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LETTER DATED 26 APRIL 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

At the request of the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs and Information, the Honourable R. F. Botha, I am enclosing the text of a letter he has addressed to Your Excellency on 26 April 1983.

I should appreciate it if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kurt Von SCHIRNDING
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 26 April 1983 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and
Information of South Africa addressed to the Secretary-General

"The United Nations has, by its decision to hold the so-called "Conference in support of the struggle of the Namibian People for Independence" in Paris, from 25 to 29 April 1983, raised further serious doubts concerning its fitness to play the role envisaged for it in terms of Security Council resolution 435.

"As Your Excellency is aware, the central purpose of Security Council resolution 435 is to bring about the peaceful settlement of the South West Africa dispute by assuring the right of the people of the Territory to determine their own future in free and fair elections.

"However, the United Nations, by the manner in which it is conducting the Paris Conference, is actively undermining this objective:

- By supporting SWAPO'S inexcusable campaign of terrorist violence, which is directed overwhelmingly against the civilian population of the Territory,
- By generating propaganda in favour of SWAPO as the so-called "sole and authentic representative of the people of South West Africa" in direct contravention of the requirement implicit in Security Council resolution 435 that the United Nations should maintain an impartial attitude toward all the political parties of the Territory, and
- By undermining the delicate international negotiations which have as their purpose the peaceful resolution of the South West Africa question and the removal of external threats to the security of the Territory and the southern Africa region.

"I find it particularly regrettable, but not surprising, that the Conference has not been able to comply with the reasonable conditions set out in the South African Permanent Representative's note to Your Excellency of 4 March 1983. Evidently the challenge of treating the parties of South West Africa on an equal basis and of promoting reconciliation instead of stirring up support for violence, has simply been too great for the United Nations organizers of the Conference.

"As foreseen, the Conference has degenerated into yet another gratuitous and expensive exercise in the United Nations vendetta against South Africa and the democratic parties of South West Africa/Namibia. The Conference documentation, drawn up by members of the Secretariat, is characterized by such blatant distortions and untruths that the question may be asked what faith the people of the Territory can have in the same Secretariat to carry out in an objective and impartial fashion the functions which would be assigned to it in terms of the proposed international settlement. Indeed, so closely is the Conference identified with SWAPO, that its documentation bears a modified SWAPO logo.

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"As Your Excellency is aware, delicate international negotiations are under way and important bilateral initiatives have been launched which have as their goal the resolution of the broader regional security problems with which the settlement of the South West Africa question is inextricably associated.

"It is incomprehensible that the United Nations should now, at a cost of approximately \$1 million, launch such a rash and destructive exercise apparently with the main objective of undermining the progress which has been made. It is even more difficult to grasp how an organization, supposedly dedicated to the promotion of peace, should be advocating violence in such an unrestrained manner. This is particularly so when one considers that SWAPO'S so-called armed struggle has already taken the lives of some 1,305 civilians in the Territory. Nine more civilians were killed as recently as 15 April 1983, when the vehicle in which they were travelling detonated a SWAPO land-mine. Since the beginning of this year 381 civilians, mainly schoolchildren, have been abducted by SWAPO terrorists. They have been beaten and intimidated by their SWAPO captors and have, wherever possible, tried to escape. Does Your Excellency really believe that the United Nations should be identifying itself so recklessly with this kind of "struggle"?

"The South African Government:

- Rejects the actions, authority and right to existence of the so-called Council for Namibia,
- Rejects the use of violence and intimidation as a means of solving the South West Africa dispute, but is determined to take whatever steps may be necessary to protect the people of the Territory from terrorist attacks,
- Rejects the United Nations' proposition that any one political party should have a special status and believes, on the contrary, that all parties should have an equal right to participate peacefully in the democratic process,
- Accepts that the people of the Territory have a right to determine their own future in free and fair elections in circumstances where they will be assured of the continuation of their fundamental constitutional rights as well as the impartiality of the United Nations.

"It would be appreciated if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

"R F BOTHA
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INFORMATION"
