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## GENERAL ASSEMBLY SECURITY COUNCIL

GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Thirty-first session  
Agenda item 52  
POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT  
OF SOUTH AFRICA

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-first year

Letter dated 16 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 16 November 1976 by the South African Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Dr. H. Muller, on matters raised in the communication from the current Chairman of the African Group at the United Nations addressed to Your Excellency and to the President of the Security Council, respectively on 12 November 1976 (A/31/329, S/12227).

I should be glad if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

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

ANNEX

Letter dated 16 November 1976 from the Minister for Foreign  
Affairs of South Africa to the Secretary-General

The African Group at the United Nations has alleged that South Africa has closed the border of Lesotho adjacent to the Republic of Transkei and that this constitutes "a flagrant breach of international law which stipulates safe passage of transit goods to and from land-locked countries" (A/31/329, S/12227).

The Republic of Transkei has already denied that it has closed the borders between Lesotho and Transkei, but merely insists, as is its right, on valid travel documents for people crossing the border into Transkei.

The allegation that South Africa has breached international law is completely without foundation. The South African Government has taken no action of any kind to interfere in any way with the safe passage either of transit goods or of persons crossing the borders between the Republic of South Africa and Lesotho. This continues to flow normally at all established points of entry on the border between South Africa and Lesotho.

It is also pointed out that, as a land-locked country, Lesotho's normal access to the sea lies through the Republic of South Africa along existing road and rail routes and not through the Republic of Transkei. There has been no interference of any kind with Lesotho's use of access along these routes.

(Signed) H. MULLER  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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