



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/21113
25 January 1990
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

LETTER DATED 25 JANUARY 1990 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba concerning the recent serious incidents that occurred in the People's Republic of Angola, which speak for themselves.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ricardo ALARCON DE QUESADA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CUBA

As is already common knowledge, on the morning of 21 January four Cuba soldiers were treacherously killed and five wounded in a dastardly attack carried out by a detachment of the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) against a Cuban military unit's water-purification and -supply point situated some 22 kilometres north of Lobito, in territory north of the 13th parallel, in the People's Republic of Angola, to which Cuban troops have been pulled back in compliance with the New York agreements.

The water-purification and -supply point was situated about 2 kilometres west of the village of Valle de Hanha, which was attacked and demolished. In defending the village, three Angolan fighters of the Forças Armadas para a Libertação de Angola (FAPLA) were killed and six wounded. In this act of vandalism, 13 civilians were also killed and 17 wounded.

This is a deliberate terrorist act carried out in full awareness that Cuban personnel were present there, and resembles the ambush and killing of six Cuban soldiers on 14 August 1989 in the vicinity of Cubal.

On that occasion, the Government of Cuba drew attention to the extreme gravity of any repetition of such provocations, and declared that it would act in such a way as to guarantee, in any circumstances, the security of its internationalist combatants in Angola.

In a letter dated 16 August 1989 from Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, President of the Council of State, addressed to the United Nations Secretary-General, it was recalled that this position was set forth 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-west Africa. In that letter it was also stated that "we shall not tolerate hostile acts or actions against our troops and reserve the right to respond with all force whenever necessary".

The responsibility for these criminal actions by UNITA against Cuban troops and for the sabotage of the peace agreements which they entail lies ultimately with the Government of the United States, the logistical supporter and political adviser of UNITA, to which it continues to supply arms and munitions, including highly sophisticated means of warfare.

Consequently, the Governments of Angola and Cuba have decided to suspend temporarily the withdrawal of Cuban military personnel until such time as Cuba receives a satisfactory explanation of these incidents and is convinced that the continuing reduction of its forces in Angola will not be misused by terrorist bands, armed and advised by the Government of the United States, in order to carry out attacks against Cuban military personnel and thereby sabotage the agreements so laboriously arrived at between Angola, Cuba and South Africa.

By 24 January 1990, Cuba had withdrawn over half of its forces in Angola, from which 31,179 combatants have returned. By 1 April 1990, 33,000 troops were scheduled to have been withdrawn, which testifies to the seriousness and rigour with which Cuba has been complying with its commitments.

