LETTER DATED 25 FEBRUARY 1966 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions of the Brazilian Government I have the honour to refer to document S/7032, Adds.12 and 13, containing Mr. Mayobre's report on an incident that took place in Santo Domingo on 10 February 1966, and in which Brazilian military personnel were involved.

2. According to the version transmitted by Your Excellency's Representative in paragraph 10 of Addendum 12 (document S/7032):

"... At 0900 hours, a grenade was thrown from an IAPF jeep carrying Brazilian soldiers in Tunti Cáceres street, resulting in one man being severely wounded and a four-year-old boy injured. It was reported that the soldiers had thrown the grenade apparently because a stone had been hurled at their jeep."

3. Subsequently, Addendum 13 to the same document reproduced in its paragraph 3 an official statement of General Alvaro Alves da Silva Braga, Commander of the Inter-American Peace Force, referring to the same incident with the following words:

"With regard to the grenade incident of 10 February (see S/7032/Add.12, para. 10), General Alvaro Alves da Silva Braga informed my Representative's office that the initial version given by government officials and carried in radio and press reports was incorrect and that he, as Commander of the Inter-American Peace Force, would issue an official statement on the incident on the afternoon of 11 February. The statement was as follows: 'At approximately 0910 hours yesterday morning an apparently home-made hand grenade was thrown at a Brazilian Army jeep in the intersection of Tunti Cáceres and La Guardia streets. Bouncing off the side of the jeep, the grenade fell into the street and exploded. The missile was thrown by a youth of average height dressed in a light beige shirt and dark trousers, who turned and ran away. The explosion injured thirteen persons, one of them a child who reportedly died. The jeep was damaged extensively throughout the body, top, tires, windshield and rear stop lights. Neither occupant, Sgt. Gerardo Polverado and driver Sense Barceno, was injured. The jeep was on a normal patrol travelling west on Tunti Cáceres at the time of the incident.'"
4. The two versions circulated (S/7032/Add.12 and 13) are therefore contradictory and may give rise to misunderstandings involving the professional conduct of Brazilian military personnel while performing their duties in the Dominican Republic.

5. Moreover, while giving official endorsement to incorrect reports on the incident, Mr. Mayobre's second report on the matter consists of a mere quotation of General Braga's statement of 11 February.

6. In the light of General Braga's thorough and self-explanatory statement, and the new elements contained therein, the Brazilian Government deems it necessary to request that an investigation be conducted by Mr. Mayobre's office in Santo Domingo and that an accurate evaluation of the facts be officially circulated in the nearest possible future.

7. I should be obliged if Your Excellency would have this note circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

I avail myself etc.

(Signed) José SETTE CAMARA
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations