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LETTER DATED 12 JUNE 1987 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

With reference to Security Council document S/18908 of 10 June 1987, I have the honour to enclose a copy of the South African Government's reply to accusations that were levelled at the South African Police regarding the car-bomb explosion in Gaborone, Botswana, during April of this year.

The South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. R. F. Botha, made public the contents of this reply on 11 June 1987, in response to a formal notification from the Botswana Government, as well as to a statement issued by the Office of the President of Botswana on 9 June 1987.

I should be grateful if this letter and the annexure could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. L. MANLEY

ANNEX

Full text of the South African Government's note to Botswana

"The Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa presents its compliments to the Department of External Affairs of the Republic of Botswana and has the honour to refer to the latter's telex No. 69 EA 4/1/8/1 B1 of 8 June 1987 which alleges the involvement of the South African Police in an explosion which took place in a vehicle in Gaborone on 8 April 1987.

The Department of Foreign Affairs denies most emphatically that the South African Police or any other security agency of the South African Government was involved in any way in the explosion in question, and wishes to register its strongest objection to this accusation. It also objects most strongly to the statement attributed to the Office of the President of Botswana in this regard before the South African authorities had had an opportunity of replying to these baseless allegations.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has the honour to inform the Department of External Affairs of Botswana that the South African Police have incontrovertible evidence that Keith Charles MacKenzie had been used by the ANC to transport terrorist weaponry from Botswana to the Republic of South Africa. The South African Police also has evidence that MacKenzie has had regular contact with certain members of the ANC in Zambia and Botswana. Furthermore, evidence confirms that MacKenzie, when last he left South Africa, was on his way to Botswana where he was to have met Ernest Lekoto Pule and Lester Dumakude, both active ANC terrorists. Further investigations by the South African Police revealed that MacKenzie was to have taken a vehicle to Botswana which Dumakude and Pule were to equip with an explosive device to be detonated by remote control. It was established that MacKenzie would use a vehicle with registration number JKG375T, registered in the name of his wife and a tracing device was installed in this vehicle by the South African Police. This vehicle exploded in Gaborone on 8 April and there is no doubt that it had been equipped by the ANC with an explosive device as described above.

Should there be any doubt in the minds of the Botswana authorities as to the authenticity of this information the South African authorities will be prepared to provide access to certain material to support these facts.

It is deplorable and unacceptable that the Botswana Government sees fit to implicate the South African Police whilst ignoring the grave danger arising from the presence of the ANC on its territory.

The Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department of External Affairs of the Republic of Botswana the assurance of its highest consideration."