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LETTER DATED 11 JULY 1963 ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ALGERIA, BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CHAD, CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE), CONGO (LEOPOLDVILLE), DAHOMEY, ETHIOPIA, GABON, GHANA, GUINEA, IVORY COAST, LIBERIA, LIBYA, MADAGASCAR, MALI, MAURITANIA, MOROCCO, NIGER, NIGERIA, RWANDA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, SOMALIA, SUDAN, TANGANYIKA, TCGO, TUNISIA, UGANDA, UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC AND UPPER VOLTA

On the instructions of our respective Governments, we, the undersigned, have the honour to request you to convene, at the earliest possible date, a meeting of the Security Council to consider the situation in the territories under Portuguese domination.

The state of war prevailing in some of these territories following the persistent refusal of Portugal to comply with the provisions of resolution 1514 (XV) of the General Assembly of the United Nations and particularly those contained in the resolution of the Security Council dated 9 June 1961, constitutes a definite breach of peace and security in the African continent as well as a threat to international peace and security.

The extreme gravity of the situation thus created has been a matter of deep concern to the Heads of State and Governments of the Independent African States who adopted at the Conference of Addis Ababa from 22-25 May 1963 on this question the important provisions contained in the resolution embodied in the explanatory memorandum attached to this letter.

Please accept, etc.

For the Government of Algeria

For the Government of Burundi

For the Government of Cameroon

For the Government of Central African Republic

For the Government of Chad

(Signed by)

R. ECUDJAKDJI

G. NYANGOMA

B. BINDZI

GALLIN-DOUATHE

(Illegible)

For the Government of the Congo
(Brazzaville)

For the Government of the Congo
(Leopoldville)

For the Government of Dahomey

For the Government of Ethiopia

For the Government of Gabon

For the Government of Ghana

For the Government of Guinea

For the Government of Ivory Coast

For the Government of Liberia

For the Government of Libya

For the Government of Madagascar

For the Government of Mali

For the Government of Mauritania

For the Government of Morocco

For the Government of Niger

... For the Government of Nigeria

For the Government of Rwanda

For the Government of Senegal

For the Government of Sierra Leone

For the Government of Somalia

For the Government of Sudan

For the Government of Tanganyika

For the Government of Togo

For the Government of Tunisia

For the Government of Uganda

For the Government of United Arab Republic

For the Government of Upper Volta

(Signed by)

Elie DINGA

T. IDZUMBUIR

H. ACHARD

Kifle WODAJO

Aristide ISSEMBE

Nathan A. QUAO

DIALLO Telli

A. Assouan USHER

Nathan BARNES

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S.O. ADEBO

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A.K. KPONVI

Mahmoud MESTIRI

E. NDAWULA

Mohamed H. EL-ZAYYAT

John B. KABORE

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Heads of African States and Governments meeting in Addis Ababa from the 22nd to the 25th of May, 1963, having been seriously concerned about the situation prevailing in the territories under Portuguese administration.

The Government of Portugal persists in its refusal to comply with the provisions of the Declaration of the granting of independence to countries and peoples under colonial domination as contained in the resolution 1542 (XV) of December 15th, 1960 of the General Assembly of the United Nations. It continues to ignore the relevant provisions of resolutions 1542 (XV) of December 15th, 1960, 1603 (XV) of April 20th, 1961, 1654 (XVI) of November 25th, 1961, creating therefore a continuing source of international conflict and tension which is a serious threat to international peace and security.

The Security Council has already considered particularly the situation in Angola and adopted on June 9th, 1961, a resolution reaffirming its conviction that "the continuance of the situation in Angola is an actual and potential cause of international friction and is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security". In the same resolution the Security Council called upon "the Portuguese authorities to desist forthwith from repressive measures and further to extend every facility to the sub-committee to enable it to perform its task expeditiously".

