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LETTER DATED 11 DECEMBER 1978 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
MOZAMBIQUE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to submit herewith the text of a communiqué issued in Maputo by the Ministry of National Defense of the People's Republic of Mozambique on 10 December 1978.

The said communiqué reports on the latest wave of aggressive air raids recently perpetrated by the illegal racist régime of Ian Smith and his puppets against the People's Republic of Mozambique.

This continuing violation of the territory of a sovereign State and Member of the United Nations by Ian Smith's air force using fighter jet aircraft and napalm bombs to barbarically massacre defenceless civilians as accounted by the communiqué vividly shows the growing deterioration of the situation in our part of Africa.

Aside from the recurring character of these aggressions, the communiqué particularly reports a shift in the nature of means employed by the enemy and the peculiarity of their new tactics making even worse destruction and indiscriminate killings than ever before. This time air bombing of main town centres situated in Mozambique's economic productive zones seems to be the new strategy of the enemy. Such towns as Dondo and Chingozi mentioned by the communiqué are within a few miles of the provincial capitals of the provinces of Sofala and Tete.

In pursuance of the illegal régime's intention to further internationalize the conflict in Zimbabwe, Ian Smith has once again repeated the same air raids he has committed in Zambia, another Front-Line State, where he massacred thousands of school children and refugees.

Certainly, the international community should now become more responsive to these worsening realities of southern Africa and should henceforth act more urgently and apply appropriate measures with a view to effectively implement 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.

We hope that the international community, in the face of the mounting human and material losses caused by these criminal acts of Ian Smith's régime will now

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concentrate more than ever in assisting the People's Republic of Mozambique with the necessary means with which she can cope with this grave situation confronting her so that peace, security and justice in southern Africa will become a reality.

This communiqué reflects the deteriorating situation caused by the intransigence of the racist illegal and minority régime in the British colony of Southern Rhodesia and demands an immediate and just solution which falls upon the responsibility of the entire international community.

Hence, Your Excellency, I would be very grateful if the attached communiqué about the Rhodesian aggression against the People's Republic of Mozambique be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) José Carlos LOBO
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative to the United Nations

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Annex

Communiqué dated 10 December 1978 issued in Maputo by the Ministry
of National Defense of the People's Republic of Mozambique

Another series of aggressions against the People's Republic
of Mozambique

The criminal régime of Ian Smith and his puppets, desperate because of the intensification and escalation of the just struggle for the liberation of the people of Zimbabwe, unleashed a series of barbaric acts of aggression against the territory of the People's Republic of Mozambique in an attempt to spread the war into our territory.

On November 29th, the enemy committed an air incursion through the use of jet airplanes against Chicualacuala, Mapai and Mabalane in Gaza province, bombing civilian and military targets and resulted in human losses and destruction of four houses.

On December 4th, the enemy again launched an air attack against Chicualacuala.

On December 8th, the enemy launched another air attack this time in Tete province, against the garrison of Chingozi where human lives were likewise lost and two airplane hangars were destroyed. In this particular attack the enemy utilized napalm bombs.

On December 9th, the enemy bombed the Political and Military Training Center of Dondo in Sofala province; more people were either killed or injured and property destroyed.

As a consequence of the above-mentioned bombings, the casualty list sums up to 26 dead and 73 wounded which includes civilian population.

Our forces repulsed these attacks shooting down two jet fighter bombers in the Chicualacuala zone which crashed in Rhodesian territory.

The increase in these bombing flight operations over our territory by the enemy is aimed at affecting our economic productive zones in order to impair our economy's development.

These actions carry the objective of destabilizing our Republic in order to hinder the people of Mozambique from enjoying the benefits derived from the gains of our national independence and the achievements of their work.

The People's Republic of Mozambique, faithful in her obligation as a member of the international community and conscious of the responsibilities which are bestowed upon her as a Front-Line State, has been fulfilling her duty.

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The Mozambican people under the leadership of FRELIMO have been willing to sacrifice so that the people of Zimbabwe can be free.

Along this commitment, the People's Republic of Mozambique has integrally applied the sanctions imposed by the international community against the régime of Ian Smith.

Still along this commitment, our Government has appealed to all Member States of the international community to reinforce the defensive capacity of the People's Republic of Mozambique in order to enable it to repel any violation of our territorial integrity.

The enemy can exert every effort in multiplying its barbaric acts of aggression but the Mozambican people will not be intimidated. No amount of massacres, nor crimes, no matter how odious they might be, will be able to shatter the determination of the Mozambican people in their assurance of the victory of the just struggle of the Zimbabwean people for their independence and liberty.

A Luta Continua
