

Henry T. Los of the Secretary - General: Wheat
Wheat Divisions - Papers from Dr. Probitel

04106 | 1962-03 | 04 | 1963
3 of 3

PLEASE RETAIN
ORIGINAL ORDER
CLEAD

UN ARCHIVES
SERIES 0884
BOX 20
FILE 8
ACC. DAG 1 | 5.2.4

Mar. 21
MP

CONFIDENTIAL

3 April 1963

MEMORANDUM TO: **The Secretary-General**

FROM: **D. Protitch, Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories**

SUBJECT: **Letter dated 31 March 1963 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal**

With reference to the last paragraph of the letter from the Permanent Representative of Portugal (A/AC.109/36) which states that he was "transmitting the contents of this Note to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for such action as he may deem appropriate", and in connection with your request for comments on this paragraph, I should like to bring the following to your attention:

(a) This Note is in reply to the letter dated 20 March 1963 from the Chairman of the Special Committee of 24, conveying the decision of the Special Committee that it wished to send a visiting group to Lisbon, to discuss with the Government of Portugal the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples in respect of the Territories under Portuguese administration. It will be noted that the reaction of the Portuguese Government to this specific point is negative. However, the Note raises certain other issues. Since these have been brought up in the context of the Special Committee's decision, it would seem to be for that Committee to determine what action, if any, should be taken concerning those issues.

(b) After the circulation of the Portuguese Note, the delegations of Cambodia, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mali, Sierra Leone, Syria, Tanganyika, Tunisia and Yugoslavia yesterday submitted to the Special Committee a joint draft resolution drawing the immediate attention of the Security Council to the present situation in the Territories under Portuguese administration with a view to the Security Council taking appropriate measures to secure compliance by Portugal with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(c) General Assembly resolution 1807(XVII) of 14 December 1962 on Territories under Portuguese administration and General Assembly resolution 1819 (XVII) of 18 December 1962 on the situation in Angola do not specifically call upon the Secretary-General to take any action in relation to the Territories under Portuguese administration.

In the circumstances, it does not appear that the Secretary-General can usefully initiate any "appropriate" action with reference to the Portuguese Note at this stage of the consideration of this item by the Special Committee of 24.

However, without contemplating any action the Secretary-General might take ex officio, he may, if he wishes, in the light of the General Assembly resolutions concerning the Portuguese territories and the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, at an appropriate time, use his good offices with the Portuguese Government. Since the Special Committee is already seized of a draft resolution, it would seem appropriate that any such initiative would have to await the outcome of the present debate in the Special Committee of 24.