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LETTER DATED 29 OCTOBER 1987 FROM THE PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to attach the text of a letter dated 29 October 1987 addressed to you by the South African Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. R. F. Botha, in response to recent allegations levelled by the Angolan authorities against South Africa.

I would appreciate it if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. Leslie MANLEY  
Permanent Representative

Annex

LETTER DATED 29 OCTOBER 1987 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF SOUTH AFRICA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Security Council document S/19222 of 21 October 1987 contains allegations by the Angolan authorities of what is termed "permanent aggression" by South Africa against the "sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Angola".

These allegations mask the fact that Luanda is incapable of resolving an escalating civil war situation which has ravaged Angola since the MPLA régime imposed its rule against the wishes of the people of Angola and in flagrant contravention of the Alvor Agreement. It sustains its increasingly precarious control in Luanda only through the presence of an extra-territorial force of more than 40,000 Cuban troops and Soviet personnel.

It is a fact that free elections have not been held in Angola since the present régime usurped power. As long as the MPLA régime is bolstered militarily by Cuban and other foreign troops and advisers, a peaceful resolution to the internal situation in Angola will be frustrated.

The situation in Angola and the region is aggravated by the refuge, aid and training given to ANC and SWAPO terrorists by the MPLA régime. These organizations have acknowledged that their intent is to perpetrate terrorist atrocities in Namibia/South West Africa and South Africa.

States Members of the United Nations should take note of the serious consequences of foreign intervention in Angola and the deteriorating security situation brought about by the intransigence of the MPLA régime in the face of popular rejection of such intervention. Among the consequences of the presence of such a large foreign force in Angola and the militarist policies of the MPLA régime is that social life of a major proportion of the Angolan populace is seriously disrupted. Retrogression in all spheres of national life has reached crisis proportions. Famine and disease are rampant throughout the country largely because agriculture, the distribution of basic foodstuffs and the availability of potable water have become totally inadequate to the needs of the people. Medical facilities are also unavailable to the vast majority of the Angolan people who bear the burden of the lack of compassion and concern of the MPLA régime for its welfare.

The Security Council should urgently concern itself with the domestic crisis in Angola which has become the playground of the super-Powers with tragic consequences for the Angolan populace.

South Africa is not at war with Angola; nor is it at war with any of the parties of Namibia/South West Africa. The South African Government has the duty to protect the inhabitants of Namibia/South West Africa against terrorist incursion and accordingly acts in a protective capacity in the Territory.

Should SWAPO cease to commit acts of terrorism against the population of Namibia/South West Africa there would be no need for counter-action by the South African Defence Force and South West African Territorial Force.

You are aware that South Africa stands ready to participate in a conference involving all the interested parties in the region which might lead to peace in Angola and a resolution of the Namibia/South West Africa issue. I again call on those who have the interest of the southern African sub-continent and its peoples at heart to come together to establish conditions which will advance the cause of peace and development.

(Signed) R. F. BOTHA

