January 26, 1961

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NON-INTERFERENCE WITH CAPTURED CRUISESHIP URGED ON KENNEDY

A role of "continued non-interference" with the capture of the Portuguese cruise ship Santa Maria by Henrique Malta Galvao, was urged on President Kennedy in a telegram sent today by George M. Houser, Executive Director of the American Committee on Africa.

"The seizure has widespread African support and American interference will be interpreted as another indication of U.S. sympathy for colonial rule," Mr. Houser said.

The telegram was also sent to Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Undersecretary of State Chester Bowles, and to G. Hennen Williams, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.

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For further information contact Dale Harrison -- MU 6-7263
TELEGRAM SENT TO:

PRESIDENT KENNEDY
SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK
UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE CHESTER BOWLES
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS
G. HENRIEN WILLIAMS

JANUARY 26, 1961

STRONGLY URGE CONTINUED U.S. NON-INTERFERENCE WITH CAPTURE OF PORTUGUESE LINER SANTA MARIA BY RESPONSIBLE OPPOSITION LEADERS TO SALAZAR’S DICTATORSHIP. GALVAO WAS OVERSEAS INSPECTOR IN ANGOLA IMPRISONED 1951 FOR REPORT CRITICAL OF PORTUGUESE FORCED LABOR SYSTEM ANGOLA. THEREFORE SEIZURE OF SHIP HAS DEFINITE IMPLICATIONS FOR PORTUGUESE COLONIAL POLICY IN AFRICA. THE SEIZURE HAS WIDESPREAD AFRICAN SUPPORT AND AMERICAN INTERFERENCE WILL BE INTERPRETED AS ANOTHER INDICATION OF U.S. SYMPATHY FOR COLONIAL RULE. RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST ANY STATEMENT OF U.S. RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL INCLUDE DEEP CONCERN FOR PORTUGUESE COLONIAL POLICY. WE URGE THAT U.S. RESPONSIBILITY BE LIMITED TO ASSURING THE WELL BEING OF AMERICANS ON SANTA MARIA.

GEORGE M. HOUSE

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA