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LETTER DATED 19 MAY 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I wish to bring to Your Excellency's attention the following statement which was made by the Honourable R. F. Botha, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Information of the Republic of South Africa, in the House of Assembly in Cape Town on 6 May 1982:

"Then the Honourable Member for Sea Point set out four principles and suggested that those four principles should be included in a declaration which he suggested I should issue on behalf of the Government. I agree with him that the concepts in the principles he enumerated are important concepts, but surely he must be aware that these are principles which have consistently been recognized and applied by the South Africa Government. In this regard I wish to draw his attention to the statement that was made by a former Prime Minister of South Africa in this House on 30 August 1974, well before Mozambique's independence. This is what the then Prime Minister said-

'It was not South Africa's policy to lay down what kind of Government they should have there or who should serve in that Government. The corner-stone of South Africa's policy is non-interference with the domestic affairs of its neighbouring States. All I was prepared to say was that South Africa, and not only South Africa, but also Mozambique, was interested in seeing a sound and stable Government established there.'

"I should also like to quote from a statement made by the Minister of Defence, now the Prime Minister, in this House on 9 September 1974 and which reads as follows-

'The question of mercenaries has been raised by the Honourable Member for Cradock. We saw some reports in the papers that there are attempts to create a mercenary force to act in neighbouring countries and I think it is time that I took a stand in regard to this matter. As far as the question of mercenaries is concerned, I want to express the hope that South Africans will not join such a movement. Our country has a proper Defence Force and our loyalty is to this force. If people want to do service in the protection of our country they are welcome to join our Defence Force, either the Permanent Force or the Citizen Force or the

Commandos. I do not believe in the type of effort we have been reading about during the last couple of days. I must therefore express the hope that people will not follow such an example. We do not believe that it is in the interests of the Republic to interfere in the affairs of other countries because we do not want other countries to poke their noses into our affairs. I take this stand on principle.'

"The previous Prime Minister also made it clear in this House on 30 January 1976 that-

'It made no difference whether or not one liked that Government ...'

that is, the Mozambique Government -

'South Africa's foreign policy is still that if there is a Government which it does not like, it does not make war against it. As long as that Government leaves South Africa in peace. Surely we made it very clear that we were not seeking a quarrel with Mozambique, that we were not interested in who comprised that Government, just as long as there was a stable Government and that country was not used as a base for an attack on South Africa.'

"As recently as 9 October 1981 I wrote a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations - a letter which is now an official document of the United Nations - and I should like to quote from this letter. It was apropos of a complaint lodged by Lesotho against certain alleged South African activities. I quote -

'In contrast with Lesotho's policy of harbouring subversive elements which operate against South Africa, the South African Government has consistently acted against armed persons or groups endeavouring to traverse South African territory en route to Lesotho. South Africa's practical co-operation in containing the security threat against Lesotho is known to that Government.

In fact, the South African Government has on several occasions apprehended armed Lesotho citizens when it determined that these people were plotting physical action from South African soil, and has delivered them to the Lesotho Government.'

"On 28 November 1981 I stated -

'The simplest and most convincing test of whether a country wishes to engage in subversion and destabilization is its declared willingness to enter into non-aggression agreements with neighbouring States and whether it harbours subversive elements actively engaged against the Governments of neighbouring States. The South African Government has consistently stated its view that it is in the interests of all countries in southern Africa that agreements should be entered into on these issues. Ideological differences should not predominate, but economic and

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practical considerations should be the determining factor. The need for all States in southern Africa to act against any form of subversion aimed at neighbouring States is greater than ever.'

"On 3 December 1981 the Honourable Prime Minister said that legislation was being considered to prohibit the recruitment of any serving member of the South African Defence Force for mercenary purposes in the future.

"I think the Honourable Member for Sea Point and the House in general will agree with me that the four principles which he enumerated yesterday are indeed contained in the Government's statements which I have read today."

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

(Signed) David W. STEWARD  
Permanent Representative

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