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LETTER DATED 3 AUGUST 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions of my Government, I wish to inform you that the South African Government rejects the allegations levelled by the Angolan Government in the letter addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Angola on 29 July 1982 and circulated as Security Council document S/15321.

The position of the South African Government is quite clear: the people of South West Africa/Namibia rely on the security forces to protect them from the violence of SWAPO. This organization, while reluctantly participating in the negotiations regarding independence for the Territory, has continued with its campaign of violence and intimidation against the people of South West Africa/Namibia. Indeed, SWAPO's designs were again exposed in documents which were revealed last week.

These documents illustrate that SWAPO openly espouses violence while, at the same time, claiming that it wishes to secure an end to conflict in the Territory.

At this very delicate stage of the negotiations SWAPO's leadership directs its members to:

- (a) Murder leading politicians in South West Africa/Namibia;
- (b) Lay landmines throughout the Territory;
- (c) Stockpile arms, ammunition and explosives in the Territory;
- (d) Continue infiltration into the Territory;
- (e) Continue their campaign of violence and sabotage against the people of the Territory.

The evidence of SWAPO's true intentions raises the question of whether a free and fair election can be held in South West Africa/Namibia. SWAPO is, in effect,

saying that it will brook no opposition, and anyone who opposes its views must be eliminated.

These are the people whom the Government of Angola has chosen to support. These are the people against whom the people of South West Africa/Nambia expect protection. South African and South West African/Nambian actions are not directed against the Government or the people of Angola but against SWAPO.

The arguments advanced by the Permanent Representative of Angola do not address the fundamental issue: if SWAPO were not harboured in Angola and assisted in continuing its campaign of violence in South West Africa/Nambia, there would be no reason for the security forces to seek them out.

Violence and instability in southern Africa would be neither in South Africa's nor Angola's interests - nor that of any of its neighbours. South Africa has demonstrated, through its willingness to co-operate with neighbouring States, that it desires peace in the subcontinent. However, forces from outside Africa apparently consider it imperative for the achievement of their own objectives that southern Africa should be engulfed in conflict. The South African Government is earnestly seeking peace, but it cannot do so at the cost of destroying the stability of the subcontinent.

I would be pleased if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) David W. STEWARD
Permanent Representative
