

mt → Prime Minister
CDP
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Mr Powell

Possible South African Raid into Lesotho

As we feared they might, the South Africans appear to have carried out a raid into Lesotho last night. According to press reports, nine people, four men and five women described as South African political refugees, were shot in two separate, simultaneous attacks in Maseru. The South African Defence Force has denied responsibility. But we are fairly sure they were responsible.

2. Evidence over the last few weeks has confirmed a heightening of tension between the two countries over Lesotho's apparent refusal to co-operate with South Africa to curb ANC activities, despite a meeting between their security forces.

3. Even though the South Africans have denied involvement in the raid, it will take some of the pressure off the South African Government to retaliate against Zimbabwe for the recent landmine incidents. In any event, action against Zimbabwe is unlikely at least until after the meeting between South African and Zimbabwean security officers on 23 December.

h.

PERCY CRADOCK

20 December 1985