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Contact: Ella Krucoff
(202) 862-9540

E.C. MEMBER STATES AND COMMISSION CONDEMN SOUTH AFRICAN RAIDS

The 12 member states of the European Community have condemned South Africa's May 19 military raids in Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, calling them a "serious violation of the sovereignty of the three countries."

The E.C. Commission also condemned the attacks, noting that they involved states with ties to the Community. Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe are among the African, Caribbean and Pacific (A.C.P.) developing nations that are linked to the Community through the Lomé Convention, a trade and aid pact.

The Commission recalled the E.C. member states' previous warning that they would consider taking additional action against South Africa "in the absence of significant progress" in dismantling its apartheid system.

The member states in September 1985 agreed on a series of restrictive measures against South Africa, including a ban on arms trade, a freeze on official sports contacts and an end to oil exports.

The declarations on the South African raids follow.

DECLARATION OF THE TWELVE ON THE MILITARY ACTIONS BY SOUTH AFRICA

May 22, 1986

The Twelve strongly condemn the South African military actions on May 19 against Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe and threats, officially expressed, to strike again. The attacks of May 19 are a serious violation of the sovereignty of the three countries. The Twelve deplore the loss of human lives resulting from these actions.

The Twelve express their deepest concern about the negative effects of these actions on the possibilities for a peaceful solution of the grave problems of South Africa.

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The Twelve once more reiterate their views on the situation in Southern Africa as set out in the joint communique with the Front Line States*, issued in Lusaka on February 4, 1986. They urge the South African government to initiate the necessary political dialogue with the genuine representatives of those South Africans now excluded from the present government structures with the aim of abolishing the apartheid system.

To this end, the Twelve consider it essential that the ban on the African National Congress, the Pan African Congress and other political parties should be lifted and that all political prisoners in South Africa should be freed immediately.

DECLARATION BY THE E.C. COMMISSION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

May 20, 1986

Commissioner (Willy) De Clercq and Vice-President (Lorenzo) Natali on behalf of the Commission of the European Communities have learned with profound concern and indignation of the acts of aggression by South African troops on May 19, 1986, in Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, A.C.P. States linked with the European Community under international treaty provisions of the Third Convention of Lomé.

The Commission deeply deplores the loss of life, human suffering and damage to property resulting from these most condemnable actions, which infringed the sovereignty of these three A.C.P. States.

The Commission is also seriously concerned over the serious setbacks these acts could have for the mediation efforts initiated by the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group, with whose work Heads of State and Government in Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe have been closely associated.

In this context, the Commission would refer again to the restrictive and positive measures adopted by European Political Cooperation on September 10, 1985, designed to contribute to the ending of apartheid in South Africa (see European Community News No. 26/1985), and to the Joint Declaration on Southern Africa adopted by E.C. and Front Line State Foreign Ministers on February 4, 1986, in Lusaka, Zambia.

It will be recalled that among other actions, the European statement of September 10, 1985, called for the immediate and unconditional release of Mr. Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners, a firm commitment by the South Africans to end apartheid and to dismantle discriminatory legislation, and lastly real negotiations with the true representatives of the South African people, including those currently in prison.

In the European statement of September 10, 1985, it was noted that the question of other measures, including sanctions, remains. As the Ten together with Spain and Portugal stated on July 22, 1985 (see European Community News No. 24/1985), they may have to reexamine their attitudes in the absence of significant progress within a reasonable period and they will assess the situation regularly.

*Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.