

This base is situated in the very heart of Africa and it is difficult for me to understand what possible relation a base in this part of the world could have to North Atlantic defence. A suspicion must arise that such a base was intended to provide military support for the continued colonial ascendancy of N.A.T.O. Powers in Africa.

All Independent African States are gravely concerned about the situation in the Portuguese territories of Angola and Mozambique. There is no doubt that the situation there is far more explosive than is generally realised. The Portuguese régime is extremely oppressive and it denies to the inhabitants of these territories every single one of the rights referred to in the preamble of the North Atlantic Treaty. I hope therefore that those members of the Commonwealth who are also members of N.A.T.O. will use their influence with the Portuguese Government to initiate a movement for independence of the Portuguese territories. It would create a most serious situation in Africa if the N.A.T.O. Powers were manoeuvred into the position of supporting Portuguese colonial tyranny on the ground that Portugal was entitled to their support as a member of N.A.T.O.

In regard to Ruanda Urundi, it seems to me quite clear that the Belgian Trusteeship must end, and I think that the best course would be for it to be placed under the joint trusteeship of the Independent African States. In present circumstances there can be no justification for calling from outside Africa former colonial powers to exercise the authority of the United Nations.

When the African States take over the trusteeship of Ruanda Urundi it would be appropriate for them also to take over the trusteeship of South-West Africa. It is to my mind absolutely impossible for the African States to agree to allow the present state of affairs to continue indefinitely in this area.

In regard to aid to Congo, I have had a personal letter from President Eisenhower which I have discussed with the United States Ambassador here and to which I have replied. Mr. Eisenhower suggested to me that all aid to Congo should be channelled through the United Nations. There are, however, great objections to this course. It would mean applying a restriction to Congo which does not apply to any other African State. Further, there are innumerable practical difficulties. I have suggested as an alternative that aid should be channelled through the Independent African States or at any rate through one or more of them. I think this meets his point of view which was to isolate Congo from competing pressures of the Great Powers.

I have tried to give you as detailed an explanation as possible of the action which my Government has felt itself compelled to take in Congo. I trust that you will do all that lies in your power to promote the establishment of peace and security in Congo.

Yours sincerely,

KWAME NKRUMAH