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LETTER DATED 27 OCTOBER 1976 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF LESOTHO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, upon instruction of my Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Chief Leabua Jonathan, to transmit to you and through you to members of the Security Council this communication:

"Excellency:

"I am writing to you about the worsening situation in South Africa. The tragic events in that country over the last four months resulting in the loss of lives of hundreds of Africans and injuries to thousands is yet another indication that the situation in South Africa constitutes a direct threat to the stability of southern Africa and to world peace.

"Ever since the police of South Africa disrupted the peaceful demonstration of Soweto school children last June, the Government of South Africa has become even more repressive in response to the just and legitimate protests of the majority of the people against the evil system of apartheid. That the African people of South Africa are continuing to demonstrate for justice is proof of their determination and the legitimacy of their demands.

"The toll of the dead is increasing virtually weekly. The list of the dead and injured increases with every demonstration for basic human rights. Amongst all civilized peoples, funerals are treated as solemn occasions for paying respect to the dead. Over the last two weeks, agents of the South African Government have desecrated funerals of Africans killed in demonstrations by harassing mourners and even inflicting further loss of life.

"My Government has watched this situation with increasing and grave concern. Now, more than ever, it behoves the international community to take immediate and positive action to avert the tragic consequences of the policy of apartheid pursued by the Government of South Africa.

"Whilst my Government recognizes that there are some positive developments that might arise from the Geneva Conference on Zimbabwe, it seems equally clear to us that the question of southern Africa cannot be adequately dealt with piecemeal but rather in their regional context.

"The euphoria in South Africa over the role of the Government of that country in the preparations of the Geneva Conference should not be allowed to cloud the atrocities that the agents of Pretoria are daily committing against the majority of the people of South Africa.

"In the recent incidents in South Africa, citizens of my country have suffered injuries and some have suffered loss of life. In his statement at the United Nations on 13 October, my Foreign Minister indicated clearly the scope and dimensions of the problems that my Government is faced with as a result of the actions of the agents of the apartheid administration in Pretoria.

"Since my Foreign Minister made known details of the problems we have had, my country is now additionally faced with new problems arising from the instability that has been created on the borders of Lesotho. The area is seething with discontent from the inhabitants of the Transkei who move from one so-called Bantustan to another as an expression of their dissatisfaction with political arrangements of the now styled 'Republic of Transkei'. Conditions of this nature are bound to affect the prevailing peace and stable economy of my country.

"In this situation, I must make a special and strong appeal for support for the African people of South Africa in their struggle for basic rights and for my own country which has become part and parcel of that struggle. The international community has a clear and inescapable obligation to take action to free South Africa from the evils of racism and the scourge of war. South Africa has to and must be saved from wholesale massacre of innocent, peaceful and unarmed children by the bloody and murderous policy of Pretoria. This cold-blooded and callous murder which has already claimed hundreds of lives of both old and young men and women and maimed thousands is another criminal instance of calculated genocide. It should prick international conscience to action. The time for carrying out that obligation is now before a racial holocaust erupts.

"LEABUA JONATHAN
Prime Minister of the
Kingdom of Lesotho"

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mooki V. MOLAPO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
