



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

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HARARE

In reply quote Ref. ZAHA/1/46

DATE 5th March, 1984

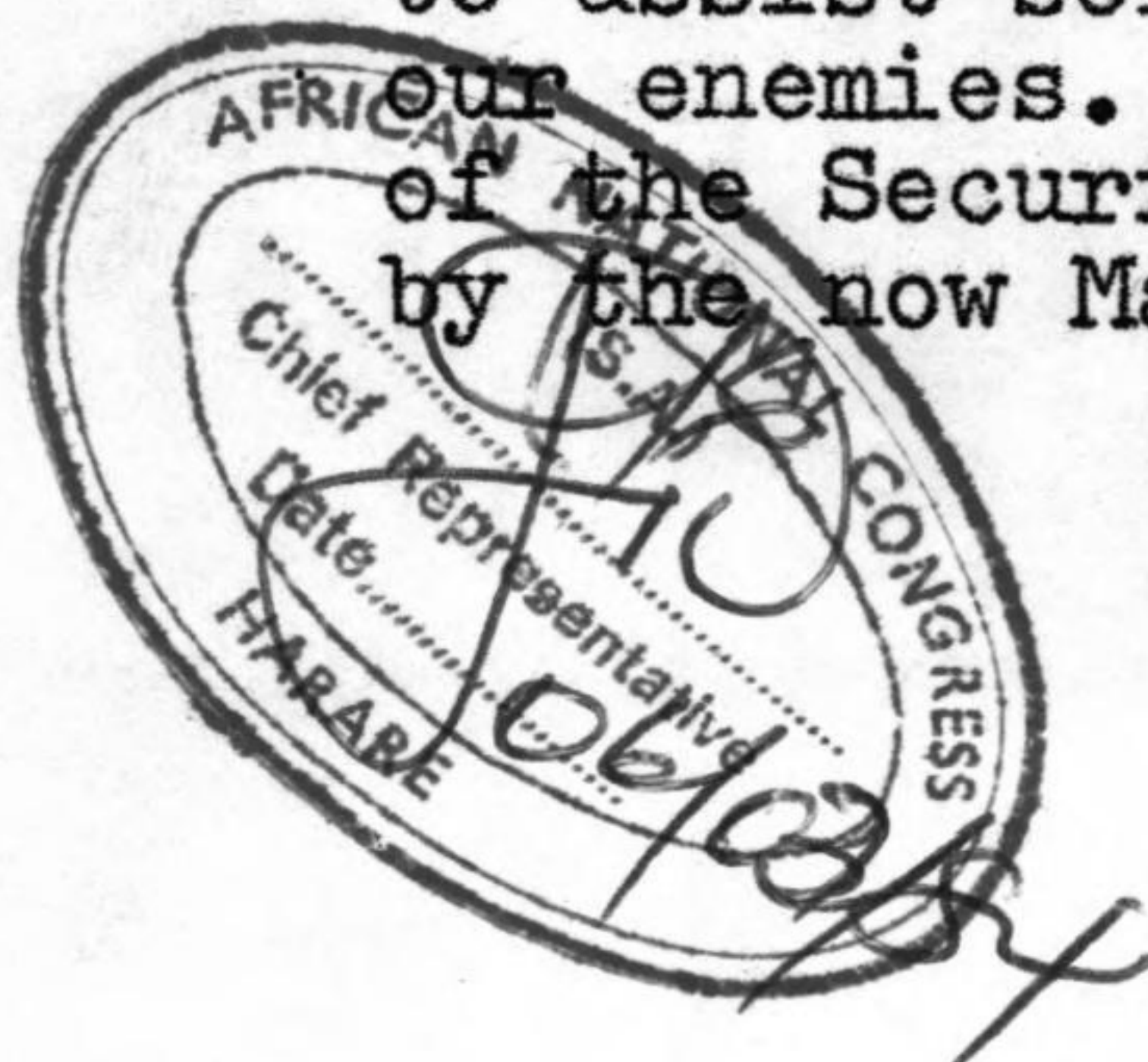
Mr. T. Sithole,
Editor,
The Herald,
P.O. BOX 396,
H A R A R E.

