

5. Requests Member States, international organizations and financial institutions to assist Botswana in the fields identified in the report of the mission to Botswana;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to give the matter of assistance to Botswana his continued attention and to keep the Security Council informed;

7. Decides to remain seized of the situation.

Security Council resolution 572(1985)

30 September 1985 Meeting 2609 Adopted unanimously

7-nation draft (S/17503).

Sponsors: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Egypt, India, Madagascar, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago.

Referring to resolution 572(1985) in a letter to the Secretary-General of 21 October,(58) South Africa said it did not accept that it was under any obligation to pay compensation to Botswana, and rejected inferences in the resolution that it had carried out aggression against that country or that terrorist groups established in and operating from Botswana were synonymous with "refugees". South Africa had made its position clear as recently as 25 September during talks between the Foreign Ministers of Botswana and South Africa. South Africa added that it had exercised its right of self-defence in order to curtail further imminent violence in South Africa.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

The General Assembly, in resolution 40/25, condemned the unprovoked and unwarranted military attack on the capital of Botswana and demanded that South Africa pay full and adequate compensation for the loss of life and damage to property. In decision 40/415, the Assembly also called for the scrupulous observance of Security Council resolution 572(1985).

Lesotho-South Africa dispute

On several occasions in 1985, Lesotho complained of aggression or destabilization attempts by South Africa. Acting on such a complaint in December, the Security Council adopted resolution 580(1985), by which it condemned the violence and requested the Secretary-General to establish a civilian presence in Maseru to report any development affecting Lesotho's territorial integrity.

In its first 1985 complaint, made to the Council President on 9 September,(59) Lesotho expressed concern over statements broadcast from South Africa that Lesotho's general elections scheduled for 17 and 18 September had been cancelled. The facts were that the ruling Basotho National Party's candidates had been returned unopposed because opposition parties had failed to field or nominate candidates on 14 August, the day declared for their nomination. Lesotho also protested a South African radio broadcast by the leader of a splinter group of the Basutoland Congress Party of Lesotho that he would continue his acts of sabotage, murder and

destruction in Lesotho; in addition, Lesotho accused South Africa of involvement in the subsequent murder of a Basotho National Party candidate, his wife, daughter-in-law and four others. Lesotho denied South African charges that it had allowed Oliver Tambo, President of ANC, to speak over Radio Lesotho.

Further letters were addressed to the Secretary-General. On 7 October,(60) Lesotho stated that the day before, Maseru had been attacked by mortar fire from South Africa which damaged property. Responding on 18 October,(61) South Africa said it had investigated Lesotho's claim and had determined that the attack did not originate from South African territory; it appeared that the attack was carried out by persons intending to harm relations between the two countries.

A series of telexes exchanged between South Africa and Lesotho from 13 to 19 December were transmitted by the latter.(62) As background, Lesotho said that the number of South African refugees flowing into Lesotho had increased as a result of growing unrest in South Africa. A plane carrying some refugees from Lesotho to Zambia was forced to return to Lesotho by South African authorities, but later they left on four smaller charter flights, under arrangements made by UNHCR. On 4 December, bandits entered Lesotho from South Africa and murdered seven innocent nationals before returning. Lesotho requested the Secretary-General to use his good offices to stop South Africa from carrying out a threatened armed attack against it.

By the first telex, South Africa requested clarification about claims that it was involved in the recent murders and responsible for supplying arms to Lesotho opposition forces. In reply, Lesotho said it had evidence of the murders being committed by terrorists from South Africa, who had been seen crossing the border. South Africa charged that ANC had a large number of trained terrorists in Lesotho, which indicated that it had not carried out its undertaking to prevent its territory from being used as a springboard for terrorist activities against South Africa; Lesotho's failure to address South Africa's security concerns was impeding South Africa's efforts to promote good relations between the two countries. Lesotho replied that it was not aware of the existence of any ANC organizations, and that political refugees were the responsibility of UNHCR. Rejecting that response as unacceptable, South Africa again urged Lesotho to ensure that its territory was not used for terrorist attacks, and added that if such actions took place, South Africa reserved the right to take whatever action might be necessary. Lesotho said it could not take meaningful action because South Africa had not provided sufficient information, such as who and where ANC terrorists were, nor had Lesotho learned of any planned attacks from Lesotho; furthermore, Lesotho reiterated that