



UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

S/13822  
26 February 1980

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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NOTE VERBALE DATED 25 FEBRUARY 1980 FROM THE PERMANENT  
MISSION OF MOZAMBIQUE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED  
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit herewith a telex message addressed to His Excellency, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Mozambique, a note sent by the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Mozambique and the answer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Mozambique to that note.

It would be highly appreciated if these communications could be distributed as a document of the Security Council.

Annex I

Message dated 21 February 1980 from the Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs of Mozambique addressed to the Secretary-General

1. The People's Republic of Mozambique has been the target of constant and grave acts by the South African régime against its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Recently these acts have been intensified and reached a critical point never seen before, with the concentration of ever increasing contingents of South African armed forces along its borders.

2. The South African régime not only has been leading a massive and hostile campaign against the People's Republic of Mozambique but also has systematically violated its air and territorial space in a deliberate effort to provoke an armed confrontation with its defence forces.

In accordance with the moral principles and the various and pertinent resolutions of the United Nations, the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique firmly condemns the policy of apartheid and affirms its solidarity with the South African peoples.

3. However, the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique has reiterated several times to the South African authorities its commitment to the principles of respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful coexistence, relations of good neighbourliness and co-operation consecrated in relevant international instruments that govern relations among States, including the Declaration of Principles of International Law consecrated in resolution 2625 (XXV) of 1970.

4. The South African Government, through its Department of Foreign Affairs, threatened expressly to use force against the People's Republic of Mozambique wherever and whenever it considers necessary. It is not an isolated threat. The People's Republic of Angola, Zambia, Lesotho and the Zimbabwean people were equally the targets of such threats.

5. This fits in with the well-known South African policy of forming, in southern Africa, a constellation of States subservient to the racist and apartheid régime.

6. The People's Republic of Mozambique has consecrated in its constitution the principle of struggle for the establishment of international peace and security in conformity with the principles and objectives of the United Nations, of the Organization of African Unity and the non-aligned movement.

7. Peace for us means freedom, independence, inviolability of our frontiers and respect for our sovereignty; these are principles dear to our people and to the international community.

8. Convinced that His Excellency will use his good offices to fulfil our common ideals of universal security, we reiterate the protests of our highest consideration.

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Annex II

Note dated 19 February 1980 from the Department of Foreign Affairs  
of South Africa addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of  
Mozambique

The Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Mozambique and has the honour to state that in spite of the assurances received from the Mozambique authorities that ANC terrorists and other subversive organizations do not operate from their territory against South Africa, recent events have produced conclusive evidence that terrorists who plan subversion in South Africa are being harboured in Mozambique and are conducting murderous operations and acts of sabotage against the Republic of South Africa from bases in Mozambique. The South African Government holds the Government of Mozambique fully responsible for the presence of these terrorists on its territory and for their actions which are indisputably in breach of international law. These activities violate the territorial integrity of South Africa and amount to acts of aggression.

In these circumstances it is incumbent on the Mozambique Government, in the interests of the maintenance of internationally accepted norms of conducts, to take effective steps to terminate these hostile acts and to ensure that no haven is given in Mozambique to individuals or groups perpetrating such acts.

The South African Government reserve the right to take whatever steps may in their view be necessary, wherever and whenever, to protect South African life and property.

Annex III

Note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mozambique addressed  
to the Department of Foreign Affairs of South Africa

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Mozambique presents its compliments to the Department of Foreign Affairs of South Africa and has the honour to announce the reception of the Telex No. K10 of 19 February 1980 and convey the following:

1. It is constant policy of the People's Republic of Mozambique to struggle for peace, to promote peaceful co-existence among countries with different social systems, good neighbourhood and co-operation.
2. In accordance with normal principles and pertinent resolutions of the United Nations the People's Republic of Mozambique firmly condemns the policy of apartheid and is solidary with the South African people.
3. It is publicly known that the People's Republic of Mozambique receives refugees in its territory in accordance with international principles and constitutional law of the People's Republic of Mozambique.
4. There is no military base in the People's Republic of Mozambique pertaining to any forces operating against the Republic of South Africa neither its territory serves as a spring board or a point of organization of any military actions against South Africa.
5. The Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique rejects any attempt to hold it responsible for internal problems of the Republic of South Africa.
6. The Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique has been calling the attention of the South African Government for the constant violations of frontiers and air space of the People's Republic of Mozambique and has learnt of massive concentration of South African forces along the borders with the People's Republic of Mozambique.
7. The Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique concludes that the South African Government is deliberately creating situations of tension and seeking pretext to carry out military aggressions against neighbouring countries.
8. The People's Republic of Mozambique denounces the present attempt by the South African Government which constitutes a grave threat to peace and security in the region.

The Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique reserves the right, in case of persistence of such attempt, to take whatever steps it considers appropriate to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and preserve peace in southern Africa.

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