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LETTER DATED 27 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 enclose the text of a letter addressed to Your Excellency
by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa, the Honourable R. F. Botha.

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

(Signed) J. Adriaan EKSTEEN
Chargé d'Affaires

Annex

Letter dated 27 September 1978 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs
of South Africa addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you on 6 September 1978 on the question of South West Africa (S/12836). In that communication I drew Your Excellency's attention specifically and in detail to four major points in the report which you had submitted to the Security Council (S/12827) and which were of considerable concern to the South African Government, since they deviate substantially from the Five's proposal which my Government accepted on 25 April 1978. These points of concern related to:

- The size of the military component of UNTAG;
- The question of consultation between the Administrator-General and your Special Representative;
- The United Nations civil police component; and
- The election date.

The views of the South African Government on these issues are well known and have been fully discussed in my letter referred to above. Despite the most strenuous efforts undertaken between South Africa and the Five these differences have not yet been resolved.

In these circumstances the South African Government finds it difficult to understand how the Security Council can now be asked to adopt Your Excellency's report and you be requested to implement it.

I would remind Your Excellency that South Africa accepted the proposal of the Five in good faith, but no one can blame the South African Government for being unwilling to accept extended and amended provisions of a proposal which was described to it as being final and definitive. Indeed, the Five pledged that they would stand by their proposal.

South Africa has repeatedly stated that it abides by its decision to accept the proposal of the Five, and even now does not wish to close any doors. In this connexion I should like to recall the statement by my Prime Minister, the Hon. B. J. Vorster, on 20 September 1978 (S/12853):

"Bearing in mind the consequences of these developments for the people of South West Africa as well as those of southern Africa as a whole, the Government has given its most serious attention to all the alternatives.

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"The Cabinet, in its deliberations yesterday, concluded that the people of South West Africa, in accordance with their wishes, would have to be given the opportunity to elect their own representatives. This will be done on the basis of universal adult suffrage in country-wide elections in order to establish unequivocally who has the right to speak for the people of South West Africa.

"The people of South West Africa have clearly signified their desire to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

"Thus more than 85 per cent of the estimated eligible voters in the Territory have enthusiastically registered to vote, this notwithstanding intimidation from certain quarters not to do so.

"All options remain open to them. We will not prescribe to them.

"The body to be elected may:

Decide to draw up a constitution or postpone the drafting thereof;

Decide to proceed with the implementation of the proposal of the Five;

Decide to accept the Secretary-General's report.

"They will, of course, also be free to express themselves on numerous other matters."

R. F. BOTHA
Minister of Foreign Affairs
