normal channels.

At no time did the People's Republic of Mozambique receive any request for overflying her territory by the plane 90 CAM; nor did the plane at any time contact the radio stations of the national aeronautics.

Therefore, this is a deliberate violation of the national territory with the intention of perpetrating yet another violation, that of the sanctions decreed by the United Nations.

The inquest continues.