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LETTER DATED 23 MAY 1986 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE NETHERLANDS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

On behalf of the twelve member States of the European Community, of which the Kingdom of the Netherlands is currently the President, I have the honour to submit to you herewith the text of a joint statement dated 22 May 1986 on the South African military actions against Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Max VAN DER STOEL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Kingdom of the Netherlands

ANNEX

Joint statement dated 22 May 1986 by the twelve member States of
the European Community on the South African military actions
against Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe

The Twelve strongly condemn the South African military actions on 19 May against Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe and threats, officially expressed, to strike again. The attacks of 19 May are a serious violation of the sovereignty of the three countries. The Twelve deplore the loss of human lives resulting from these actions.

The Twelve express their deepest concern about the negative effects of these actions on the possibilities for a peaceful solution of the grave problems of South Africa.

The Twelve once more reiterate their views on the situation in southern Africa as set out in the joint communiqué with the front-line States, issued in Lusaka on 4 February 1986. They urge the South African Government to initiate the necessary political dialogue with the genuine representatives of those South Africans now excluded from the present government structures with the aim of abolishing the apartheid system.

To this end, the Twelve consider it essential that the ban on the ANC, the PAC and other political parties should be lifted and that all political prisoners in South Africa should be freed immediately.
