

**Security Council**Distr.  
GENERALS/19283  
19 November 1987

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 18 NOVEMBER 1987 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S  
REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Government of the People's Republic of Angola is following with deep concern, the worsening over the past days of the situation prevailing in southern Africa.

Despite all the initiatives aimed at lessening tension in this sub-region, the racist Government of South Africa seeks by all means to sabotage these efforts by intensifying the acts of destabilization against neighbouring countries, particularly against the People's Republic of Angola.

In the first two weeks of October alone the South African army carried out several aerial and terrestrial bombardments, as its aviation advanced 500 kms inside Angola, in the province of Moxico, and 325 kms in the province of Huila.

Furthermore, reconnaissance airflights and bombardments have taken place in the provinces of Kuando-Kubango, Cunene and Namibe, as well as stepped-up concentration of military aircraft and war matériel at the airports of Runtu, Grootfontein and Mpacha, northern Namibia.

In the same period, South African aviation violated Angolan airspace 41 times, using around 70 airplanes and helicopters, which bombed Angolan army positions and defenceless villages at least eight times.

Over the last few days the South African army has been carrying out large-scale armed incursions in Kuando-Kubango province, in south-east Angola, and is preparing to introduce heavy military equipment into the provinces of Cunene and Huila in the south-west. While on one hand racist South Africa trains, monitors and guarantees the subsistence of the UNITA puppet group, whose forces are infiltrated into the sovereign territory of the People's Republic of Angola to spread death and destruction, on the other hand, South African regular forces are intervening directly to rescue the puppet group from total defeat at the hands of the Angolan army.

The Angolan Government has clear indications that one of the most important South African military units, the Eighth Tank Division, with all equipment, is advancing in combat order towards Cunene province under heavy air cover.

The theatre of military operations may reach 350 kms into the province of Huila, where it is foreseen that this aggression may be unleashed on two fronts: the aim would be to enlarge the territory illegally occupied in Kuando-Kubango, on one hand, and to seize strategic cities and villages in the provinces of Cunene and Huila on the other.

The Angolan people and its armed forces are facing with courage and stoicism the unprovoked attacks by the army of the expansionist and racist régime of South Africa and will not abdicate its right to self-defence in order to safeguard its national independence and sovereignty.

I appeal to Your Excellency to take all necessary measures to put an end to these actions, which are a flagrant, disrespectful challenge to the United Nations Charter and the most basic norms of international law, carried out by a member State, the Republic of South Africa, against another member State, the People's Republic of Angola. The continuing aggravation of the tension in this southern region of Africa may have unpredictable consequences, as it constitutes a serious threat to peace and international security.

The Government of the People's Republic of Angola, reiterates its willingness to contribute to the search for a just and negotiated solution to the problem in southern Africa, based on the relevant deliberations of the United Nations Organization, the Organization of African Unity and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, but Angola will not remain indifferent to this ignoble aggression by the Pretoria régime and the Angolan armed bands in its hire and, therefore, will not cease to mobilize all available means in defence of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Considering the gravity of the situation which has been created, finally, I request Your Excellency to circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Joseh Eduardo DOS SANTOS  
President of the People's  
Republic of Angola

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