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TELEGRAM DATED 18 MARCH 1981 FROM THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF MOZAMBIQUE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Following the information we have given Your Excellency yesterday, 17 March 1981, on the aggression by racist South Africa to the People's Republic of Mozambique, we have the honour to add more details:

At 8 o'clock yesterday morning a Mozambican navy patrol stationed at Ponta do Ouro spotted South African troops and alerted the region. The border guards moved to the area where the infiltration had taken place, a mile on the border between Mozambique and South Africa near the town of Ponta do Ouro.

The South African military contingent, composed of about 50 soldiers crossed the border into our country, and at 8.54, they opened fire against a unit of our border guards stationed in Ponta do Ouro. As a result a Mozambican border guard was seriously injured. Responding to the fire, the Mozambican force killed two South African soldiers.

Our forces recovered the body of one of the South African soldiers, who, at the moment he was hit, was carrying an FN rifle, seven cartridge clips, binoculars and compass.

The body of another South African soldier (a radio operator) was taken back to South Africa by the enemy group. Confronted with a fierce resistance from our armed forces, the enemy received reinforcement in men and assault cars.

They tried to cut the access to the airstrip at Ponta do Ouro and on the Catembe road, leading to Maputo, but they were forced back.

The fight ended at about 3.00 p.m., when the South African troops withdrew. However, large numbers of South African troops are still positioned along the border on the South African side.

As we have already stated before, South Africa is intensifying its attacks against the People's Republic of Mozambique in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of most elementary norms of international law.

South Africa is seeking to generalize the conflict in the region, and, as such, it must be held responsible for the escalation of war in the region which can seriously threaten peace and security in the region and in the world in general.

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The People's Republic of Mozambique reserves its right to take appropriate measures, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to defend and preserve its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The People's Republic of Mozambique is sure that Your Excellency will take the necessary measures in order to avoid further deterioration of the situation.

We request that this letter be circulated among all States Members of the United Nations as a document of the Security Council.

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