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LETTER DATED 20 SEPTEMBER 1978 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.  
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to attach for Your Excellency's attention an excerpt from a communication the South African Government addressed to the five Western members of the Security Council on 12 September 1978, regarding South West Africa.

This communication serves to confirm the undertaking of the South African Government concerning the cessation of violence.

I should be grateful if this letter and annexure could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) J. A. EKSTEEN  
Chargé d'Affaires

ANNEX

Excerpt from a communication addressed by the South African  
Government to the five Western members of the Security  
Council on 12 September 1978

"Cessation of violence:

"As indicated in the Foreign Minister's letter of 6 September 1978 (S/12836) to the Secretary-General, it is essential in planning the implementation of the proposal, to have clarity on SWAPO's intentions. Apart from wanting to know whether or not SWAPO has unconditionally accepted the proposal and is willing to commit itself to the cessation of all forms of violence, the Foreign Minister stated that this commitment ought to be set out in writing and circulated as a document of the Security Council. The South African Government for its part accepted the proposal on 25 April 1978 in its final and definitive form. The Foreign Minister added that

"We are prepared to adhere to that decision but not to go along with interpretations inconsistent with the proposal. The proposal cannot, however, be implemented unless accepted and honoured by all concerned.'

"Bearing this in mind, and having regard to the need to establish necessary conditions of peace for the holding of free elections leading to an internationally accepted independence, an undertaking by SWAPO that at a given time it would cease all warlike acts and operations etc. would be welcomed if implemented in practice. South Africa for its part has in effect by its acceptance of the proposal already given its positive reaction. Furthermore, it is willing to confirm that the moment SWAPO undertakes to stop violence and in fact carries out its undertaking, action against SWAPO by the South African Forces would cease.

"Within 48 hours of the delivery of a written declaration by SWAPO, all South African commanders of the military and para-military forces and other armed personnel would cease all warlike acts and operations against SWAPO. Furthermore, they will ensure that all commanders will from that time onwards enforce and maintain a cessation of all such acts by personnel under their command, provided the cease-fire is not broken by SWAPO. The South African Forces in any case do not and will not engage in acts of violence and acts of intimidation against any inhabitants of South West Africa.

"The establishment of such a cease-fire is an essential prerequisite for the implementation of the proposal set out in Security Council document number S/12636 of 10 April 1978."

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