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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 5 July 1988 from the Permanent Representative of
Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the report issued on 30 June by the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba concerning the military clashes that took place on 27 June between Cuban-Angolan forces and South African forces within the territory of the People's Republic of Angola.

I should be grateful if you would have this document distributed as an official document of the General Assembly under item 36 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Alberto VELAZCO-SAN JOSÉ
Ambassador
Alternate Permanent Representative

* A/43/50.

ANNEX

REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF CUBA

South Africa is trying to create an international outcry about the air strike carried out against its camps in military installations at Calueque in southern Angola by the Cuban-Angolan air force on 27 June 1988.

This strike was carried out as a response to the South African long-range artillery attack on the Cuban-Angolan positions at Tchipa, south of Cahama, in Cunene province. This hostile action, which involved the firing of almost 200 shells, took place on Sunday, 26 June, between 1715 and 1822 hours, 24 hours after the Cairo meeting, at which strenuous efforts were made to seek a negotiated political solution of the conflict. There had previously been no such direct artillery attack on our troops on the south-west Angolan front. On that same Sunday the Government of Cuba reported these developments to the Governments of the USSR and the United States; the latter country is acting as mediator in the negotiations. As an appropriate response, our forces carried out the heavy air strike against the South African forces deployed in Calueque on 27 June at 1300 hours.

On the same day, 27 June, during the morning, a large South African patrol of that country's 61st Regular Mechanized Battalion which was advancing and probing in the direction of Tchipa was intercepted and almost wiped out 17 kilometres south-west of that point. Of the six "Rathel" armoured vehicles in the patrol, four were destroyed and one captured intact by our forces after its crew fled; many maps and documents and various weapons were found in this vehicle. A South African support column that was advancing as a reinforcement was intercepted, halted and attacked by our air force at 1000 hours on the same day.

South Africa has offered an extravagant and boastful version of these events, according to which 10 vehicles of the Cuban-Angolan forces were destroyed and 200 members of those forces killed.

Wars are not won with lies. No Cuban-Angolan vehicle was destroyed in this clash. A Cuban T-55 tank which was damaged by enemy action remained in our possession and has already been repaired and rendered battle-ready. The terrain on which the ground actions took place south-west of Tchipa remains in our hands, as do the four "Rathel" that were destroyed and the one that was captured in good condition.

In all the actions of 26 and 27 June, 10 members of the Cuban-Angolan and SWAPO forces were killed.

All the air and ground actions took place within Angolan territory.

The South African troops received an exemplary lesson. We are not in a position to give an exact figure for their total casualties. They acknowledge that 12 of their troops were killed. On the basis of the casualties observed during the ground fighting, we estimate that scores of their troops were killed.

As has been the rule since the time of the rebel army, our armed forces always adhere strictly to the truth.

Any South African attack on the Cuban-Angolan forces on the southern Angolan front will provoke a similar immediate and forceful response.

Nevertheless, the Government of Cuba and the Government of Angola remain ready to continue working seriously to seek a negotiated solution of the conflict.
