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LETTER DATED 12 NOVEMBER 1976 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to attach the text of a letter addressed to you on 12 November 1976, by the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. the Honourable H. Muller, on the question of Angolan refugees.

I should be glad if this letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) J. A. EKSTEEN
For R. F. BOTHA
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 12 November 1976 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs
of South Africa addressed to the Secretary-General

Last year on 12 September and again earlier this year on 22 January, 6 February and 13 February, I addressed letters to you in connexion with the serious problem arising from the flood of refugees from Angola into the northern part of South West Africa. In this connexion I asked that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees be requested to assist in resolving this problem. No assistance was afforded from the United Nations in response to this appeal and the South African Government has been shouldering the burden with some assistance from the International Red Cross.

At the present moment 3,400 refugees still remain in Kavango, most of them having been there as refugees since last year. In addition, as a result of recent fighting in southern Angola approximately 2,700 refugees have crossed the border from Angola to Owambo in the past week and the number is increasing daily.

As in previous cases, the South African authorities are caring for these refugees and are supplying the necessary health and other services. But once again I must stress that the ability of the South African authorities to provide them with the necessary shelter, provisions, clothing and health and other services is not unlimited and its resources not inexhaustible.

The matter is therefore brought to your notice again with the urgent request that you authorize the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to lend its active assistance in resolving a problem which clearly falls within his competence.

(Signed) H. MULLER
Minister of Foreign Affairs
