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LETTER DATED 29 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you, for the information of members of the Security Council, a copy of the communiqué issued at the end of the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Cameroon, the Congo, Kenya, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe on the current situation in the Great Lakes region, held in Pretoria on 27 and 28 January 1997 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and the attached communiqué circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Njuguna M. MAHUGU, OGW
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Joint communiqué issued at the conclusion of the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Cameroon, the Congo, Kenya, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe on the current crisis in the Great Lakes region, held at Pretoria on 27 and 28 January 1997

Following the initiative of President Daniel arap Moi of the Republic of Kenya to convene two regional summit meetings in Nairobi on the ongoing crisis in the Great Lakes region during November and December 1996, respectively, a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Cameroon, the Congo, Kenya, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe took place in Pretoria on 27 and 28 January 1997. The meeting was convened by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kenya, Mr. Stephen K. Musyoka, as a result of the decision of the Nairobi II Summit to designate the President of Cameroon (in his capacity as the current chairperson of the Organization of African Unity (OAU)), Kenya, South Africa and Zimbabwe to act on behalf of the leaders of the region in order to bring about an end to the ongoing conflict and to establish lasting peace in that part of the African continent.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Congo - who is also the President of the Bureau of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa - and the Foreign Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania participated in the meeting at the invitation of the Government of Kenya. Their participation was requested in the light of the valuable contribution the two countries could make in achieving the stated objectives in the Great Lakes region, taking into account their close involvement with and/or geographical proximity to, the countries in the region. Also attending the meeting was the Assistant Secretary-General of OAU, Ambassador Antonio, in view of the ever-increasing and important role of the Organization in conflict-prevention, management and resolution on the continent.

The meeting was briefed by Mr. Musyoka on the outcome of the discussions between President Moi and President Mobutu Sese Seko of the Republic of Zaire at the Gbadolite on 6 January 1997, which followed the Nairobi II Summit deliberations. The meeting then reaffirmed its complete support for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Zaire and welcomed the assurance of Zaire of granting full citizenship rights for all its nationals.

The meeting further expressed its support for the recent appeal of President Moi for the insurgents in eastern Zaire to cease hostilities and to withdraw, in order to facilitate negotiations with the Government of Zaire.

In addition, the meeting also called upon all countries and organizations to refrain from military involvement in the conflict, which could lead to a further escalation of hostilities.

The commitment of the Government of Zaire to proceed with the holding of national elections during 1997 was welcomed by the meeting and the international

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community was called upon to support the democratization process in respect of the electoral process.

The meeting also welcomed the appointment of a Special Representative of the chairman of the group of four Heads of State, and of a joint Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region by the United Nations and OAU.

The Foreign Ministers' meeting in Pretoria agreed to visit Zaire at the earliest opportunity for discussions with the Government of that country. It was also decided that the visit should be followed by similar visits to Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, in search of a lasting solution to the crisis in the Great Lakes region.
