



# communiqué

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## SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACK IN LESOTHO

The Honourable Charles Lapointe, Minister of State (External Relations), on behalf of The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that on December 9, 1982, the Department of External Affairs conveyed to the South African Ambassador in Ottawa Canada's serious concern about the recent South African military operation in Lesotho.

The Ambassador was advised that this raid on the territory of a neighbouring state and the consequent loss of life merited condemnation. Canada deplored such action because it undermined the security of the southern African region as a whole.

The Canadian Government hoped that South Africa would refrain from further incursions into Lesothan territory and would respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of its neighbours.