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LETTER DATED 9 APRIL 1987 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the following text of an urgent message conveyed to the Government of Botswana on 8 April 1987. Similar messages were also conveyed to the Governments of Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

"The South African Government has reliably learnt of an African National Congress offensive which is being planned to disrupt the general election through violence. The plan involves the infiltration of several groups of heavily armed terrorists who have assembled in Zambia from where some have already left on their way to South Africa via Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The South African Government urges the Government of Botswana to prevent these terrorists from passing through its territory.

"The South African Government wishes to live in peace with all its neighbours and has offered friendship and co-operation to all countries in the region. The South African Government however cannot allow terrorists to enter the Republic of South Africa from neighbouring countries. This should not be construed as a threat. However if these armed terrorists are allowed to pursue their violent designs the South African Government will be forced to take whatever action deemed necessary to protect its people and its borders.

"The South African Government regards this matter in a very serious light and trusts the Government of Botswana will most urgently take effective action to counter this particular plan of the African National Congress."

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

(Signed) A. L. MANLEY
