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NOTE VERBALE DATED 10 AUGUST 1979 FROM THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit a press release from the Office of the President of the Republic of Botswana relating to yet another series of acts of aggression, sabotage, cold-blooded murder and flagrant violation of Botswana's territorial integrity perpetrated by the illegal minority Muzorewa/Smith régime in Southern Rhodesia. These acts which occurred during 8 and 9 August 1979 are a clear demonstration that the illegal régime in Salisbury in its desperation continues in its attempts to destabilize our region.

May we request Your Excellency to circulate the attached statement as a document of the Security Council.

Annex

Press Release dated 9 August 1979

Rhodesian attacks on Botswana

At 6.15 p.m. yesterday (Wednesday) two Rhodesian Air Force helicopters landed at Bosoli Farm which is about 20 kilometres from Francistown. Members of the Botswana Defence Force went to the area but did not find any trace of the Rhodesians there.

At about 3.00 a.m. this morning a Botswana woman who occupies a Botswana Housing Corporation house in Area M of Francistown was woken by knocking on her door and demands from some men that she should open it. She refused to do so and shortly afterwards an explosion occurred which virtually demolished the house. The occupant was not injured. At 4.20 a.m. a light delivery van driving along the road to Matsiloje about 40 kilometres from Francistown was challenged by a Botswana Defence Force contingent. When challenged, the men standing on the back of the vehicle opened fire on the Botswana Defence Force men. The Botswana Defence Force returned the fire and the occupants of the van fled into the bush. The van was seized by the Botswana Defence Force.

A Botswana Defence Force aircraft was sent to the scene of the incident early this morning and at about 6.00 a.m. a Rhodesian Air Force helicopter hovering just above the ground was spotted in the vicinity of the Botswana Defence Force Air Field near Matsiloje. The Botswana Defence Force aircraft attacked the helicopter and was in turn attacked by two other Rhodesian helicopters that were flying at a higher altitude. The Rhodesian helicopters returned to Rhodesia and the Botswana Defence Force aircraft returned to Francistown. At least two bullets fired by the Rhodesians hit the Botswana Defence Force plane.

Early this morning the night watchman at the Botswana National Library in Francistown, which is close to the house that was blown up, was found dead at the library. He had died from a knife wound in his throat. The motor vehicle at the library had been broken into and attempts had been made to steal it. The police are still investigating how the Rhodesian terrorists obtained the motor vehicle which they were driving towards Matsiloje.

It is evident that two white and three black Rhodesian soldiers were landed at Bosoli Farm by helicopter and proceeded to Francistown where they murdered the night watchman at the library in their attempts to steal a motor vehicle. They subsequently blew up the house in Extension M and obtained a vehicle to drive them to Matsiloje. The three helicopters which entered Botswana this morning had been sent to pick them up.

The motive for this further outrage by Muzorewa's terrorists is not known but it is obvious that the flagrant violation of Botswana's territorial integrity, cold-blooded murder of its citizens and wanton destruction of property is still the policy of the present Salisbury régime.
