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LETTER DATED 11 OCTOBER 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE 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 11 October 1983.

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

(Signed) Kurt von SCHIRNDING
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 11 October 1983 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs
and Information addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to refer to the letter dated 2 September 1983 from the Lesotho Foreign Minister, the Hon E R Sekhoyana, to Your Excellency, which was subsequently circulated as United Nations document S/15970, and in which certain allegations were made against the South African Government.

It is regretted that at a time when South Africa and Lesotho have been holding talks at ministerial and official level to address certain problems in their bilateral relations, especially in the area of security, the Lesotho Foreign Minister has deemed it necessary to include in the communication to you, statements that are not in accordance with the facts.

I would like in particular to state that South Africa has not applied selective economic sanctions or an arms embargo against Lesotho, nor has it applied selective non-approval of overflight requests for non-scheduled flights, as asserted in the Foreign Minister's letter. Because of well-founded fears about the activities of certain anti-South African subversive elements in Lesotho and because of its duty to protect life and property in South Africa, measures regarding the entry of persons into South Africa from Lesotho had to be tightened up. For the same security reasons a consignment of arms destined for Lesotho was not immediately released from a South African port of entry.

The government of Lesotho was informed that these border control measures would be relaxed and the arms released as South Africa's security concerns were met. It would appear that certain actions have been taken by the government of Lesotho which have led to an improvement in the situation.

It is clear that border control measures on persons wishing to enter South Africa from Lesotho cannot be construed as economic sanctions, nor can delaying the release of a consignment of arms be said to be an arms embargo.

Regarding the allegations of armed attacks referred to in the Foreign Ministers's letter, I wish to point out that South African territory would not be involved in the areas mentioned.

As the letter of the Foreign Minister of Lesotho has been circulated to all members of the United Nations as a document of the Security Council I ask that this letter from me be similarly circulated.

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