



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 9 DECEMBER 1982 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF LESOTHO TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, upon instructions of my Government, to transmit to you the attached urgent cable message from the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho, Hon. Charles Dube Molapo addressed to Your Excellency following a surprise attack launched by the South African Defence Force on Maseru, the capital of Lesotho, on Thursday, 9 December, 1982 at 1.00 a.m. Lesotho time.

As the message indicates, it is the wish of the Government of Lesotho that an urgent meeting of the Security Council be convened to deal with this issue of unprovoked South African aggression.

(Signed) Ts'eliso THAMAE
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Annex

Telegram dated 9 December 1982 from the Minister for
Foreign Affairs of Lesotho addressed to the President
of the Security Council

This morning at about 0100 hours, the South African Defence Force mounted an aggressive attack on the capital of Lesotho, Maseru. In this commando-type attack, the South African Defence Force was led and guided by members of the so-called Lesotho Liberation Army who identified the targets to SADF.

In their attack, the SADF used military aircraft and helicopters. The targets were Lesotho citizens, South African refugees, Government apartments and flats leased to South African refugees. In this dastardly, cowardly and barbaric act, about thirty-one innocent lives were lost. These included women and children.

It is significant to note that in all these brutal killings, the victims were eliminated either through indiscriminate bombings of dwellings and in some cases victims were awakened and callously shot in a cold, criminal manner.

For all these dastardly acts we hold the Government of the Republic of South Africa fully responsible. Pretoria has arrogantly admitted responsibility and has threatened to repeat its barbarous action. This situation clearly constitutes a very serious threat to international peace and security. We therefore urge the convening of an urgent Security Council meeting to address this issue.

Charles Dube MOLAPO
Minister for Foreign Affairs