



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/17892
3 March 1986

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 3 MARCH 1986 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose the text of a letter which the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable R. F. Botha, has addressed to Your Excellency on 3 March 1986.

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

(Signed) K. R. S. von SCHIRNDING

Annex

LETTER DATED 3 MARCH 1986 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF SOUTH AFRICA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 26 November 1985 in which you respond to the decision regarding the electoral system to be used in South West Africa/Namibia for elections envisaged in terms of United Nations Security Council resolution 435 (1978). I have noted that you confirm that agreement has been reached on the system of proportional representation and I accept that all parties, including SWAPO, have indicated their full agreement with this system.

The South African Government is concerned at the apparent lack of understanding on the part of so many Governments of the issues involved in southern Africa at this time. Surely they must be in a position to make a realistic assessment of the Soviet Union's designs in southern Africa. I trust that the democratic Governments of the world will take a wider and more balanced view of what is happening in southern Africa.

The situation in Angola gives rise for serious concern. A massive Cuban expeditionary force is, after ten years, still inside that country to sustain the Government in Luanda against the wishes of the people. They are there in contravention of the Alvor Agreement. The Government in Luanda is being constantly supplied with new and increasingly more sophisticated weapons by the Soviet Union. Over the past two years the Soviet Union has injected at least \$US 2 billion in military equipment into Angola. There is evidence that the numbers of Cuban troops are being increased and that Soviet involvement through tactical and other advisors is growing. Moreover, it is expected that a major new offensive, on a larger scale than the offensive of late last year, is being prepared against UNITA's headquarters at Jamba and that it will commence in May/June of this year.

The turn of events in Angola is a matter of great importance for the future of the sub-continent as a whole. There are alternatives available to the leadership in Luanda if they really desire peace. South Africa cannot be held responsible for the civil war which is raging in that country. Surely the international community must know that UNITA has been fighting for freedom in Angola for more than 20 years. The international community also ought to know that the South African Government complied in good faith with the Lusaka Agreement of 16 February 1984, despite the Angolan Government's inability to contain SWAPO's incursions across the Namibian border.

By pursuing the military option, the MPLA is progressively impoverishing the land and its people. The struggle ultimately is between those who wish to live in peace and who seek progress and those who wish to impose their will and ideology on an unwilling majority. What is required in Angola is reconciliation. This is not an unattainable goal.

The strategy which the Soviet Union is following in Angola can no longer be in doubt. They require a subjugated Angola to extend their influence along the west coast of Africa, south and north of Angola. If the Soviet Union succeeds in its

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aims in Angola, no country in southern Africa will be safe from Soviet encroachment. The leaders of the countries immediately north of Angola are deeply concerned about this threat. Urgent action is required to ward off this threat.

None the less as regards South West Africa/Namibia, in a sincere endeavour to facilitate the establishment of peace and stability in the region, the South African State President intends to make the following statement before a joint sitting of the South African Parliament to be convened on 4 March 1986:

"Just about eight years ago, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 435 which was intended to provide a definite programme for the independence of South West Africa/Namibia. Those who know the history of this matter know that the fact that the Territory has not yet attained independence cannot be laid at South Africa's door. The last remaining obstacle to the implementation of the International Settlement Plan is the continuing threat posed to South West Africa/Namibia and to our region by the presence of the Cubans in Angola. Despite the progress which has been made in bilateral discussions since October 1984, when Angola agreed in principle to the withdrawal of the Cubans in conjunction with the implementation of the Settlement Plan, the Angolan Government has yet to agree to a satisfactory timetable for Cuban withdrawal. The people of South West Africa/Namibia have waited long enough for independence. In a serious attempt to facilitate a resolution of this difficult problem, I propose that 1 August 1986 be set as the date for commencement of implementation of the Settlement Plan based on United Nations Security Council resolution 435 (1978), provided a firm and satisfactory agreement can be reached before that date on the withdrawal of the Cubans".

I trust that you will find it possible to support this statement publicly as a significant attempt to attain a peaceful resolution of the Namibia/Angolan imbroglio.

The South African State President also intends to announce the early lifting of the state of emergency in those districts of South Africa where it is still in operation. At the same time he will also make a further appeal to all the leaders of the country to come to the conference table to discuss a new constitutional order for South Africa. The South African Government trusts that you will support this appeal clearly and unambiguously.

If the proponents of violence should take advantage of the lifting of the state of emergency and continue their acts of lawlessness and violence, then clearly the South African Government will have to take appropriate steps to protect the lives and property of its citizens even if it means declaring a state of emergency once again in the areas affected.

In addition, the South African Government intends to introduce legislation, in line with legislation elsewhere in the world, to deal with situations of unrest without declaring a state of emergency.

R. F. BOTHA