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LETTER DATED 13 SEPTEMBER 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ZAMBIA
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the persistent acts of aggression committed against my country by the racist régime of South Africa.

Over a period of time ranging from January 1979 to September 1979, South African war planes, ground and water borne troops, have been violating Zambian air space and land, mainly in the western province of Zambia bordering Namibia. In several villages of this province, racist troops have carried out indiscriminate acts on innocent villagers causing considerable loss of human lives and property. These attacks have of late increased in intensity and frequency, thereby threatening security and peace in the region. The following is a catalogue of specific incidents which have taken place during the period under reference.

February 1979

South African troops attacked a Zambian village known as Sinjembela. They burnt a government truck and killed four people, leaving two injured.

March 1979

South African troops, jets and helicopters bombed Zambia's military positions near Zambezi and killed five Zambian soldiers, injured 10 and destroyed three army trucks. In the same area, they pulled down a Zambian flag at a primary school known as Imusho.

April 1979

South African troops, supported by 14 armoured vehicles, entered Zambia's territory at Imusho village. They harrassed villagers, beating them up and destroying their houses. They also took away their personal belongings, including their national registration cards. In these raids, one civilian was killed and several others were injured.

May 1979

South African jets bombed a Zambian military truck near Silumbu School. The troops harrassed innocent villagers and burnt all their food-stuff. They were covered in their raids by jet and helicopters.

June 1979

South African troops kidnapped 19 Zambians in a village known as Mufulani, who were fishing, and flew them to Caprivi Strip. In their raids, the racist troops in collaboration with their local agents, harrassed and tortured villagers, using dogs. They were purportedly looking for so-called SWAPO camps.

July 1979

South African troops entered Zambia at Katima Mulilo area, harrassed villagers and plundered and took away personal property. Their jets bombed a Zambian army truck and injured two Zambian soldiers.

August 1979

South African troops entered Zambia and surrounded a police station at Mwandi area. They held police officers there at gun-point and tortured them seeking information about the so-called SWAPO camps. During the same month, South African jets bombed a private company prospecting minerals. One man was injured and property was destroyed, including two government landrovers.

My Government strongly protests these acts of aggression committed by the racist régime of South Africa and calls upon Your Excellency to prevail on the Pretoria régime to desist forthwith from violating the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Zambia. We view these acts of wanton aggression by South Africa as a direct challenge to the provisions of the United Nations Charter calling for respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of independent states. I wish to stress, moreover, that apart from endangering peace in the region and constituting a serious threat to international peace and security, acts of aggression committed by the Pretoria régime are not conducive to the current efforts being undertaken by Your Excellency in the quest for the solution to the problem of Namibia on the basis of relevant Security Council resolutions.

I wish to request, Your Excellency, to arrange for the circulation of this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Paul J. F. LUSAKA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
