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LETTER DATED 15 SEPTEMBER 1976 FROM THE PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to attach for your attention the text of a request by the Chief Minister of Owambo, Pastor C. Ndjoba, addressed to the South African Government.

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

(Signed) R. F. BOTHA  
Permanent Representative

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\* Reissued for technical reasons.

Annex

Trial of SWAPO leaders: request by the Chief Minister of Owambo,  
Pastor C. Ndjoba, to the South African Government

(Free translation)

It has come to my attention and that of my Government that the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) and by name Sam Nujoma and Peter Katjivivi have directed that 42 citizens of Owambo who had been taken captive in Zambia must be shot.

According to reports Nujoma decided that these 42 Owambo's, all members of SWAPO, would first be tried by a so-called SWAPO court and then die before a firing squad. This mass murder which is planned by SWAPO is apparently the brainchild of Sam Nujoma to get rid of the opponents in his own ranks. These 42 Owambo citizens are accused of being agents of the imperialists and capitalists.

I want to make it very clear that these unfortunate people are all members of SWAPO, of whom many were enticed out of Owambo under false pretences with promises that they would be able to study further abroad. The only offence of these people, under the leadership of the Secretary for Information of the Organisation, Solomon Mifima, and Andreas Shipanga, was that they had started asking questions of Sam Nujoma.

Questions such as where did all the money go which leftist organisations and churches donated to SWAPO and why did he spend his time in Moscow or in the Kilimanjaro nightclub in Lusaka while SWAPO terrorists were being shot by the security forces in Owambo.

As a result of the pleas of parents and relatives of these unfortunate people, as well as those who have in recent times been abducted across the border by SWAPO, I ask the South African Government on behalf of myself and my Government to request the United Nations, the International Red Cross and all responsible countries to determine through diplomatic and other channels where and under what circumstances these people are being held and to attempt to save their lives.

According to reports the following Owambo citizens are amongst those being held:

Solomon Mifima  
Andreas Shipanga - Ondangwa  
Jimmy Amupala - Ondangwa  
Andreas Nuukwao - Ondangwa  
Keshi Pelao - Ondangwa  
Ndeshimona Nuyumba - Ondangwa

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