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LETTER DATED 10 APRIL 1980 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the request of the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs and Information, the Honourable R. F. Botha, I am enclosing the text of a letter he has addressed to Your Excellency on 10 April 1980.

I should appreciate it if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) J. Adriaan EKSTEEN  
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 10 April 1980 from the Minister for Foreign  
Affairs and Information of South Africa addressed to the  
President of the Security Council

I have noted the allegations made by the Permanent Representative of Zambia in a letter (S/13878) addressed to you on 8 April 1980. The South African Government strongly believes that international differences should be resolved peacefully. South Africa's record of willingness to enter into negotiations on international issues affecting her requires no elaboration. Existing channels of communication, arising from a policy of South African co-operation with Zambia, would provide the means of settling matters of alleged concern to Zambia bilaterally. The bilateral nature of the issue emerges clearly from the fact that Zambia accommodates on its territory elements hostile to South Africa and South West Africa/Namibia, which are actively engaged in campaigns of subversion, sabotage and terrorism.

It is clear that the Zambian request for a meeting of the Security Council was timed to pre-empt South Africa's reply to the Secretary-General's report of 31 March 1980 (S/13862) on the South West Africa negotiations.

As has been pointed out to the Secretary-General in numerous communications, a situation of instability exists in the border area between South West Africa/Namibia on the one hand and Zambia and Angola on the other hand, because of the presence of armed SWAPO terrorists who are allowed to attack South West Africa/Namibia from bases in Angola and Zambia. The Secretary-General has been kept informed of these attacks on a regular basis and more than 800 incidents perpetrated by SWAPO have been brought to his attention during the past 18 months.

This situation and the United Nations' one-sided political and material support for SWAPO, to the detriment of the democratic parties of South West Africa/Namibia, have seriously prejudiced the current international effort to bring South West Africa/Namibia to an early and internationally recognized independence after the holding of free and fair elections.

South Africa remains responsible for the peace and security of South West Africa/Namibia and its inhabitants. It, therefore, has no alternative but to take protective action against aggression committed from Zambian soil. South Africa's actions are in direct response to the threat posed by these terrorist activities. They are aimed solely at the elements committing aggression and not against the countries concerned or their citizens. Zambia must bear full responsibility for allowing terrorist elements to establish sanctuaries in and operate from, its territory.

It is therefore Zambia which is in persistent and continuous breach of the provisions both of International Law and of the Charter of the United Nations, to

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the effect that states must refrain from the threat or use of force in their international relations. Rather than South Africa, it is Zambia which should stand accused before the Security Council. South Africa has the right and duty to protect the peoples concerned from acts of aggression and subversion. South Africa has no choice but to continue to eradicate threats from countries which openly harbour terrorists and make their territories available for attacks against South West Africa/Namibia and South Africa.

South Africa has, both by its statements and its actions, such as the transportation of emergency food supplies and the making available of rolling stock and locomotives, clearly demonstrated its role in furthering the peaceful development of the southern African region. South African grain has helped alleviate severe food shortages in the region and, up to now, the South African transport and communication system has been put at the disposal of the region. Zambia has been a notable beneficiary. At present there are, at considerable inconvenience to the South African Railways, nearly 3,000 South African railtrucks in Zambia.

Zambian allegations of South African aggression make no sense against this background of South African co-operation.

South Africa wishes to live in peace with all its neighbours in Africa. It has committed itself to a peaceful and democratic process of attaining independence for South West Africa/Namibia, thus obviating the need for violence on the part of any group which wishes to participate in this process. What is required in the southern African region is dispassionate discussion and co-ordinated action to meet the great challenges facing the region - the problems of education, health and development. The area has tremendous potential if peace can replace provocation. South Africa is willing to play her part to the full in the development of our region. South Africa can contribute substantially in fields such as agriculture, communications, energy, industrial technology and health services, but cannot do so in an atmosphere of animosity and intolerance. Instead of dissipating its energies and resources on hostility to South Africa, Zambia would do well to concentrate on solving its own internal problems. The Security Council is urged to adopt a resolution advising Zambia to concentrate on the upliftment of its people rather than to engage in confrontation with South Africa.

R. F. BOTHA  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
Information of the Republic of  
South Africa

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