In view of the failure of the Government of Portugal to co-operate with the sub-committee and to carry out the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations, the General Assembly requested the Security Council in paragraph 8 of the resolution 1807 (XVII) of December 14th, 1962 to take all appropriate measures to secure the compliance of Portugal with its obligations as a Member State. Furthermore, in paragraph 9 of its resolution 1819 (XVII) of December 18th, 1962, the General Assembly of the United Nations requested the Security Council to take appropriate measures, including sanctions, to secure Portugal's compliance with the present resolution and with the previous resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

In flagrant violation of the decisions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, the Government of Portugal has persisted in its refusal to

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co-operate with the United Nations and to comply with the resolutions relating to these territories and particularly the resolution 1514 (XV) of December 14th, 1960. It has continued its repressive measures and use of armed force against the indigenous population of these territories; the implications of these measures for international peace and security are exemplified by the recent incidents and violations of the Senegalese territory which were deplored by the Security Council in its resolution of April 24th, 1963. Moreover, the Portuguese Government has also rejected the recent invitation of the Special Committee to attend its meetings and has refused to receive a sub-committee of that Organ to hold consultations with it under its terms of reference.

In these circumstances the Special Committee, in keeping with resolution 1810 (XVII) inviting it to apprise the Security Council of any development in these and other territories under colonial rule which may threaten international peace and security, adopted a resolution on April 4th, 1963, (A/AC.109/38) drawing the immediate attention of the Security Council to the present situation of the territories under Portuguese administration, with a view to its taking appropriate measures, including sanctions, in terms of paragraph 8 of the General Assembly resolution 1807 (XVII) of December 14th, 1962, and paragraph 9 of the General Assembly resolution 1819 (XVII) of December 18th, 1962.

The gravity of the situation resulting from the persistent refusal of the Government of Portugal to comply with the provisions of the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council has brought about a serious threat to international peace and security which continues to deteriorate. In view of this situation the Conference of Heads of African States and Governments, held in Addis Ababa from 22nd to 25th of May 1963, has unanimously adopted very important provisions in its resolution on decolonization, excerpts from which are as follows:

"Having considered all aspects of the questions of decolonization;

"Unanimously convinced of the imperious and urgent necessity of co-ordination and intensifying their efforts to accelerate the unconditional attainment of national independence by all African territories still under foreign domination;

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"Reaffirming that it is the duty of all African independent States to support dependent people in Africa in their struggle for freedom and independence;

"Convinced that the colonial powers by their forcible imposition of the settlers to control the Governments and administration of those territories and thus establishing colonial bases in the heart of Africa;

"Having agreed unanimously to concert and co-ordinate their efforts and action in this field, and to this end have decided on the following measures:

"1. Declares that the forcible imposition by the colonial Powers of the settlers to control the Governments and administration of the dependent territories is a flagrant violation of the inalienable rights of the legitimate inhabitants of the territories concerned;

"2. Invites the colonial Powers to take the necessary measures for the immediate application of the Declaration of the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples; and insists that their determination to maintain colonies or semi-colonies in Africa constitutes a menace to the peace of the continent;

* * *

"6. Intervenes expressly with the great Powers so that they cease without exception to lend direct or indirect support of assistance to all those colonialist Governments which might use such assistance to suppress African national liberation movements, particularly the Portuguese Government which is conducting a real war of genocide in Africa; informs the allies of colonial Powers that they must choose between their friendship for the African peoples and their support of powers that oppress African peoples;

"7. Decides to send a delegation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to speak on behalf of all African States at the meeting of the Security Council which will be called to examine the report of the United Nations Committee of '24' on the situation in African territories under Portuguese domination; (the Conference has decided the members of the Delegation to be: Liberia, Tunisia, Madagascar and Sierra Leone);

"8. Decides further the breaking off of diplomatic and consular relations between all African States and Governments of Portugal and South Africa so long as they persist in their present attitude towards decolonization;

"9. Asks for an effective boycott of foreign trade of Portugal and South African by:

"(a) prohibiting the import of goods from those two countries;

"(b) closing African ports and airports to their ships and planes;

"(c) forbidding the planes of those two countries to overfly the territories of all African States."
