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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Forty-second session  
Agenda item 12

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS  
IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND  
OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Letter dated 20 February 1986 from the Minister for  
External Relations of Angola to the  
Chairman of the Commission  
on Human Rights

Allow me, on behalf of the people and Government of Angola, to convey our pleasure at your election as Chairman of the current session of the Commission on Human Rights, the United Nations organ with particular responsibility for the defence of the human being and his dignity and physical and mental integrity.

We are convinced that your personality, forged over many years of hard but honourable and dignified struggle for the advancement of mankind, will put its own special stamp on the work of the forty-second session and enrich the documents to be adopted.

I am writing to you on this occasion for a reason that is extremely distressing for the people of Angola, who have already suffered so much. The photographic material which I am attaching, Mr. Chairman, is far more eloquent than any words in any language of the world. May I simply add, by way of supplementing this material, that the horrors shown were perpetuated against the defenceless population of Camabatela, the victims of a surprise attack on the early morning of 8 February 1986 by a gang of assassins from the so-called UNITA armed with swords and guns who brought grief and suffering to this peaceful village. One hundred and seven persons, including many children, died immediately, while dozens of others were seriously wounded.

This would be a serious matter, wherever in the world it occurred. For us, it is even more serious that this should have happened, the work of individuals purporting to be human beings and proclaiming themselves to be defenders of freedom who receive their instruments of death from the universally condemned apartheid régime in South Africa - the very individuals whom a great Power ironically styling itself the world's principal defender of human rights is shortly to supply with more resources enabling them to commit other, similar crimes with impunity.

For 10 Years now, the People's Republic of Angola has daily been visited with destruction and death, but this daily holocaust will not make its people insensitive to suffering or resigned to injustice and inhumanity.

Therefore, in natural revulsion at the perpetrators of such acts and their supporters, we are venturing to send you the present communication and attached photographic material \*/ for inclusion among the working documents of the forty-second session which you have been guiding so ably since it opened at the beginning of the month.

Knowing as we do that this body is an advocate of justice and a prominent and consigned defender of human dignity, we are firmly convinced that these documents will be accepted, as requested, and that the final resolutions of the session will contain a clear condemnation of the barbarous acts committed at Camabatela in northern Angola.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of our highest consideration.

(Signed) Afonso VAN DUNEM MBINDA

Minister for External  
Relations of the  
People's Republic of Angola

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\*/ Available for consultation in the files of the Secretariat.