



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/38/359
S/15937
25 August 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-eighth session
Item 36 of the provisional agenda*
QUESTION OF NAMIBIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-eighth year

Letter dated 22 August 1983 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Information of South Africa to the Secretary-General

I refer Your Excellency to the telegram dated 15 August 1983 from the Deputy Minister for External Relations of Angola, addressed to Your Excellency (S/15929), in which South Africa is accused of occupying "the municipality of Cangambe in the Moxico Province" of Angola "after intense aerial bombardment with 'Impala' and 'Canberra' fighters".

The South African Government rejects these allegations. Cangambe is beyond the range of an "Impala" aircraft carrying a bomb load. "Canberra" aircraft are used for reconnaissance purposes and it is no secret that South Africa is from time to time forced to undertake reconnaissance flights for the purpose of monitoring hostile activities against South West Africa.

It is common knowledge that the People's Republic of Angola allows its territory to be used as a springboard for armed attacks against the people of South West Africa. South Africa is responsible for the protection of the inhabitants of South West Africa/Namibia and cannot and will not permit this state of affairs to go unhindered - especially in view of the known build-up of Cuban and FAPLA (Forças Armadas para a Libertação de Angola) forces in southern Angola, which are used in support of SWAPO operations, and the recent deployment of Soviet weaponry such as SAM-8 missiles.

The truth of the matter is that more and more of the civilian population of Angola are reacting to the atrocities continually being perpetrated against them by Cuban and SWAPO forces. Resistance to the MPLA (Movimento Popular de Libertação

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de Angola) Government is increasing and it was the forces of UNITA (União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola), not of South Africa, which captured Cangambe.

However, if there exists any doubt as to the matter, I would strongly urge Your Excellency to send a mission as a matter of urgency to visit Cangambe in order to determine conclusively, through the gathering of evidence on the ground, who was in fact responsible for the aerial bombing at Cangambe.

It would be appreciated if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 36 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

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