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LETTER DATED 26 NOVEMBER 1981 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT  
MISSION OF SEYCHELLES ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour upon instructions from my Government to append below the text of a telegram addressed to you from the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Seychelles, Mr. Jacques Hodoul.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this telegram as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Giovinella GONTHIER  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Telegram dated 26 November 1981 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of Seychelles addressed to the Secretary-General

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Seychelles presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to convey the following for his attention:

The Government of the Republic of Seychelles wishes to apprise the Secretary-General of the fact that the people and territory of the Republic of Seychelles have, since around 14.30 hrs G.M.T. on 25 November 1981, had to face a contemptible attack by a group of approximately 100 mercenaries who landed at Seychelles international airport in an aircraft landing under the guise of regularly scheduled flight of Royal Air Swazi.

The group of mercenaries, presumably of South African origin, immediately after landing launched an attack on the international airport taking as hostages the personnel at the airport. The Seychelles People's Defence Forces have been valiantly combating the mercenaries and the situation is currently under control with most of the hostages having been freed and several mercenaries subjugated.

Others fleeing in panic have hijacked an Air India aircraft which has been diverted to Durban with all passengers on board.

It is most disturbing to note that in spite of the constant endeavours undertaken by the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the Non-Aligned Movement to rid developing countries of the scourge of mercenarism yet another African nation has had to combat soldiers of fortune in order to safeguard its sovereignty and the path of social and economic development it has chosen.

The Government of the Republic of Seychelles would very much appreciate if the Secretary-General of the United Nations would today circulate as an official document of the Security Council this communication concerning this critical situation which fortunately is under control through the vigilance of the Seychelles Defence Forces. It must be noted that the people of Seychelles are facing this situation with courage, calmness and dedication.

The Government of Seychelles would also be grateful if the Secretary-General would also issue an official condemnation of this ruthless attack upon a peace-loving people who above all are struggling with determination to overcome the legacy of colonialism and under-development and also compelled to spend part of much needed resources to safeguard its sovereign integrity and security.

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