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LETTER DATED 10 MAY 1979 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

At the request of the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable R. F. Botha, I am enclosing the text of a letter he sent to Your Excellency on 10 May 1979.

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

(Signed) J. Adriaan EKSTEEN
Chargé d'Affaires

Annex

LETTER DATED 10 MAY 1979 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL

I wish to draw Your Excellency's attention to the latest excesses perpetrated by SWAPO in South West Africa.

In one of the most gruesome murders thus far committed by SWAPO, a 60-year-old grandmother was stabbed to death by a group of terrorists before they hauled her two grandchildren from the farmhouse and killed them too. The children were aged five and two.

The terrorists, a few hours later, machine-gunned to death a 60-year-old farmer as he walked to his farmhouse in the same vicinity.

In another incident earlier yesterday the driver of a vehicle was killed when terrorists ambushed his truck on the main road about 80 kilometres south of Ondangwa, in Owambo. His colleague was seriously wounded.

The cowardly and vicious murder by members of SWAPO of five innocent and defenceless people in South West Africa, two elderly persons, two young children and a truck driver, and the permanent disfigurement of the latter's companion, is further proof, if any was needed, of SWAPO's rejection of a peaceful path to the settlement of the South West Africa problem and its determination to stop at nothing in its efforts to seize power by undemocratic means. Its principal instrument in its campaign is terror. It offers nothing constructive. The most recent atrocity is consistent with SWAPO statements over the years signifying complete SWAPO reliance on force and violence in the pursuit of its ends.

Recently, the Security Council chose to condemn South Africa for action against SWAPO bases in Angola without mentioning or criticizing in any way the persistent premeditated terrorist attacks by SWAPO on innocent civilians in South West Africa which forced South Africa's purely retaliatory action. The situation on the border is quite straightforward. The function being performed by South African Forces is protective. They are protecting the people of South West Africa at the latter's request. It is obvious that if no attacks were to be launched on South West Africa from across the border the need for retaliation would disappear. South Africa does not maintain an offensive posture. Despite calls from Your Excellency for restraint, SWAPO, on the other hand, has never desisted from its bloodthirsty attacks. Its stance is aggressive, its techniques are abduction, assassination, bombing, mine-laying and maiming, its victims frequently indiscriminately anonymous. I have furnished Your Excellency with comprehensive reports of SWAPO-initiated violence within the boundaries of South West Africa on a regular basis.

Details of recent SWAPO atrocities have been conveyed to you in my letters of 27 March, 4 April and 7 April 1979. Despite all the foregoing, and despite your calls for restraint, I can detect no disposition on the part of any United Nations

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body to criticize, let alone condemn, SWAPO for its barbarous acts. In these circumstances the United Nations reputation for objectivity and even-handedness no longer exists. The Organization's silence on SWAPO is a further example of hypocrisy and double standards which serves only to bring it into greater discredit.

Throughout the negotiations on South West Africa initiated by the Five Western Powers, SWAPO has persisted with its attacks, giving no reason for any party to conclude that it was negotiating in good faith and really sought a genuine peaceful solution. Despite this record, Your Excellency's Report (S/13120) of 26 February 1979 would, contrary to the provisions of the proposal accepted by South Africa, have the people of South West Africa not only conceded the right of SWAPO forces established beyond the borders of South West Africa to be exempt from monitoring, but also the right of such SWAPO forces as can be infiltrated into South West Africa by, and shortly after, the moment of cease-fire to be allocated bases ("locations") within South West Africa, where they have never before succeeded by their own violent efforts in establishing bases. Surely every reasonable person must find this unacceptable.

R. F. BOTHA
Minister of Foreign Affairs
