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LETTER DATED 29 AUGUST 1985 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, the
Honourable R. F. Botha, I am enclosing the text of a letter he has addressed to
Your Excellency on 28 August 1985.

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

(Signed) Kurt Von SCHIRNDING
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 28 August 1985 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of South Africa addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to resolution 569 (1985) adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 26 July 1985 as well as to the declaration read by the President of the Council on 21 August 1985 at its 2603rd meeting and wish to comment as follows:

Inasmuch as this resolution and the declaration violate the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of a Member State, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the South African Government rejects them both as illegal and unacceptable. Furthermore, they set a dangerous precedent whereby the Security Council purports to prescribe to a sovereign State under threat of sanctions, a particular course of domestic action.

The criteria applied by the Security Council in the resolution are also suspect in so far as one of the demands made on South Africa for a "free, united and democratic society on the basis of universal suffrage" is a test that cannot be met by a large number of Member States of the United Nations.

Furthermore, the resolution is highly irresponsible and dangerous in so far as it urges punitive measures which, if implemented, could have damaging effects on the economy and stability of South Africa's neighbouring States.

The Security Council may not like it, but it is a fact that the Republic of South Africa by reason, inter alia, of its geographic location, its relative economic strength, its technical expertise in all important spheres of life and its extensive transport network, plays an important if not indispensable role in the economic life of many States of the southern African region.

If sanctions were to be imposed against the Republic of South Africa, as urged by the Security Council, such as the suspension of all new investment, then obviously the Republic of South Africa will need to reserve all available funds for the needs of its own rapidly growing population. It would then not be in a position to continue giving loans and financial aid to neighbouring States and African States further afield. Likewise, in such an event, preference would have to be given to the Republic's own work force, thus jeopardizing the present employment opportunities of hundreds of thousands of expatriate workers from neighbouring African States who, as is known, by means of regular remittances, support many millions of dependants in neighbouring countries. It is estimated that 10 million Africans are in this way dependent on the 1.5 million expatriate workers enjoying employment in the Republic of South Africa.

It is important that I stress for the record that it is still the firm policy of the South African Government to aid and support, to the best of its ability, the neighbouring countries in southern Africa in the fields of finance, trade, economic development, employment opportunities, transport, communications, electricity supply, medicine, agriculture, etc. It is ready to expand such co-operation,

wherever possible. It also remains Government policy that the countries of southern Africa should solve the problems of the region themselves, without outside interference.

However, should South Africa's economy be adversely affected by the ill-conceived measures being urged by the Security Council in resolution 569 (1985), the whole southern African region will be subjected to stagnation, retrogression and further poverty. For this the United Nations Security Council will have to assume responsibility.

Finally, the South African Government rejects the charge in the preamble of the resolution that the imposition of a state of emergency in certain areas of the Republic "constitutes a grave deterioration in the situation" in the country. It was imposed, on the contrary, to combat a state of lawlessness in black townships, including brutal assassinations, murder, arson, destruction of public and private property and large-scale intimidation by blacks against blacks. It will be lifted as soon as this lawlessness subsides.

Meanwhile the Government will continue to seek ways and means of consulting with representatives of black opinion with a view to finding a solution to the problem of ensuring full economic, civil and political rights to all population groups in the country, without any one group dominating another and without the strength of the South African economy becoming endangered in the process. This is of necessity a problem which will have to be solved by the peoples of South Africa themselves, without outside interference.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) R. F. BOTHA
