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STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH REGARD TO THE
MAINTENANCE AND CONSOLIDATION OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY,
THE DEVELOPMENT OF CO-OPERATION AMONG ALL NATIONS AND THE PROMOTION
OF THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 1 September 1975 from the Permanent Representatives of France
and Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from our respective Governments, we have the honour to
transmit to you herewith the text of the joint communiqué of the Republic of Guinea
and the French Republic concerning the restoration of diplomatic relations between
these two countries.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter, and that
of the aforementioned French-Guinean communiqué, circulated as an official General
Assembly document under item 30 of the provisional agenda of the thirtieth session.

(Signed) Louis de GUIRINGAUD
Permanent Representative of France
to the United Nations

(Signed) Jeanne-Martin CISSE
Permanent Representative of Guinea
to the United Nations

* A/10150.

ANNEX

Communiqué on relations between Guinea and France

During his visit to Guinea in March 1974, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations, took up and discussed, *inter alia*, with His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Sékou Touré, President of the Republic of Guinea, the problem of the severance of relations which had occurred between certain States and the Republic of Guinea.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, desiring to see all possible action taken to promote relations of friendship and trust among all States Members of the United Nations, at that time offered his assistance in facilitating the initial contacts which would make it possible for the States in question to consider the subsequent normalization of their diplomatic relations on the basis of mutual respect, non-intervention in internal affairs and international co-operation and in a renewed spirit of candour and mutual trust. Mr. Waldheim appointed his spokesman, Mr. André Lewin, as his Special Representative to carry out this mission of good offices, which concerned chiefly the Federal Republic of Germany and France.

From the outset it was apparent to the Special Representative that the years during which relations had been broken off had in no way affected the friendship between the Guinean and French peoples. The damage which resulted from the events which separated the two countries is both political and material in nature.

In deciding, on the appeal of the Democratic Party of Guinea (PDG), in favour of immediate independence, as the referendum of 28 September 1958 afforded it the possibility of doing, the people of Guinea chose its independence in complete freedom. It was perfectly entitled to do so.

The French Government then recalled its administration and terminated its operations in the economic and financial sphere.

The relations between the two States continued, however, to be marred by mutual distrust. Finally, in 1965, the French Government recalled its Ambassador and the Government of Guinea did the same.

Further difficulties arose when, following the armed foreign aggression perpetrated against Guinea in November 1970, as a result of which the Security Council sent a mission of inquiry, a number of French nationals were implicated in those events and sentenced in Guinean courts. In that connexion, the French Government recalled that one of the basic principles of its foreign policy was that of not intervening, either directly or indirectly, in the internal affairs of other States. The French Government regrets the activities of those of its nationals who acted in a manner contrary to that principle.

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In order to prepare for a normalization of relations that would not be based on any misunderstanding, an effort had to be made to erase the vestiges of the past by clearing up the dispute between the two States and ending the consequences of a break in relations which had lasted 16 years and had been harmful to both peoples. It was also necessary to be certain that both Governments were equally prepared to take advantage of the possible opening thus provided in order to lay the foundations for new relations.

The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General was soon convinced that conditions were ripe for normalization. H.E. Ahmed Sékou Touré, President of the Republic of Guinea, had declared from the outset that he was ready to begin a dialogue with France based on full recognition of the sovereignty, dignity and special conditions of Guinea, on frank discussion of unresolved questions and on balanced co-operation between equal, independent and sovereign partners. H.E. Mr. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, President of the French Republic, was similarly inclined.

What then remained was to confirm the existence of that desire for normalization of relations at the highest level. After the President of the Republic of Guinea publicly declared, in a statement on the anniversary of his country's independence on 2 October 1974, that he was prepared to give consideration to normal relations with France on foundations that had nothing in common with a neo-colonial policy or relations of subordination or inequality, the President of the French Republic sent him a letter on 18 October 1974 stressing the importance he attached to a normalization of relations between the two countries.

The President of the Republic of Guinea replied with a letter reaffirming his previous statements.

At the suggestion of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the two Governments, considering that the time was ripe for normalization of relations between the two States on the equitable and clearly defined basis which they regarded as essential, decided to give their approval to this communiqué, which will be published simultaneously in New York, Conakry and Paris on 14 July 1975.

Contacts will be undertaken shortly through the diplomatic channel for the purpose of giving concrete expression to the climate thus created, studying the remaining unresolved questions in a positive manner and finally deciding on the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two States at the earliest possible date.
