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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 May 1983

A.S.C.  $\frac{24}{5}$

Dear Sir,

South African Attacks on Mozambique

I enclose the text of the statement which Mr Pym issued at midday on the attacks by South African forces on targets in Mozambique.

The South African authorities have made clear that these attacks were in direct retaliation for the car bomb which exploded in Pretoria on 20 May, killing 17 people and injuring at least a further 170. The South Africans attribute this incident to the banned African National Congress (though the latter has stopped short of claiming responsibility for it). Their air attacks in Mozambique were, according to them, directed against ANC targets. Preliminary reports suggest that most or all the targets as well as the casualties were Mozambicans.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
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(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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*Handwritten signature or initials in blue ink.*

STATEMENT BY FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY

I was shocked to hear of the incidents this morning involving attacks by South African forces on targets in Mozambique. I deeply regret the human suffering these will have caused, and I deplore this violation of Mozambique's sovereignty. I have repeatedly made clear my view that the problems of southern Africa cannot be solved by violence. I condemn these actions, just as I condemn the violence in Pretoria on Friday, when a car bomb caused loss of life and injury. There is a desperate need to break the vicious circle where violence begets violence and to seek peaceful solutions to the region's problems.



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