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QUESTION OF NAMIBIA

Letter dated 8 October 1982 from the Permanent Representative
of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the
President of the General Assembly

At the request of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Information of
uth Africa, the Honourable R. F. Botha, I am enclosing the text of a letter he
dressed to Your Excellency on 8 October 1982.

I should appreciate it if this letter could be circulated as an official
cument of the General Assembly under agenda item 32.

(Signed) David W. STEWARD
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Information
of South Africa to the President of the General Assembly

It is regrettable that the Foreign Minister of Angola should have deemed it necessary, particularly at this time, to create confusion about the current negotiations on the future of South West Africa/Namibia in his address to the General Assembly on 4 October 1982. It is yet another example of the double standards practised by many states in order to serve their own interests.

In his address, the Angolan Foreign Minister refers to the right of the "Namibian people to self-determination and independence", while ignoring the fact that following the installation of the MPLA Government in Angola in 1975, no election has ever taken place in his own country. The real question the Assembly should be asking itself, is whether the people of Angola should not be allowed to exercise their right to self-determination and true independence.

South Africa is interested in and calls for a decisive commitment by the international community to a settlement of the South West African/Namibian imbroglio. Real progress has been made towards the achievement of South West African/Namibian independence over the past two years. The United States Government together with its partners in the Contact Group have put forward proposals which could lead not only to a settlement of the South West African/Namibian issue but which could lay the basis for peace and stability in the whole of the southern African region. In an endeavour to assist in securing this goal, South Africa accepted as far back as 26 January 1982, the revised constitutional principles put forward by the Contact Group on 17 December 1981, and has moved forward on phase II of the negotiating process. The remaining outstanding issues of phase II could, in the

view of the South African Government, be speedily settled. What remains to be resolved, however, are conditions of security in the region which are imperative for the implementation of phase III.

It is these conditions of peace and stability which South Africa seeks to establish and it is with this objective in mind that the South African Government has repeatedly requested the Angolan Government not to allow its territory to be used by SWAPO to launch its terrorist onslaught on the civilian population of South West Africa/Namibia.

South Africa has moreover, publicly and repeatedly declared its willingness to enter into non-aggression agreements with its neighbours. The South African Government will continue to protect the people of South West Africa/Namibia against SWAPO's terrorism and subversion.

South Africa calls once again for the removal of all foreign forces from southern Africa. The continued presence of these forces constitutes a serious source of tension in the region with incalculable conflict potential for all the countries involved.

Prosperity and stability in southern Africa are the twin objectives of the South African Government, with the express hope that all countries in the region will see their way clear to participate in this process without interference in the internal affairs of their neighbours.

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Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my
highest consideration.

R.F. BOTHA
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION
