

By a letter of 24 June,⁽¹⁷⁾ South Africa stated that despite its repeated requests that Botswana curtail the activities of terrorists operating from inside its territory, terrorist infiltrations into South Africa continued, and that it was clear that the bulk of terrorists infiltrating South Africa, as well as their armaments, equipment and logistic support, did so through Botswana. South Africa wished to live in peace with all its neighbours, but was compelled to take action when neighbouring States ignored its legitimate concerns regarding terrorist attacks.

Annexed to the letter was a press release of 21 June issued by the South African Defence Force (SADF), according to which a patrol, while gathering information in Botswana near the South African border, was involved in the shooting incident with the Botswana police. The latter fired on the patrol, which was forced to return their fire, wounding members of the Botswana police. This action, the press release said, was not aimed against the Government or the people of Botswana, and the accusation that South Africa was guilty of State terrorism was preposterous. The two persons held in Botswana in connection with the incident had not been involved. Regarding their alleged connections with SADF, no comment would be made unless Botswana provided more details. Further, the action had to be seen against the background that 23 ANC terrorists were being held in connection with 16 acts of terror that had occurred during the previous three months.

Also annexed was a message of 22 June from South Africa to Botswana reiterating that the action had been directed against ANC. South Africa unequivocally denied any complicity in explosions that reportedly had occurred in or near Gaborone on 21 June. Against the background of the incidents, as well as recent bomb explosions in several major South African cities, South Africa considered it imperative that a ministerial meeting between the two countries be convened at the earliest possible date.

By a 28 June letter,⁽¹⁸⁾ South Africa stated that neither Botswana's communication of 2 June nor the Security Council statement correctly reflected the situation, but that the facts were as follows: over the past two years, South Africa had met regularly with the Botswana Government in an attempt to obtain its co-operation in ensuring the security of the common borders against terrorist incursions. Botswana was well aware that its territory continued to be used by terrorist elements infiltrating South Africa, and the frequency of those incursions had increased over the past few weeks. On 8 May, four white terrorists had been apprehended at Broederstroom, near Johannesburg.

They had an arsenal of weapons and ammunition, including a ground-to-air missile, radio equipment, ANC documents and various explosive devices and mines. The action of the SADF unit on 21 June had been aimed at transit facilities and logistic support bases used by terrorists. Arrangements were being made for further discussions with Botswana, South Africa added.

Mozambique-South Africa relations

By a 23 November note,⁽¹⁹⁾ Mozambique reported to the Secretary-General that during an attack on its forces by South African soldiers in Maputo province on 28 July, one South African was killed and some matériel was captured. South Africa had since requested the return of the body of the dead soldier and the captured matériel. South Africa, by a 13 December letter,⁽²⁰⁾ refuted the accuracy of Mozambique's report of the incident, stating that the confrontation was between Frente de Libertação de Moçambique (FRELIMO) and RENAMO contingents. Although SADF, which had been patrolling the border on the South African side, had decided to vacate the area, one of its soldiers was killed in the cross-fire. Subsequently, the FRELIMO patrol had mistakenly seized some abandoned SADF equipment on South African territory, but had since apologized to South Africa for the incident and had undertaken to return the equipment.

South Africa expressed dismay that the matter had been publicized by Mozambique in a manner not provided for in the 1984 Nkomati accord,⁽²¹⁾ while the Joint South Africa/Mozambique Security Commission (JSC), the primary forum for addressing such incidents, was carrying out its investigations.

South Africa annexed to its letter a joint press communique issued on 15 November by JSC expressing the determination of the two Governments to work together to counteract forces that were trying to undermine peace and stability.

Mozambique, in a note of 28 December,⁽²²⁾ maintained that the unprovoked attack on its forces by South African soldiers, supposedly searching for ANC personnel, had taken place well within its territory. No Mozambican forces had at any time crossed the border into South Africa, and no ordnance had fallen into South Africa.

REFERENCES

- ⁽¹⁾A/44/22. ⁽²⁾A/43/22. ⁽³⁾A/43/23. ⁽⁴⁾S/20336. ⁽⁵⁾S/20337. ⁽⁶⁾YUN 1978, p. 915, SC res. 435(1978), 29 Sep. 1978. ⁽⁷⁾S/20338. ⁽⁸⁾S/20351. ⁽⁹⁾S/20352. ⁽¹⁰⁾A/43/418-S/19952. ⁽¹¹⁾A/43/422-S/19958. ⁽¹²⁾A/43/260-S/19697, A/43/271-S/19718, A/43/298-S/19765. ⁽¹³⁾YUN 1985, p. 191, SC res. 568(1985) 21 June 1985. ⁽¹⁴⁾YUN 1986, p. 165. ⁽¹⁵⁾YUN 1987, p. 174. ⁽¹⁶⁾S/9959. ⁽¹⁷⁾S/19960. ⁽¹⁸⁾S/19968. ⁽¹⁹⁾A/43/862-S/20293. ⁽²⁰⁾A/43/965-S/20326. ⁽²¹⁾YUN 1984, p. 185. ⁽²²⁾A/44/60-S/20357.