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

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe, His Excellency The Honourable Witness Magunda Mangwende on the occasion of the raid on Botswana by the forces of the racist South African régime on 14 June 1985.

I request Your Excellency to circulate this statement as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) I. S. G. MUDENGE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Zimbabwe
to the United Nations

Annex

Statement issued by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Zimbabwe
on 14 June 1985

It is with a profound sense of horror and deep shock that the Government of Zimbabwe learned this morning of the unprovoked and unwarranted attack perpetrated by elements of the racist South African régime's military forces against the peace-loving, defenceless citizens of our sister nation, the Republic of Botswana.

The Government and people of Zimbabwe are outraged by, and condemn in the strongest possible terms, this latest example of Boer savagery waged in the increasingly bloody name of apartheid and in arrogant defiance of the international laws which demand respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of an independent State.

This aggression against Botswana - a State which has sought nothing more than to live in peace with all its neighbours, including the wretched Pretoria régime - follows closely upon the abortive South African commando raid into the Cabinda Province of the People's Republic of Angola and provides clear evidence that Pretoria is once again set to intensify its campaign of military aggression against, and the general destabilization of, the entire southern African subregion.

Although it is the racist régime itself which perpetrates these barbaric acts, Pretoria does not stand alone in its culpability: for years now we, along with the vast majority of the international community have condemned the open co-operation and collaboration which has flourished, and which indeed continues to flourish, between various leading Western nations and the racist régime. We have viewed this unhealthy and, to us, indefensible relationship as inherently dangerous to the interests of peace and stability in the southern African subregion and detrimental in the extreme to the overall international effort towards the elimination of apartheid, the liberation of the South African majority and the freeing of Namibia from racist, colonial exploitation.

The attack against Gaborone and the killing of innocent, unarmed civilians, provides yet further proof of the continuing validity of our warnings and indeed of the undeniable culpability which must be shared by all those who continue to support Pretoria and who believe in its "good will".

As internal unrest spreads across South Africa itself, and as external opposition to apartheid grows across the globe, so Pretoria will respond by becoming more and more violent, more and more aggressive in defence of its discredited, totally immoral racial doctrine.

Continued support for that régime and the abhorrent, racist system it espouses and so viciously defends, is surely impossible to contemplate, let alone condone.

South Africa must be stopped before it is able to unleash any further aggression against its neighbours, and the international community as a whole, but those Western nations to which I have referred in particular, have an increased and unavoidable responsibility to see to it that Pretoria is stopped.

To those in Gaborone who have suffered as a result of Pretoria's aggression, or who have lost loved ones, the Government and people of Zimbabwe offer their deepest sympathies. We feel their losses as our own and we are at one with them in their grief today.

To all those who continue to struggle against the Pretoria régime and all the evil that it embodies, we pledge our steadfast and unflinching solidarity, secure in the knowledge that no matter the barbarism of the forces brought to bear against us and no matter the savagery of the Boer, the spirit and flame of freedom will continue to burn more and more fiercely within each and everyone of us until that evil spectre of apartheid is totally and finally destroyed.

A luta continua.
