

lence in the Middle East in the absence of a solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict, and stated that the cause of peace was not served by the assassinations of political leaders, nor by deportations, collective punishments or muzzling the press. His country believed in the possibility of a political solution to the Middle East conflict within the framework of the international peace conference on the Middle East, as laid down in many General Assembly resolutions.<sup>12</sup>

At the 2808th meeting, on 22 April 1988, the representative of Italy noted that world media had unanimously pointed to Israel's involvement in the killing of Khalil al-Wazir, while Israel had neither confirmed nor denied its involvement. On principle, Italy was averse to attributing responsibility when the facts were not unequivocally ascertained. Were the origin of this occurrence to be con-

firmed, it would be extremely grave, for the slaughter appeared not to be the deed of a terrorist group, but of a State. Moreover, the attack had infringed on the rights of a friendly nation that was known for its moderation.

He pointed out that this episode disrupted efforts being made by the United States Secretary of State, as well as by the Soviet Foreign Minister in his visit to the area. The effect had been to weaken the peace process, raising the question of whether this had actually been the goal. Yet there was no alternative to a negotiated solution to the Middle East conflict on the basis of resolution 242 (1967), and ways and means must be found to hold an international conference under the auspices of the Security Council at which all interested parties would be represented, including the PLO.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>12</sup>*Ibid.*, pp. 53-55.

<sup>13</sup>S/PV.2808, pp. 3-6.

### 37. STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (IN CONNECTION WITH THE INCIDENT OF 20 JUNE 1988)

#### Decision of 24 June 1988: Statement of the President

By a letter dated 22 June 1988 addressed to the Secretary-General,<sup>1</sup> the Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations transmitted a press release issued by his Government regarding attacks by South Africa on the territory of Botswana. It was followed on 23 June 1988 by a letter<sup>2</sup> summarizing the charges made against two members of the South African Commando Unit.

After consultations, the following statement<sup>3</sup> was issued by the President of the Security Council on 24 June 1988 on behalf of its members:

Members of the Security Council have learnt with a profound sense of shock and indignation of South Africa's latest attacks on the territory of Botswana in flagrant violation of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of that country carried out by the commandos of that regime on the night of 20 June 1988 which resulted in the injury of three unarmed Botswana policemen who were going about their normal duties near the capital city of Gaborone.

Members of the Security Council further express their grave concern at South Africa's total disregard of the resolutions of the Security Council, in particular Security Council resolution 568 (1985) by which the Security Council, *inter alia*, strongly condemned South Africa's attack on Botswana as an act of aggression against that country and a gross violation of its territorial integrity and national sovereignty.

Members of the Council are also deeply disturbed by the explosion of a bomb in Gaborone West which destroyed a vehicle and damaged a house belonging to a Botswana national on the morning of 21 June 1988. They noted that the Government of Botswana, after a thorough

investigation, had reached the conclusion that the two incidents were related.

They strongly condemn these aggressive acts, provocation and harassment perpetrated by South Africa against the defenceless and peace-loving nation of Botswana in violation of international law.

They reiterate their call to the South African Government to refrain from any further such aggressive acts and destabilization against Botswana and other front-line and neighbouring States as such acts can only aggravate tensions in southern Africa.

They further reiterate the fact that peaceful change in southern Africa can only be brought about by the total eradication of apartheid which is the root cause of tension and conflict in both South Africa and the region as a whole.

By a letter dated 24 June 1988<sup>4</sup> addressed to the Secretary-General, the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations forwarded the text of a message (annex I) dated 22 June 1988 from the South African Government addressed to the Government of Botswana and the text of a press release (annex II) dated 21 June 1988 issued by the South African Defence Force in Pretoria. The letter also contained a list of the military equipment that had been supposedly channelled through Botswana in the past six months, for use by terrorists inside South Africa.

By a letter dated 28 June 1988<sup>5</sup> addressed to the Secretary-General, the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations argued that the situation had not been reflected correctly and gave his account of the facts.

<sup>1</sup>A/43/418-S/19952.

<sup>2</sup>A/43/422-S/19958.

<sup>3</sup>S/19959.

<sup>4</sup>S/19960.

<sup>5</sup>S/19968.