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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
SOUTH AFRICA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-sixth year

Letter dated 26 August 1981 from the Acting Chairman of the
Special Committee against Apartheid to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the attention of the General Assembly and the Security Council, a copy of a statement issued today by the Special Committee against Apartheid on recent developments in South Africa.

I would be grateful if this letter and the attached statement were circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 32 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) James Victor GBEHO
Acting Chairman of the
Special Committee against Apartheid

* A/36/150.

ANNEX

Statement dated 26 August 1981 issued by the Special Committee
against Apartheid

1. The Special Committee against Apartheid wishes to draw the urgent attention of the international community to the recent grave developments in South Africa, which have greatly aggravated the threat to international peace and security and, indeed, constituted constant breaches of the peace.
2. Faced with the great advance of the struggle for liberation, the apartheid régime has further escalated repression. It has detained numerous persons, including student and trade union leaders, and instituted a large number of trials under its obnoxious security laws. On 19 August 1981, the Pretoria Supreme Court sentenced three patriots - Mr. Anthony Tsotsobe, Mr. Johannes Shabangu and Mr. David Moise - to death. Three others who were sentenced to death earlier - Mr. Ncimbithi Johnson Lubisi, Mr. Petrus Tsepo Mashigo and Mr. Naphthali Mana - are awaiting appeal.
3. The Special Committee warns that executions of freedom fighters for participation in a struggle that has been recognized by the international community as legitimate are not only reprehensible and constitute gross violations of the Geneva Conventions but are also bound to have grave repercussions.
4. The apartheid régime and its supporters have also increasingly resorted to acts of terrorism in neighbouring territories. The recent assassination of Mr. Joe Gqabi, representative of the African National Congress of South Africa in Salisbury, represents a new stage in the long record of such acts of terrorism by the apartheid régime.
5. The apartheid régime, moreover, has, in effect, rejected the independence of Namibia through free and fair elections under United Nations supervision and control. It has instead increased its acts of aggression against Angola and recently occupied large areas of that independent African State causing heavy casualties.
6. The Special Committee notes with utmost seriousness the letter dated 25 August 1981 addressed by the President of Angola to the Secretary-General (S/14643) stating that the situation could develop into a war with unpredictable consequences. It considers that the international community should urgently act on his request to put an end to the successive acts of aggression against Angola and neutralize the imminent and large-scale invasion prepared by the apartheid régime against Angola.
7. The aggressive nature and intent of the apartheid régime are further evidenced by the recent increase in its military budget by over 30 per cent from 1,890 million rand to 2,465 million rand and the transfer of an additional 172 million rand to the "special defence account".

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8. The Special Committee is convinced that the apartheid régime has been encouraged in its criminal and aggressive behaviour by the attitudes of certain Western Powers which have persistently prevented effective action in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter. The vetoes cast by three permanent members in the Security Council in April to prevent the imposition of sanctions against that régime have assured it that it can pursue its crimes with impunity.

9. The policies and actions of the new United States administration, in the name of so-called "constructive engagement" with the apartheid régime, have been regarded by the latter as a licence to aggression and continued defiance of the international community. The move to repeal the Clark amendment and permit intervention in the sovereign State of Angola is welcomed by that régime as evidence of the desire of a major Power to co-operate with it in destabilizing Angola and securing hegemony in the region.

10. In the meantime, the repeated warnings of the Special Committee on the danger of the acquisition of nuclear capability by the apartheid régime have been further confirmed. New evidence has emerged of growing co-operation of the Government in Israel and the authorities in Taiwan with the apartheid régime in the military and nuclear fields.

11. The growing relations between the apartheid régime and certain military régimes in Latin America have led to moves for a so-called "South Atlantic Pact", including the apartheid régime.

12. In this connexion, the Special Committee takes note of the current naval exercise by NATO and other Powers - "Ocean Venture 81" - in the South Atlantic and supports the demand of the World Campaign against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa for categorical assurances from the countries participating in the exercise that: (a) there will be no contact with the South African Advokaat naval communications system or any other facilities provided by the Pretoria régime; (b) there will be no South African involvement of any kind, whether direct or indirect; and (c) no South African personnel, including its defence attachés posted to any of the participating countries, will in any form be involved or informed about the details of the exercises.

13. The Special Committee has also noted with grave concern the continued and increasing collaboration by certain Western and other countries and by transnational corporations with South Africa. It views the refusal of the Governments of New Zealand and the United States of America to prevent tours by racist Springbok rugby teams as further evidence of the determination of some Governments to resist any action against apartheid.

14. In the face of these grave developments, the Special Committee calls urgently for the widest international mobilization in support of the declarations of the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa (A/36/319-S/14531, annexes I and II), held in Paris in May 1981. The Conference urged all Governments,

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organizations and individuals committed to freedom to concert their efforts and step up action to isolate the apartheid régime and support the national liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia. The Conference declared that they must demand that the Powers which continue to collaborate with the apartheid régime desist from such collaboration and facilitate mandatory comprehensive sanctions against South Africa and that they must proclaim that collusion with the crime of apartheid is an intolerable affront to the conscience of mankind.

15. The Special Committee has been engaged in consultations on action to implement the Paris Declaration on Sanctions against South Africa (A/36/319-S/14531, annex I) and on the desirability of observing an International Year of Mobilization for Sanctions against South Africa. It notes with satisfaction that the Organization of African Unity has designed 1982 as the International Year. It hopes that the General Assembly will proclaim the International Year and invite the co-operation of all Governments and organizations to ensure an effective and meaningful observance of the Year.

16. The Special Committee notes that it will soon be 70 years since the African people of South Africa united to establish a national movement to struggle for their inalienable rights. After legendary non-violent struggle, they were obliged 20 years ago, in the face of savagery by the apartheid régime, to decide to undertake armed resistance.

17. The struggle of the people of South Africa, which has greatly advanced this year, is a major contribution to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. It has involved national mobilization of workers, students and other segments of the population, despite brutal repression, as well as action by freedom fighters. The nation-wide resistance on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the racist "Republic" has again demonstrated the indomitable determination of the South African people to destroy apartheid and establish a democratic society. They deserve the full support of the international community.

18. It is now clear that Western propaganda about reforms by the Botha régime is a hoax. Apartheid cannot be reformed but must be destroyed.

19. The Special Committee further notes that today is the fifteenth anniversary of the launching of the armed struggle by Namibian patriots under the leadership of the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO). They have made great sacrifices for their legitimate rights and in order to enable the international community to fulfil its solemn and sacred commitments to the Territory and people of Namibia. They deserve all necessary political and material assistance to ensure the termination of the illegal occupation of Namibia and the establishment of an independent State without any further delay.

20. The Special Committee expresses its admiration for the valiant struggles of the oppressed people of South Africa and Namibia, under the leadership of their national liberation movements. It calls for urgent and effective international action for the total isolation of the apartheid régime; for full support to the national liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia and for the defence of independent African States subjected to acts of terrorism, subversion and aggression by the apartheid régime.