



UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

S/11983  
17 February 1976

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. Subsequent to his letters of 22 January and 6 February 1976 (S/11938 and S/11970) and the Secretary-General's reply of 11 February (S/11978), the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa on 13 February again addressed a letter to the Secretary-General on the question of assistance to Angolan refugees and displaced persons. At the request of the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, who transmitted the letter, it was circulated as a document of the Security Council (S/11980).

2. On 17 February, the Secretary-General addressed the following reply to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa:

"Your letter of 13 February, 1976 raises a subject of deep concern to me, namely, the plight of the displaced civilian population of Angola.

"However, your contention that the sole obstacle to United Nations assistance is the fact that South Africa is providing assistance to the camps in southern Angola is not correct. The point is, rather, that the United Nations can only undertake programmes of humanitarian assistance with a country at the request, and with the co-operation of the competent authorities in the country concerned.

"In view of the circulation of your letter of 13 February 1976 as a document of the Security Council (S/11980), instructions are being given to have my reply also circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Kurt WALDHEIM"

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