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LETTER DATED 19 JANUARY 1981 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the latest act of armed aggression on the part of the racist Armed Forces of South Africa against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Angola.

The latest series of armed raids and invasions into Angola began with reconnaissance flights on 11 January 1981. South African Army units, backed by aircraft including helicopter gunships, attacked Angolan troops stationed near Cuamoto on 12 January 1981.

According to the latest information, fierce fighting is still taking place in Cunene and Huila Provinces.

Sir, it cannot be a coincidence that as all of us were gathered in Geneva for the pre-implementation talks on the independence of Namibia, even as the South African delegation was giving the impression of taking part in what were, after all, "peace" negotiations, even as the parties ranged around the negotiating table were discussing ceasefire dates and talking of Namibian independence, the racist Armed Forces of the minority régime in Pretoria were planning and carrying out a series of raids, attacks, aggressions and invasions.

In view of the positive role played throughout by the Government of the People's Republic of Angola on negotiations for the independence of Namibia, a role that has been formally and officially acknowledged by everyone concerned, the timing and intensity of these attacks, which have left a number of dead and wounded, forces my Government to re-examine the intentions of the racist South African régime vis-à-vis peace in southern Africa. Furthermore, Mr. Secretary-General, silence and inaction on the part of the international community regarding the expansionist and militarist policies and actions of the racist régime in Pretoria will not only be contrary to the spirit of earlier Security Council resolutions on the subject of South African attacks against the People's Republic of Angola, but also cast a shadow on the Namibia negotiations as well.

Neutrality, Sir, should not mean indifference to South Africa's posturing. Pretoria seeks not a balance of power, but a concert of power in southern Africa.

My Government, Sir, takes a very serious view of this latest series of attacks and interprets it as a challenge to the sovereign States of southern Africa, to the

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support of the African continent for liberation movements, especially SWAPO, and to the international community for its efforts to secure genuine independence for the people of Namibia.

I will keep you informed, Mr. Secretary-General, of the day-to-day situation as it develops. Meanwhile, I request that this communication be circulated as a document of the Security Council in connexion with the question of South African attacks against the People's Republic of Angola.

(Signed) Elisio de FIGUEIREDO  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative  
to the United Nations

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