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LETTER DATED 21 AUGUST 1989 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to attach herewith the letter addressed to you by the President of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, Mr. Fidel Castro Ruz, in which he requests that it be distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) María de los A. FLOREZ PRIDA
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 16 August 1989 from the President of the Council
of State and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba
addressed to the Secretary-General

As you have already been informed by the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM), an incident has occurred in Angola the extreme gravity of which will not escape your attention. On the morning of 14 August a group of between 15 and 20 armed members of the subversive forces of the Uniao Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) ambushed a Cuban lorry 24 kilometres north of Cubal, province of Benguela, in the People's Republic of Angola. They first wounded and then brutally murdered six Cuban soldiers who had been passing through the area in the performance of their daily supply duties unconnected with combat action.

In the face of this incident, the Government of Cuba wishes to reiterate that it will act in such a way as to guarantee, in all circumstances, the security of its internationalist combatants in Angola. This position was stated quite clearly by Cuba during the negotiations which led to the signing on 22 December 1988 of the agreements under which it has been possible to move towards a solution of the conflict in south-western Africa. Since we have complied scrupulously with the commitments undertaken, no one can be in any doubt that we shall not tolerate attacks or hostile acts against our troops and that, consequently, we shall reserve the right to respond forcefully whenever necessary to these provocations.

The political and moral responsibility of the Government of the United States of America for terrorist actions of this kind is unquestionable, given that, as everyone knows and in clear violation of the spirit of the agreements of December 1988, it continues to give material support to the UNITA bands.

In denouncing this act with profound indignation, Cuba warns of the serious consequences that might flow from criminal and irresponsible actions such as those of 14 August, which may have an adverse effect on compliance with the timetable for withdrawal of Cuban troops from the People's Republic of Angola.

I should be obliged if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Fidel CASTRO RUZ

