



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 28 MARCH 1983 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF LESOTHO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, upon instructions of my Government, to inform you of the following incidents of aggression and sabotage which occurred in Lesotho instigated by the Republic of South Africa:

1. On 26 March 1983, at 1000 hours Lesotho time, an outpost of the Lesotho Paramilitary Force situated at Ongeluk's Nek, in the Quthing District, was subjected to heavy attack by an armed force which crossed into Lesotho from South Africa. The attack, which lasted more than six hours, was repulsed after reinforcements were sent to the area. The Lesotho forces, who were under strict orders not to emulate the South African practice of so-called hot pursuit across international borders, did not pursue the attackers beyond the Lesotho/South Africa border. A protest note has been sent to South Africa regarding this incident.
2. On the night of 27 March 1983, a joint operation by the Lesotho police and the Paramilitary Force foiled an attempt by an unspecified number of saboteurs to blow up electrical installations in Maseru. Six of the saboteurs were arrested, and a large quantity of detonating equipment was captured. It is also reported that a number of South African policemen suspected of being connected with the sabotage plot were arrested in Lesotho and are being held for questioning.
3. On the same day, an armed group was repulsed back into South Africa at Peka in the north-west of Lesotho.
4. At Pitseng, in the Leribe District, a Roman Catholic mission was subjected to a grenade attack. In that attack a member of the Lesotho Paramilitary Force was killed, and one was wounded. The attackers were repulsed under heavy fire, and a white man was seen fleeing from the scene in an unidentified vehicle heading for the South Africa border. Investigations are still continuing.
5. Again, on the night of 27 March 1983, two saboteurs were shot and killed when they attacked a police station at Hendrik's Drift in the Butha-Buthe District, in northern Lesotho. A protest note was sent to South Africa on the matter.

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You will recall Excellency, that in terms of Security Council resolution 527 (1982), the Security Council is still seized of the matter relating to the situation between Lesotho and South Africa. My Government would therefore be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) T. THAMAE
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
