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LETTER DATED 28 DECEMBER 1981 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the request of the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs and
Information, the Honourable R. F. Botha, I am enclosing the text of a letter he
addressed to Your Excellency on 28 December 1981.

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

(Signed) David W. STEWARD
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 28 December 1981 from the Minister of Foreign
Affairs and Information of South Africa addressed to the
President of the Security Council

On 15 December 1981, the Security Council met at the request of the African group at the United Nations to discuss the independence of Ciskei. The statement issued by Your Excellency at the end of that meeting was reprehensible. The Security Council has no authority or jurisdiction to involve itself in this matter. Accordingly, the South African Government rejects that statement in toto. It is an attempt to deny the people of Ciskei their right to self-determination, a right guaranteed by the Charter and exercised by others who were far less equipped for independence than the people of Ciskei.

The decision to grant independence to Ciskei was taken by the South African parliament in the exercise of its sovereign right in response to a request by Ciskei, following a referendum in which a substantial majority of the people of Ciskei opted for independence. The Republic of Ciskei is now an independent State. No decision which the Security Council or any other body of the United Nations may take can eliminate this fact.