Dear Sir,

On the front page of the Herald dated 23rd February, 1984 was an article that appeared in the first column entitled "African National Congress still locked in talks with Maputo", supposed to have originated from Lusaka. It is not necessary to comment on the story you wrote about the events between ANC and Maputo but I feel that the one who wrote the article made a very unfortunate and misleading reference to what he called "Related Developments" in the last paragraph. I enclose a copy of the said article for ease of reference.

2. The writer seems to refer to an expression of intention which the Zambian President Dr. K. D. Kaunda made to Pretoria Regime that South Africa would be welcome into the Organisation of African Unity and Southern African related bodies. The article however and deliberately remove the most vital part which the President made as a condition and only limits it to removing its troops from Angola and granting independence to Namibia. In this connection your writer appears to imply, and the Herald willingly accepted, that President Dr. K. D. Kaunda merely extended an invitation to South Africa on the two conditions, irrespective, even when we know that ANC is fighting a racist regime in Southern Africa in order to remove the abnoxious racist policies of apartheid.

3. The fact that President Dr. K. D. Kaunda has seen it fit to meet the leadership of South Africa and to host the ceasefire talks between Angola and South Africa should be seen as a mature bold move by Africa to solve its own problems in the face of a stalemate. Efforts of the General Assembly of the United Nations to assist solve the situation have been slow and frustrated by our enemies. You will also agree with me, Mr. Editor, that efforts of the Security Council to resolve the issue were "watered-down" by the now Maribund "Contact Group of Five", some of whose members



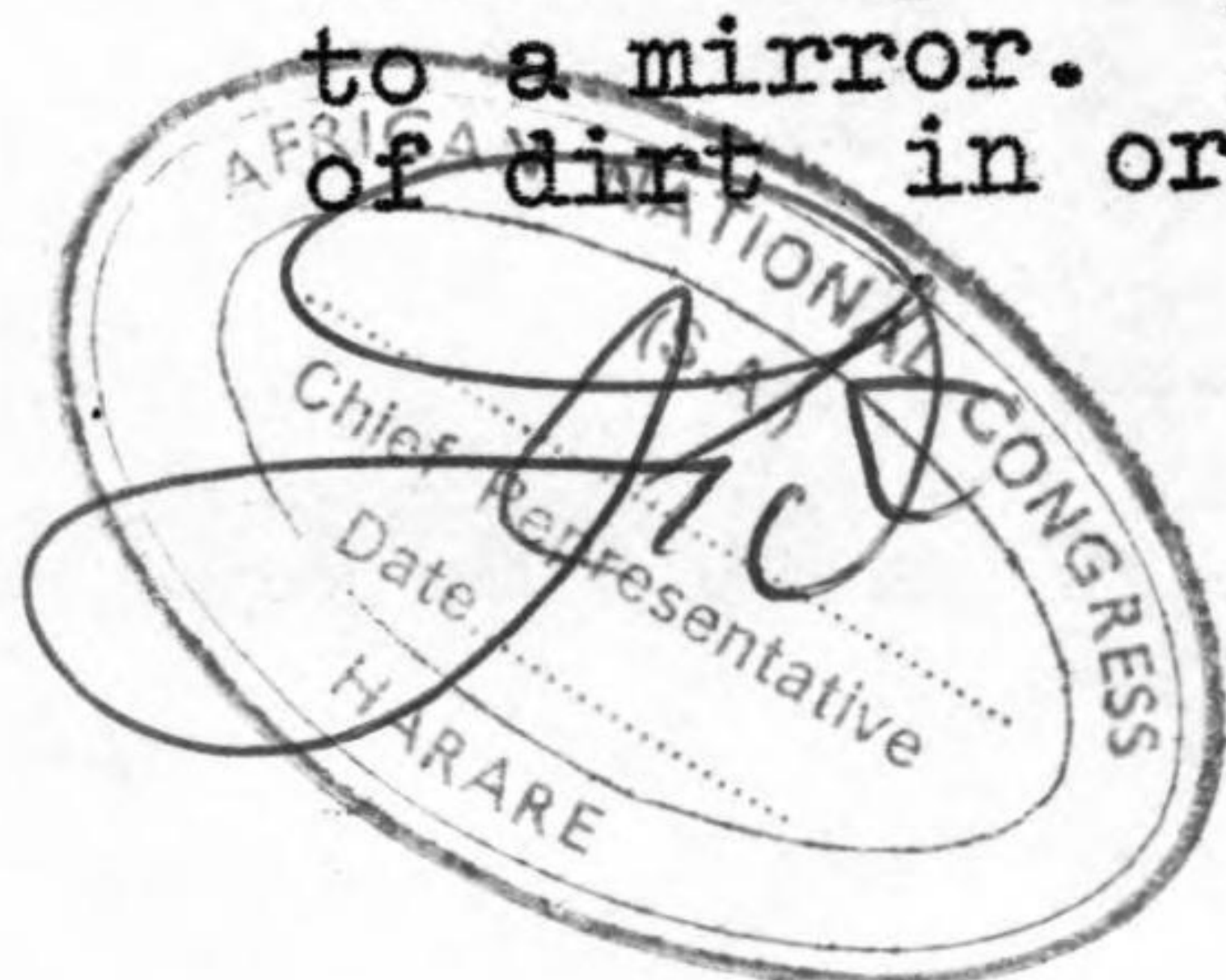
/was introduced their own conditions to frustrate Africa's efforts. The spirit of Resolution 435 of 1978 on Namibia/confused with individual interests. We have a serious problem in Southern Africa - the problem of apartheid which we shall call a disease - that needs to be removed before it weakens and kills the body. We should not be misled by the symptoms of the sick man. The apparent symptoms of South Africa that we see are those of the occupation of Southern Angola, illegal occupation of Namibia and South Africa's support of dissidents groups who are a destabilising menace in our region.

