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LETTER DATED 28 MARCH 1979 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED  
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

At the request of the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, the  
Honourable R. F. Botha, I am enclosing the text of a letter he has sent to  
Your Excellency on 27 March 1979.

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

(Signed) David W. STEWARD  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 27 March 1979 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of South Africa addressed to the Secretary-General

On 26 March 1979, at 10h30, a group of approximately 40 armed SWAPO terrorists surrounded a school at Uukekete in the Ombalantu area in South West Africa, near the South West Africa/Angola border. The terrorists took 39 of the female students as well as a teacher, Aume Heita, and abducted them across the frontier to their sanctuary in Angola.

On the same day, at 17h00, five armed SWAPO terrorists shot and killed, in cold blood, an elderly farmer on a farm approximately 35 km from the town of Otavi.

SWAPO's premeditated attacks from across the border against unarmed and innocent civilians inside South West Africa are continuing unabatedly despite the negotiations for a peaceful settlement. It is thus abundantly clear that it has not abandoned its efforts to take over by force political power in South West Africa, depriving the inhabitants of South West Africa of their right of self-determination and frustrating their quest for independence through constitutional means.

There is no need for any party in the Territory to conduct a violent struggle to achieve political freedom. It has been agreed that the Territory will achieve independence on the basis of one-man, one-vote, that colour discrimination would be removed (which is in fact taking place) and that the United Nations would be present to satisfy itself on the fairness of the electoral process.

South Africa has committed itself to a peaceful solution based on the settlement proposal. As early as 20 September 1978 (S/12854) in a letter to Your Excellency, South Africa categorically stated that "it is willing to confirm that the moment SWAPO undertakes to stop violence and, in fact, carries out its undertakings, action against SWAPO by the South African Forces would cease".

However, a continuation of acts of violence by SWAPO has destroyed the confidence of the people of South West Africa in the ostensible peaceful intentions of that organization and has strengthened their belief in, and insistence on, the effective monitoring of SWAPO restriction to base, wherever such bases are. The silence of the United Nations in respect of SWAPO's terrorism and intimidation against the people of South West Africa is manifestly prejudicial. It strains the conscience and exceeds the bounds of tolerance to witness the United Nations giving support, respect and comfort to an organization that publicly proclaims its dedication to violence. That this violence is perpetrated indiscriminately against innocent and unarmed men, women and children has seemingly caused no moral dilemma for the world body. Can anyone blame the farmer, the office worker, the labourer - in short, the common man on the street

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in the Territory - if he has developed an incurable resentment and irreconcilable contempt for the cynical and callous manner in which uninvolved parties and alien forces in far away countries are given a mandate to continue to frustrate the will of the democratic majority in South West Africa by holding the democratic principles of freedom, liberty and justice hostage to the manipulation of an undemocratic and violence-supporting organization?

South African Security Forces are responsible for the safety and security of all South West Africans. In the exercise of this responsibility, they are obliged to act against those who violate the safety and security of the inhabitants, and will continue, when necessary, to do so. This is a responsibility that they simply cannot abdicate.

I would urge you, Your Excellency, to use the influence of your office to secure the Security Council's co-operation in adopting a resolution along the lines that I suggested in my letter to the President of the Council on 19 March 1979. The operative paragraphs condemned SWAPO for its violence against the people of South West Africa and called upon SWAPO to cease immediately its violence and terror and to co-operate forthwith in the implementation of the settlement proposal (S/12636). Such action by Your Excellency and the Security Council would indeed be a contribution to peace for which all peace-loving nations in southern Africa will declare their gratitude.

R. F. BOTHA  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

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