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LETTER DATED 14 JUNE 1985 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you the attached Press Release issued by the Office of the President of the Republic of Botswana this morning on the South African commando attack on the capital of Botswana, Gaborone.

It will be appreciated if the Press Release could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Legwaila J. M. J. LEGWAILA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Press Release issued by the Office of the
President of Botswana on 14 June 1985

During the raid early this morning by members of the South African Defence Force a total of twelve persons were killed and six injured. The dead included three women and a 5-year-old child who has several bullet wounds on the hip. The injured include a 10-year-old girl who was shot on the leg and a Dutch lady who has suffered multiple bullet injuries. The raiders also fired indiscriminately at passing motorists and set a number of vehicles on fire. Two Botswana citizens were injured when their vehicles were fired on in separate incidents: It is feared that some people may have been kidnapped by the raiders. Four houses were completely demolished during the raid and others extensively damaged.

The raiders appear to have entered Botswana by road using a number of vehicles. The raids on the various houses seem to have been carried out simultaneously so that the operation lasted only a short time. The result was that when the police and the BDF set up road blocks the raiders had already escaped.

The Botswana Government strongly condemns this incident which is the latest and most serious in a series of incidents which have occurred since March this year. This act of brutality and violence perpetrated by the South African Government is particularly deplorable considering the repeated assurances of the Botswana Government that it does not permit its territory to be used for launching attacks against neighbouring countries. The Botswana Government sees this attack as South Africa's fulfilment of its threat in February this year to invade Botswana.
