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LETTER DATED 29 JULY 1976 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the proposal made by the distinguished representative of Liberia during the 1945th meeting of the Security Council on 28 July 1976, the relevant parts of which read as follows (S/PV.1945, pp. 48, 49-50):

"In his reply to the statement of the Foreign Minister of Zambia, the representative of South Africa said:

'At the outset I wish to state that the South African Government had no knowledge of an attack on a Zambian village at Sialola on 11 July 1976. The South African Government at no time authorized and would not authorize attacks on Zambian villages. (1944th meeting, pp. 23-25)'

"In the view of my Government, the categorical denial by the representative of South Africa regarding this matter raises very serious questions.

"I should now like to address myself to the Government of South Africa through its representative in this chamber.

"Is the Government of South Africa willing to accept and co-operate fully with a fact-finding mission of the Security Council regarding this matter? Is the South African Government willing to make available to that fact-finding mission all relevant information on its troop movements during this period?

...

"In conclusion, I request of the South African representative a reply to the question I raised a moment ago regarding a fact-finding mission so that this factor may be taken into consideration in any draft resolution that might be adopted on the question before this Council."

S/12157
English
Page 2

The authorities of the areas concerned have been consulted and have indicated their willingness to co-operate fully. Accordingly the South African Government has in principle agreed to the proposal made by the distinguished representative of Liberia. The South African Government will give its full co-operation as requested.

Should the Security Council approve of this proposal, the composition of the fact-finding mission and other modalities will no doubt be decided by consultation.

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

(Signed) R. F. BOTHA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
