Statement No. 74
November 10, 1967.

COMPLAINTS BY THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Text of Statement made by the Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mr. George Ignatieff, in the Security Council, on November 10, 1967.

Canada has continually, in word and deed, supported United Nations efforts to sustain the independence, territorial integrity and stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Canadian delegation supported, as did other members of the Security Council, resolution S/RES/239 (1967), adopted by the Council on July 10, which reaffirmed, in particular, paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution S/RES/226 (1966), calling on all States "to refrain or desist from intervening in the domestic affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo". In other words, we are against all outside meddling with the internal affairs of the sovereign Government which has brought its complaint to the Council.

In its resolution S/RES/239 (1967) the Security Council also condemned any Government which persisted in providing facilities to mercenaries whose object was to overthrow the Government of a Member State. My delegation has listened with great care to the statement of the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. From his statement, including his reference to messages intercepted from the mercenaries in Bukavu asking for help from their associates in Angola, as well as other statements in the Council, in addition to information available in the Press concerning events in the Congo in the first days of this month, it would, in my judgment, be very difficult to deny that additional mercenaries have appeared in the Congo and that this band of mercenaries came from Angola.

It is hard to imagine that this could have happened without at least the knowledge of the Portuguese authorities and to conclude therefore that despite the very clear language of previous Security Council resolutions, the Portuguese Government has in fact permitted mercenaries to prepare in Angola for a thrust into the Congo with the aim of disrupting the established order there. In this connection, the statement we have heard today from the representative of Portugal appears to raise more questions than it answers. The success of the Congolese Government in driving off that illegal attack and protecting the sovereignty of its country does not diminish the reprehensible nature of the attack or the serious failure of the Portuguese authorities to observe Security Council resolutions. The problem of mercenaries has plagued the Congo many times since its emergence to independence and has seriously hampered its attempts to develop in conditions of peace and stability. All countries must comply with the Security Council

resolutions, and this Council has a clear duty to take effective action to eliminate the threat of mercenary incursions into the Congo.

The Canadian delegation will be guided in its attitude to any resolution brought before the Council by the considerations which I have outlined.