



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/12165
9 August 1976
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

LETTER DATED 9 AUGUST 1976 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF MADAGASCAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

During our conversation on 6 August 1976, I had the honour to draw your attention to the extremely alarming situation prevailing in South Africa following the serious incidents which took place on 4 August 1976 and the succeeding days at Soweto, where the police of the racist South African régime opposed by force the peaceful marches organized by unarmed African students to protest in front of police headquarters in Johannesburg against the continued detention of their comrades arrested during the events of June 1976.

The incidents of last week, which resulted in at least 8 dead and 41 injured among the demonstrators, continue to arouse the indignation and reprobation of all the peoples who are devoted to justice and peace. Among other consequences, these incidents have led to greater unity and co-ordination of action among African students and workers, not only at Soweto but also in other places, thus creating conditions in which more violent reactions on the part of the South African police are to be feared.

This situation is causing the greatest concern among the members of the group of African States in the United Nations, which are continuing to examine it with all the attention and importance it deserves.

This group, of which I am the Chairman for this month, has instructed me to confirm to you that on completing that examination it intends to enter into contact once again with you and the other members of your Council, which is still seized of the question of South Africa by virtue of resolution 392 (1976) of 19 June 1976.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter, together with the communication dated 4 August 1976 on the same subject addressed to you by the representative of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Henri RASOLONDRAIBE
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annexes

LETTER DATED 4 AUGUST 1976 FROM MR. DAVID M. SIBEKO
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The enclosed cable has just arrived from South Africa and I am requesting you to kindly assist in activating clause 6 of resolution 392 (1976) in view of the fact that the South African apartheid régime is once more in gross violation of this and other United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The Pan Africanist Congress is in grave fear of further massacres by the South African police of innocent Africans and other peaceful demonstrators and I implore you to take all the measures necessary to compel the Vorster régime to desist from its terrorism against our people.

(Signed) David M. SIBEKO
Director of Foreign Affairs

/...

TELEGRAM ATTACHED TO MR. DAVID M. SIBEKO'S LETTER
OF 4 AUGUST 1976

Initial reports from Soweto this morning are that at least four blacks were shot dead during a confrontation with police units just outside the black residential complex. It is believed that the killing took place when a large number of black marchers attempted to break through a heavy police cordon which was preventing them from getting into Johannesburg. Number of casualties is not known at this stage. It is also not certain whether the bullet victims were students or not. Tension is running high as more police reinforcements are being dispatched to strategic areas outside Soweto and other black residential areas on the reef.

Meanwhile, reports filtering through from Soweto are that houses of known members of the Security Branch have been burnt down. Other targets include railway lines and installations. The marchers, who are believed to have been on their way to John Vorster Square police headquarters to demand the release of student detainees who have been in detention following the June Soweto disturbances, were carrying placards. Some of these read: "Release our fellow students" and "Charge or release".

The seriousness of the present situation lies in the fact that whereas the June disturbances only involved students, the current one could involve adults since they had been prevented from going to work in Johannesburg this morning and were all land-locked in Soweto.

At the moment, a large number of blacks have gathered in the Orlando Stadium and are believed to be planning further action.
