

LETTER DATED 17 JUNE 1985 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Decisions

At its 2598th meeting, on 21 June 1985, the Council decided to invite the representatives of the Bahamas, Botswana, the German Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Seychelles, South Africa and the Sudan to participate, without vote, in the discussion of the item entitled "Letter dated 17 June 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17279)".⁸¹

At the same meeting, the Council also decided to extend an invitation, under rule 39 of the provisional rules of procedure, to the Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee against *Apartheid*.

At its 2599th meeting, on 21 June 1985, the Council decided to invite the representatives of Benin, Swaziland and the United Republic of Tanzania to participate, without vote, in the discussion of the question.

Resolution 568 (1985)

of 21 June 1985

The Security Council,

Taking note of the letter dated 17 June 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations⁸² and having heard the statement of the Minister for External Affairs of Botswana⁸³ concerning the recent acts of aggression by the racist régime of South Africa against the Republic of Botswana,

Expressing its shock and indignation at the loss of human life, the injuries inflicted, and the extensive damage as a result of that action,

Affirming the urgent need to safeguard the territorial integrity of Botswana and maintain peace and security in southern Africa,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of any State,

Expressing its profound concern that the racist régime resorted to the use of military force against the defenceless and peace-loving nation of Botswana,

Gravely concerned that such acts of aggression can only serve to aggravate the already volatile and dangerous situation in southern Africa,

Bearing in mind that this latest incident is one in a series of provocative actions carried out by South Africa

against Botswana and that the racist régime has declared that it will continue and escalate such attacks,

Commending Botswana for its unflagging adherence to the conventions relating to the status of refugees⁸⁴ and of stateless persons⁸⁵ and for the sacrifices it has made and continues to make in giving asylum to victims of *apartheid*,

1. *Strongly condemns* South Africa's recent unprovoked and unwarranted military attack on the capital of Botswana as an act of aggression against that country and a gross violation of its territorial integrity and national sovereignty;

2. *Further condemns* all acts of aggression, provocation and harassment, including murder, blackmail, kidnapping and destruction of property committed by the racist régime of South Africa against Botswana;

3. *Demands* the immediate, total and unconditional cessation of all acts of aggression by South Africa against Botswana;

4. *Denounces and rejects* racist South Africa's practice of "hot pursuit" to terrorize and destabilize Botswana and other countries in southern Africa;

5. *Demands* full and adequate compensation by South Africa to Botswana for the damage to life and property resulting from such acts of aggression;

6. *Affirms* Botswana's right to receive and give sanctuary to the victims of *apartheid* in accordance with its traditional practice, humanitarian principles and international obligations;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enter into immediate consultation with the Government of Botswana and the relevant United Nations agencies on measures to be undertaken to assist the Government of Botswana in ensuring the safety, protection and welfare of the refugees in Botswana;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to send a mission to visit Botswana for the purpose of:

(a) Assessing the damage caused by South Africa's unprovoked and premeditated acts of aggression;

(b) Proposing measures to strengthen Botswana's capacity to receive and provide assistance to South African refugees;

(c) Determining the consequent level of assistance required by Botswana and to report thereon to the Security Council;

9. *Requests* all States and relevant agencies and organizations of the United Nations system urgently to extend all necessary assistance to Botswana;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to monitor developments related to this question and to report to the Security Council as the situation demands;

11. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Adopted unanimously at the 2599th meeting.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*, Fortieth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1985.

⁸² *Ibid.*, document S/17279.

⁸³ *Ibid.*, Fortieth Year, 2598th meeting.

⁸⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545, p. 137.

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 360, No. 5158, p. 130.