

Statement, including message to the Mozambique Government, by the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs and Information, The Hon R.F. Botha, on 3 December 1982

The President of Cuba in his capacity as Chairman of the group of the non-aligned countries had addressed a letter to the Heads of State or Government of the non-aligned countries in which he states that the Government of Mozambique had informed him that South Africa was concentrating troops in the region of Ressano Garcia on the Mozambique/South African border.

The Mozambique Government has already been advised, as South Africa has stated on various occasions in the past, that it is the desire of the South African Government to maintain peace and stability in the region. In this connection I refer to a message sent to the Mozambique Government which the Secretary General of the United Nations has been requested to circulate as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council. This message reads as follows:

I have the honour to refer to your telex 46/GHA/82 of 23 November 1982, and to state that as has been mentioned on various occasions in the past, it is the desire of the South African Government to maintain peace and stability in our region. The assurances of the People's Republic of Mozambique that this is also its objective are welcomed.

During discussions, such as those on 15 January and 27 February 1980, in Maputo; on 11 December 1981, at Komatipoort; as well as in telex messages of 19 February 1980, and 5 February 1981, the subversive activities of the ANC which necessitate counter-measures were stressed from our side.

In the message conveyed in September 1982 to the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique through the good offices of another

country, it was indicated that acts of aggression across borders would not be tolerated.

I wish to emphasise once again that acts of violence by the ANC who enjoy facilities in Mozambique, which may lead to follow-up operations with resulting serious implications for the people of the region continue to be a matter of grave concern to the South African Government.

In this connection information received by the South African authorities that acts of violence in South Africa have been planned by the ANC in Mozambique are most disturbing and the South African Government therefore in the interest of realistic relations again urges the People's Republic of Mozambique not to give facilities to any organisation which directs such actions against South Africa or any other country of our region.

Apart from ANC actions there have been other incidents on the border. I wish to refer you to my telex dated 28 May 1982 informing you of an incident at Komatipoort border post. A further incident took place on 17 September at 12.05pm when troops from Catuane village fired five to eight bursts from a heavy calibre weapon at a civilian aircraft flying 100 to 200 metres south of the Usutu river.

The South African authorities are, as previously indicated, prepared to discuss these matters and I would refer to my telex no Y409, dated 4 October 1982, in which it was suggested that discussions take place to which no definite response has yet been received.

In regard to alleged violation of Mozambique's territorial integrity it is South Africa's policy not to allow its territory to be used for carrying out violence against others. I wish to recall that the Mozambican authorities have been advised on several occasions during talks between Mozambican and South African delegations, the latest being on 11 December 1981, that the South African authorities would be glad to investigate allegations of this nature provided full details are immediately given. No such details have since been received.

If this present manoeuvre on the part of the President of Cuba should in any way be a pretext for Cuba to prepare the way for the introduction of troops into Mozambique, the South African Government reiterates emphatically that such an eventuality will not be tolerated. South Africa likewise does not and will not tolerate the operations of the ANC across the border into South Africa from Mozambique.

The South African Government is prepared to put facilities for an on-the-spot investigation of the allegations of the massing of South African troops on the Mozambique border at the disposal of any member of the Press or Ambassador or Head of a Foreign Diplomatic Mission stationed in South Africa.

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