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**LETTER DATED 24 JUNE 1988 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED  
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

I have the honour to forward the enclosed copy of a message transmitted to the Government of Botswana on 22 June 1988, regarding a shooting incident that occurred on 21 June 1988 and which involved members of the Botswana Police Force and a South African Defence Force patrol. Also enclosed is a copy of a press release issued by the South African Defence Force in Pretoria on 21 June 1988 in the same regard.

Despite repeated requests by the Government of South Africa that the Government of Botswana should curtail the activities of terrorists operating from inside Botswana against innocent victims in South Africa, these terrorist infiltrations continue to occur.

The South African Government has at its disposal positive evidence to the effect that the following military equipment has been channeled through Botswana in the last six months, for use by terrorists inside South Africa:

1. Russian SAM-7 system (for use against aircraft):
 

(a) Launchers	1
(b) Booster charges	1
(c) Rocket warheads	3
(d) Optical sights	1
  
2. Demolition charges:
 

(a) SZ-6 type	3
(b) SZ-3 type	8
(c) KZ-7 type	2
  
3. Limpet mines:
 

(a) Mini-158 type	29
(b) SPM-2 type	9

4.	Detonating fuses	40 metres
	Safety fuses	40 metres
5.	Different types of igniters	142
6.	Hand grenades	137
7.	Rifles:	
	(a) AK-rifles	10
	(b) Hand carbines	1
	(c) PKM machine guns	1
8.	Pistols:	
	(a) Scorpion machine pistols	5
	(b) Tokarev pistols	5
	(c) Makarov pistols	4
	(d) Other types	4
9.	Ammunition:	
	(a) 7.62 calibre (80 per cent of which intended for AK rifles)	5 945
	(b) Other calibres	829
10.	Radio sets and receivers	1
11.	Pistol silencers	1
12.	Magazines:	
	(a) For AK rifles	26
	(b) Other types	34
13.	Mortar bomb equipment:	
	(a) 61 mm launchers	2
	(b) 61 mm bombs	40
14.	Cross-bow with optical sights:	1
	(a) Arrows	2

It is clear that the bulk of terrorists infiltrating the Republic of South Africa, as well as their armaments, equipment and logistic support, do so through the Republic of Botswana. This cannot be tolerated. The South African Government wishes to live in peace with all its neighbours, but for as long as neighbouring States ignore our legitimate concerns regarding callous terrorist attacks against innocent civilians in South Africa, the South African Government will be compelled

to take effective action whenever required. Such actions which the South African Security Forces are obliged to take from time to time against terrorists in neighbouring States are directed against the terrorists themselves, and not against the State harbouring these terrorists or against the citizens of that State.

I would request that this letter together with its annexures be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) J. S. ALDRICH  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex I

Text of a message dated 22 June 1988 from the South African  
Government addressed to the Government of Botswana regarding  
the incident of 21 June 1988

Compliments.

Secextern has the honour to refer to the shooting incident on 21 June 1988 during which Botswana policemen were allegedly injured.

The South African Defence Force was engaged in a reconnaissance mission on the aforementioned date, after having obtained information pertaining to ANC activities in the Republic of Botswana. The South African Government, however, wishes to reiterate that these actions should by no means be interpreted as being directed against the Republic of Botswana or its citizens, but against ANC, which is planning and conducting acts of terrorism against the Republic of South Africa.

The South African Government unequivocally denies any complicity in explosions which reportedly occurred in or near Gaborone on 21 June 1988.

According to information gleaned from captured terrorists and the experience of the South African security forces, approximately 70 per cent of all terrorists infiltrating the Republic of South Africa, as well as the armaments, equipment and logistic support, pass through the Republic of Botswana. This does not correspond with Botswana's publicly stated policy. Secextern has repeatedly protested against the use of Botswana's territory for the perpetration of terrorist acts against the Republic of South Africa. The South African Government's concern is clearly illustrated by Secextern's 44 security related communications with the Botswana Government over the past two years.

Against the background of the recent bomb explosions in several major South African cities, and information supplied by, inter alia, the four terrorists captured at Broederstroom (in South Africa), and the events referred to above, it has now, in the view of the South African Government, become imperative that a ministerial meeting between the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Botswana be convened at the earliest possible date. Reference to such a meeting was made during a telephone discussion between Mr. N. P. Van Heerden, Director-General of Foreign Affairs (South Africa) and Mr. S. A. Mpuchane, Permanent Secretary of External Affairs (Botswana) on 21 June 1988.

Highest consideration.

Annex II

Press release dated 21 June 1988 issued by the South African  
Defence Force in Pretoria

A spokesman for the South African Defence Force has confirmed that a patrol, which was gathering information in Botswana near the South African border, was involved in the shooting incident with the Botswana police early this morning.

The Botswana police fired on the patrol, which was forced to return their fire. In this process members of the Botswana police were wounded. The patrol returned safely to their base.

This action was not aimed against the Government or the people of Botswana and the accusation that South Africa made itself guilty of State terrorism is preposterous, especially coming from a country which allows terrorists to operate from its territory against the Republic of South Africa.

The two people who are allegedly held in Botswana were not involved in the shooting incident. Regarding the allegations from Botswana about their connections with the South African Defence Force, no comment will be made unless the Botswana Government provides more details.

This action of the South African Defence Force must be seen against the background that 23 ANC terrorists were being held in connection with 16 acts of terror which occurred in the Republic in the past three months.

It is known that ANC operates from neighbouring countries, including Botswana. Information obtained from the ANC members caught at Broederstroom has proved that members of ANC infiltrate South Africa from Botswana to carry out their acts of terror. In this connection, several incidents occurred in the past in the Northern and Western Transvaal.

South Africa's point of view that it will not hesitate to act in the most effective way against those who wish to commit acts of terror against this country is well known.

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