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Note verbale dated 3 April 1979 from the Permanent Mission of Benin
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Benin to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, further to his note PO 230 SOAF (2-2-4) of 21 March 1979, has the honour to inform him that the People's Republic of Benin will be sure to communicate the information requested as soon as it is able to do so. The Permanent Mission wishes, however, to emphasize that it believes on the basis of certain indications that the Committee established under resolution 421 (1977) to implement resolution 418 (1977) has received information from individuals or from trade-union or other groups concerning firms or enterprises of Member States violating the provisions of resolution 418 (1977) by continuing to deliver weapons to South Africa.

The Permanent Mission of Benin wonders whether the closed-door methods of work of the Committee on such a sensitive and important question, which involves the security of Africa, are effective and worthwhile. The members of the Security Council, which are responsible for the Committee, should envisage revising the methods of work of the Committee on resolution 418 (1977) and the Committee on the embargo against Southern Rhodesia. Apart from the 15 members of the Security Council, other Member States live in total ignorance of the work of the two Committees and of the treatment of the information communicated to the Committees by political and trade-union organizations or individuals.

It should be possible for all Member States to be kept up to date concerning such communications and to participate objectively in the verification of their contents. The meetings of the two Committees should be public, and participation should be open to States and individuals who could help the Committees to do objective and profitable work.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Benin wishes this note verbale to be circulated as a Security Council document.