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LETTER DATED 9 OCTOBER 1981 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF LESOTHO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-
GENERAL

Upon instruction from my Government, I have the honour to bring to Your Excellency's attention that in the past the Lesotho Government has had occasion to inform Your Excellency of the deteriorating relations between Lesotho and South Africa. Lately, as Your Excellency will recall, the deteriorating relations have been characterized by acts of sabotage and violence against the people of Lesotho and their property, such sabotage and violence being perpetuated by armed elements operating from South African territory.

The Lesotho Government once more regrets to inform Your Excellency that on 8 October 1981 at about 1.45 a.m. yet another attack on Lesotho emanating from South African territory occurred. The attack, aimed at the barracks of the Lesotho Para-military Unit stationed near the border, was by mortar shells and machine gunfire. Two shells exploded on the Para-military Unit's parade ground whilst a third exploded on the Officers' Mess building. There were no human casualties.

The Lesotho Government has in the meantime sent a protest note to South Africa. A copy of the protest note telexed to South Africa is herewith enclosed.

I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Molefi A. NTLHOKI
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

81-25799

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Annex

True copy of a telex from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Maseru, Lesotho, for transmission to the Secretary-General
of the United Nations

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Lesotho presents its compliments to the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa, and has the honour to lodge a formal protest in the strongest terms possible against the blatant attacks made at 1.45 a.m. on the 8th instant by mortar shells and machine guns fired from South African soil and directed at the barracks of the Para-military Unit. The firing of these shells and machine guns was clearly observed by our sentries. Continued denial of these acts of aggression by South Africa against Lesotho serves no useful purpose but will continue to create unhealthy relations between our two countries. Lesotho fully holds South Africa responsible for these acts which emanated from South African soil.

On several occasions Lesotho protested against South Africa on these attacks but South Africa turned a deaf ear. In the circumstances, Lesotho has no alternative but to put its case before the Security Council at an early date.

Highest Consideration
Foreign Maseru, Lesotho
8 October 1981