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LETTER DATED 8 FEBRUARY 1983 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

At the request of the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs and
Information, the Honourable R. F. Botha, I am enclosing the text of a letter he has
addressed to Your Excellency on 8 February 1983.

I should appreciate it if this letter could be circulated as a document of the
Security Council.

(Signed) Leopold L. CONRADIE
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 8 February 1983 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs
and Information of South Africa addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to your letter regarding Security Council resolution 527 (1982) of 15 December 1982.

On 16 December 1982, South Africa's Permanent Representative at the United Nations expressed the South African Government's views on the resolution when he pertinently drew to the attention of members of the Security Council the fact of South Africa's exclusion from the deliberations leading to the adoption of the resolution. He also questioned the impartiality of the Council on that issue when he pointed out that only the week before nine members of the Council had supported a General Assembly resolution which commended ANC for intensifying its campaign against the institutions and people of South Africa. It was made clear that the Lesotho Government had been frequently warned by the South African Government that murder and sabotage planned by ANC or other terrorist groups within Lesotho's territory and executed in South African territory would not be tolerated and that Lesotho would have to bear the consequences of harbouring those elements in contravention of international law.

South Africa rejects resolution 527 (1982), as it is fundamentally flawed and one-sided. Since it would be redundant to restate in detail the merits of South Africa's case, these comments address only those paragraphs of the resolution which are singled out in your communication under reply.

As regards paragraph 2 of resolution 527 (1982), the South African Government reaffirms its view that financial responsibility must be laid at the door of the Lesotho Government, not only for the incident debated in the Security Council but also for the damage caused on a number of occasions in South Africa as a direct consequence of the Lesotho Government's policy of harbouring terrorists. As was stated by South Africa's Permanent Representative when he was given an opportunity to speak in the Security Council, after the adoption of the resolution, South Africa's sole motivation, after numerous appeals and warnings to the Lesotho Government, was to defend itself against terrorism involving the destruction of life and property in South Africa.

Concerning paragraph 6, the South African Government is in full accord that peaceful means should be employed to settle international disputes. But the pursuit of peace is not a unilateral task; other parties must also play their part. The United Nations must itself shoulder a large measure of responsibility for its moral and material encouragement of terrorist aggression against South Africa. South Africa exercises restraint and patient diplomacy in the pursuit of peace but reserves the right, in the last resort, to take effective measures to defend the lives and property of its citizens.

With reference to paragraph 7 of resolution 527 (1982), I wish to point out that South Africa has repeatedly and publicly declared its desire to live in peace with its neighbours. It is willing to translate this wish into concrete action by

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concluding not only non-aggression pacts with its neighbours but also treaties which would reciprocally prohibit the use of territories for attacks. Nothing is more indicative of South Africa's commitment to the ideals of the Charter of the United Nations than this offer, which has been so often extended but to which the response has been discouraging.

I trust that Your Excellency will use your good offices to encourage others to follow the path of peace in southern Africa.

(Signed) R. F. BOTHA
Minister of Foreign Affairs
and Information
