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LETTER DATED 1 FEBRUARY 1980 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF LESOTHO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have received instructions from my Government to inform you that the Lesotho Government has issued the attached statement on the situation in Southern Rhodesia.

The Lesotho Government shall be grateful if the statement could be circulated as a document of the Security Council under the Question Concerning the Situation in Southern Rhodesia, now under consideration of the Security Council.

(Signed) T. MAKEKA
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement dated 31 January 1980 by the Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Kingdom of Lesotho on the situation in Southern Rhodesia

Lesotho fully endorses the convening of the Security Council at the request of Africa to review the fast deteriorating situation in Southern Rhodesia. My Government embraced the Lancaster Accords because we believed that if scrupulously enforced free and fair elections would be held internationally acceptable government of an independent Zimbabwe would emerge. My Government would not hesitate to accord full recognition to a Government so elected.

We are becoming concerned, however, that Her Majesty's Government directly and through Her Governor is displaying biasness and favouritism towards one of the parties contesting elections. Not only did the United Kingdom deploy the Governor to Salisbury, even before the cease-fire agreement was reached and signed, but she uplifted sanctions on Rhodesia unilaterally, when in fact the sanctions were imposed by the United Nations. Despite clear terms of the Accord, stipulating that all forces and auxiliaries shall be confined to designated camps, the Governor elected to deploy the racist and bloody thirsty Smith forces and Muzorewa's auxiliaries to roam the countryside to enforce the cease-fire agreement. It is unfair to allow the Smith/Muzorewa forces to be judges in their own course. The Patriotic Front forces are being confined to base camps and not once did the Governor call upon them to enforce the cease-fire. In all cases of alleged violations of cease-fire agreement, it is only the Patriotic Front members who are always killed, while the Smith/Muzorewa forces are allowed to politic, intimidate the civilian population in the countryside and occupy positions hitherto occupied by the Patriotic Front. My Government was dismayed and shocked to hear Governor Soames say "The auxiliaries are doing a lot of work that needs doing." How can these auxiliaries, responsible for murders and rapes of many innocent Rhodesians change overnight to be lambs. It is this blatant unequal treatment which seriously undermines our hopes for a free and fair election.

The most serious breach of the Accord, which smacks of the most debased manifestation of racism is the invitation and presence of racist South African forces and mercenaries inside Rhodesian territory. During the Lancaster talks the British assured all the parties and the world that no foreign forces, including South African forces would be allowed in the territory as soon as the Governor assumed duty in Salisbury. On the contrary Soames says South African forces needed to be at Beit Bridge. At one time it was said the South African contingent is small. The issue is that South Africans whether two or hundred had and have no right to be in Rhodesia or anywhere outside South Africa for that matter not long ago South African Prime Minister announced, to the shock of the world that South Africa reserves a right to intervene in Rhodesia to defend her interests.

This very serious announcement which is causing concern and anxiety to all the world particularly the neighbours of South Africa seem to have had a different impact on Her Majesty's Government, because she allowed South African forces to

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remain on Rhodesian soil. The Government of Great Britain seem to have developed a soft spot for South Africa in as far as Rhodesia is concerned.

Mrs. Thatcher, the United Kingdom Prime Minister recently stated that the Accord has created "Potential for an end to the isolation of South Africa in world affairs." Even the belated announcement of the South African withdrawal had to be made in a joint communiqué by the United Kingdom and South Africa. This apparent association between the two on Rhodesia is utterly unacceptable to the rest of Africa.

In no case should South Africa through its forces and mercenaries be allowed to intimidate and interfere in Rhodesian affairs to influence the outcome of the elections. We remind Her Majesty's Government that many Commonwealth countries offered to supply the necessary forces. An offer which was declined. Under these circumstances, how can one expect the conduct of free and fair elections. Lesotho hopes that the Security Council shall adopt a resolution that would call upon the British to cease the violations of the Accords and to scrupulously implement them as faithfully and impartially as possible, without interference from outside, particularly from South Africa.

Her Majesty's Government has a world-wide known reputation of fairness and evenhandedness in ending colonialism. Ours should be seen as a friendly advice and reminder that we expect Great Britain to live up to her customary lofty ideals.

My Government was also disturbed by rumours that the Governor wants to hand over to South Africa, South African freedom fighters, who were arrested by the Smith/Muzorewa régimes. We want to believe that even here the traditional wisdom of the British shall prevail and the Governor shall release the prisoners and allow them to proceed to countries of their choice.
