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LETTER DATED 8 NOVEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement on the situation in eastern Zaire made in Geneva on 7 November 1996 by H.E. The President of the Republic of the Congo, President of the Economic Community of Central African States and Chairman of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and the annex thereto circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Daniel ABIBI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement on developments in Zaire by the President of the
Economic Community of Central African States and Chairman
of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on
Security Questions in Central Africa

Central Africa is once again the victim of violent and bloody fratricidal fighting affecting the lives and the collective conscience of all the populations of our subregion.

This fighting has already caused the deaths of large numbers of innocent people and forced children, women and old people to take flight, giving rise to images that reflect despair and chaos.

Very recently, during the OAU Summit, held at Yaoundé from 8 to 10 July 1996, the Heads of State and Government of the countries members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa met to sign a Non-Aggression Pact.

Upon the completion of the work of this first Summit, the Heads of State of the subregion emphasized the need for States to use bilateral and subregional consultative machinery in order to settle disputes peacefully.

It is to be regretted that, despite many ministerial meetings of our Committee that have repeatedly stressed the importance that the countries of the subregion attach to peace and security with a view to ensuring development and well-being for their populations, the current conflict involves countries members of the Committee.

Accordingly, with a view to preventing our subregion from once again becoming the scene of a new humanitarian tragedy, as Chairman of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, I am making a solemn and urgent appeal to the parties to the conflict to bring the hostilities to an end.

I call on them to stand back from the conflict and to do everything within their power to emphasize consultation and dialogue.

To that end:

- The Republic of the Congo, which has the chairmanship of the Committee, offers its good offices with a view to silencing the weapons and ensuring that dialogue is given a chance, in order to restore a lasting peace and re-establish good-neighbourly relations based on mutual trust;

- The Republic of the Congo calls on the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States and of the Committee to make a concrete contribution to all constructive initiatives designed to restore and strengthen peace, brotherhood and mutual trust in the subregion;

/...

- The President of the Economic Community of Central African States and Chairman of the Committee calls on the international community to continue and strengthen its support for humanitarian assistance for the refugees and the populations in the combat zone, with a view to forestalling a disaster.

In view of the urgency and seriousness of the situation, as President of the Economic Community of Central African States and Chairman of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, I call on the Heads of State of the countries members of the Economic Community of Central African States to meet as soon as possible in order to consider ways and means at our disposal of helping to bring an end to this tragedy that is striking our subregion.

Issued in Geneva, on 7 November 1996

Pascal LISSOUBA
