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LETTER DATED 5 DECEMBER 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

At the request of the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable R. F. Botha, I am enclosing the text of a letter he addressed to Your Excellency on 5 December 1979.

I should appreciate it if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) J. Adriaan EKSTEEN
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 5 December 1979 from the Minister of Foreign
Affairs of South Africa addressed to the Secretary-General

The South African Government must reiterate emphatically that it is irrevocably committed to ensuring that

(a) The security of the people of South West Africa/Namibia is not endangered; and

(b) The wishes of the people of the Territory as to their constitutional future are not thwarted by intimidation and acts of terrorism.

Within the framework of this commitment, the South African Government has examined, in consultation with the democratic parties of the Territory, the idea of a demilitarized zone (DMZ) on both sides of the northern borders of the Territory. On the basis of these consultations, the South African Government accepts the concept of the zone, provided agreement is reached in further discussions, inter alia, on the following:

1. The number of South African bases remaining in the DMZ;
2. Acceptable arrangements regarding the disarmament of SWAPO personnel on the closure of bases, i.e., seven days after certification of the election;
3. The deployment of an acceptable percentage of UNTAG inside the DMZ in the light of practical requirements;
4. Agreement on practical arrangements between the UNTAG military commander and the South African military authorities;
5. Confirmation that the settlement proposal (S/12636) accepted by South Africa on 25 April 1978 remains unchanged;
6. Confirmation that the claim for SWAPO bases inside South West Africa/Namibia, which, in any case, is not provided for in the settlement proposal, will not be revived.

R. F. BOTHA
Minister of Foreign Affairs
