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Letter dated 6 July 1988 from the Permanent Representative
of Botswana to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the attached press releases issued by the Office of the President of Botswana on 5 July 1988. I would be grateful if the press releases could be circulated as documents of the General Assembly, under item 36 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Legwaila J. M. J. LEGWAILA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/43/50.

ANNEX I

Press release issued by the Office of the President of Botswana
on 5 July 1988

The Office of the President has confirmed that on Tuesday, 28 June, around 10 p.m. the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) Personnel manning a road block between Tlokweng Village and the Tlokweng border post apprehended Danish Charles Beaham, also known as Henry Peter Coleman, as he and another man were in the process of escaping into South Africa by making an illegal border crossing. The two men are directly connected with the South African Commando Group that was supposed to conduct a rescue operation of six South African saboteurs detained in Zimbabwe pending trial for murder and other acts of sabotage in that country. The second man, whom Coleman identified as Jimmy Maguire, managed to evade arrest by the BDF and is now believed to be in South Africa.

In subsequent interviews with the members of the Botswana Police Force, Henry Peter Coleman admitted to having served in the Rhodesian Army between 1976 and 1980 after which he took up a security job in South Africa. His assignment in the aborted rescue bid was to deliver a vehicle carrying communications equipment concealed in its compartments from Maun to Harare. The two men abandoned their vehicle at Kazungula on the Zimbabwean side of the border when the authorities there indicated the procedural need to search it. The two men then crossed into Botswana illegally and then arranged a private aircraft that took them to Gaborone on 28 June, the night they were intercepted by the BDF.

Danish Charles Beaham, also known as Henry Peter Coleman, has since been handed over to the Zimbabwean authorities to face charges relating to the aborted rescue attempt in Harare.

The Office of the President commends the Security Forces for the role they played in this operation and wishes to encourage members of the public to continue to co-operate in the interests of National Security.

ANNEX II

Press release issued by the Office of the President of Botswana
on 5 July 1988

The Botswana Police report that three anonymous telephone calls were received in Gaborone today. The details of the calls follow:

(a) At 1055 hours a caller informed the Police Headquarters that a bomb had been planted at Sir Seretse Khama Airport.

(b) At 1347 hours a call was made to Naledi Secondary School reporting that three bombs had been placed at the school which would be exploded by remote control within an hour.

(c) At 1510 hours another call was received at Naledi Secondary School. This time the caller stated that the Security Forces would not be able to find any of the bombs "without our assistance" and that such assistance would only be rendered after the Botswana authorities released what the caller referred to as "our two friends".

After the first two calls were received, the necessary precautions were taken at the airport and at Naledi Secondary School. Both premises were searched by the police and members of the Botswana Defence Force and no explosive devices were found.

Members of the public are requested to remain calm in the face of these new threats and to co-operate fully with the security forces.