4. The disease which South Africa is suffering from is apartheid and its fear of progressive majority rule. The article assumes that ZIANA - APN - AFP have a better medicine by "putting wrong words in his mouth" distorting President Dr. K. D. Kaunda's statement on ANC or the ceasefire in Angola. It is the sovereign right of the Herald to obtain their information from any source they trust and I have no quarrels with that but such sources should also be authentic. On 17th February, 1984 our Ministers signed an Agreement that there will be an exchange of news between the two sister countries (Zambia/Zimbabwe) only through the recognised media agencies. The Herald still sees it fit to have a misleading article inserted in its columns from ZIANA - APN - AFP without even verifying it.

5. You may wish to read what President Kaunda said when he received credentials from three European Ambassadors in Lusaka on 21st February, 1984 in this connection, and I am sure your correspondent was deliberately referring to this particular event. The occasion was in no way connected with the status of ANC in other countries or in Zambia. President Kaunda expressed a wish to extend a welcome to South Africa on behalf of Africa. He said that Africa (including ANC and PAC) look forward to accepting South Africa into the Organisation of African Unity, in SADCC, in PTA etc once South Africa has abolished its apartheid policies and has gained majority rule. This last part, as you will see, is cardinal to all our efforts in this region. Kindly return the Daily Mail of Wednesday 22nd February, 1984 which I lend to you herewith for perusal on the said article I have marked.

6. I have deliberately delayed to reply to this article because the purpose of the enemy of Africa is to place such articles in our press to fulfill their objective of perpetuating colonialism and exploitation while the innocent Southern African brotherly countries quarrel and fight among themselves over minor details. Our enemy in Southern Africa is one and all of us including the press should combine our efforts to face him. We cannot afford to waste our energy discrediting or fighting each other. Incidentally please do not think that I am asking the Herald to have "Africa's dirt swept under the carpet". President Kaunda likens the press to a mirror. He also says that the mirror however has to be free of dirt in order to be able to reflect ones own true image clearly.

Yours faithfully,



W. K. Mayandi
ZAMBIA HIGH COMMISSIONER

cc: The Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
HARARE.

cc: The Secretary of Information &
Broadcasting, Posts & Communications,
HARARE.

