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LETTER DATED 28 JUNE 1988 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to refer to the letter you received from the Permanent Representative of Botswana (S/19952) on 22 June 1988 regarding the incident of 21 June 1988, on which the Security Council has subsequently taken action by issuing a statement on 24 June 1988 (S/19959).

I am directed to inform you that neither the letter addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Botswana, nor the subsequent Security Council statement, correctly reflect the situation. The facts are as follows:

Over the past two years the South African Government has met regularly with the Botswana Government in an attempt to attain its co-operation in ensuring the security of our borders and territories against terrorist incursions. The Botswana Government is well aware that its territory continues to be used by terrorist elements infiltrating South Africa and the frequency of these incursions has increased over the past few weeks. A number of terrorist elements have crossed the border from Botswana on their way to commit violence in South Africa and on 8 May 1988 four white terrorists were apprehended at Broederstroom, near Johannesburg. This terrorist group had an arsenal of weapons and ammunition which included a ground to air missile, as well as radio equipment, ANC documents, various explosive devices, limpet mines, and a large amount of arms and ammunition of Eastern bloc origin. This group, which crossed the Botswana border into South Africa, had as its objective acts of terror against the people, regardless of race, of the Republic of South Africa.

All these facts were given to the Botswana Government.

The action of the South African Defence Force unit on 21 June 1988 was not aimed at all against Botswana or the Botswana Government, but was aimed at transit facilities and logistic support bases used by terrorists to enter South Africa. Arrangements are being made for further discussions between the two governments at this moment.

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This information is in addition to the information forwarded to you under cover of my letter of 24 June 1988 (S/19960).

I would request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) J. S. ALDRICH
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

