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LETTER DATED 27 JUNE 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 27 June 1980.

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

(Signed) J. Adriaan EKSTEEN  
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 27 June 1980 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs  
and Information of South Africa addressed to the President of  
the Security Council

South Africa has always been and remains in favour of dialogue as a means of resolving differences. In the case of Angola this aim has been severely hampered by the continuing acts of violence perpetrated from Angolan territory by the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

The border area between South West Africa/Namibia and Angola has been and still is the centre of recurring incidents of terrorist activity by SWAPO. The Secretary-General has, over a period of two years, been kept informed of these incidents which include the wilful murder of civilians, abductions of school children, the laying of landmines and other wanton acts of sabotage and destruction. As recently as yesterday, the South African Government once again had cause to draw the Secretary-General's attention to SWAPO terrorist activities involving the deaths of 46 civilians, the abduction of 71 school children and the wounding of a further 35 civilians, during the period March-May 1980.

Furthermore, in the southern part of Angola, conditions of civil war and instability have prevailed for a period of some five years. This is evident from the large number of refugees which periodically flock to South West Africa/Namibia from this ravaged area. South Africa has, at great cost to itself, always received these refugees, without international assistance of any sort.

South Africa is responsible for the security and protection of the people of South West Africa/Namibia and their property. In the exercise of this responsibility, South Africa cannot stand idly by while SWAPO seeks to impose its will on the people of the Territory by force of arms, murder and abductions.

South Africa's commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes and to the creation of peace and stability in southern Africa is further demonstrated by its acceptance, more than two years ago, of a plan for the constitutional settlement of the South West Africa/Namibia situation.

The Security Council is at present engaged in a debate on allegations of "aggression" by South Africa against Angola. South Africa emphatically rejects this accusation. South Africa harbours no aggressive intentions against Angola and its people.

The problems on the border are, as in the past, the direct result of SWAPO activity. The Angolan authorities are also aware that any action on the part of the South African security forces is aimed solely at SWAPO and not at Angola and its people.

The allegations that South Africa employed force-levels of several brigades are ludicrous. In fact, a small combat team with some air support was involved in

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action against SWAPO. Furthermore, the allegations of civilian casualties and destruction of property and livestock by South African forces are unfounded. Such casualties as resulted involved only SWAPO personnel, or persons involved with SWAPO activities. At no time has South Africa directed operations against civilians. If there were any civilian casualties, they presumably resulted from the civil war which is continuously raging in the area.

At no time did South Africa act against the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), except on 23 June 1980 when in the course of action against SWAPO, a South African helicopter was fired upon and damaged by MPLA forces who were in the vicinity. After the helicopter had force-landed, the MPLA forces attacked the two-man crew, killing the flight engineer. The pilot, in defending himself and fighting his way out, killed several MPLA soldiers.

The combat team engaged in the operation against SWAPO commenced their return to base some days ago and advance elements crossed the border of South West Africa/Namibia in the early afternoon of 26 June 1980. The withdrawal will be completed within the next day or two.

South Africa wishes to live in peace with all its neighbours and to contribute to the development of the region as a whole. However, this cannot be achieved as long as SWAPO is allowed to continue its armed violence against the people of South West Africa/Namibia. 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.

It is SWAPO who should be condemned.

I also urge you, Mr. President, and the Security Council, to prevail on SWAPO to cease its campaign of violence against the people of South West Africa/Namibia.

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