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Letter dated 9 December 1988 from the Permanent Representative of
Mali to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Bamako Proclamation, issued at the end of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Southern Africa organized from 7 to 14 November 1988 by the Democratic Union of the Malian People (UDPM) and the Malian Government.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this Proclamation circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 36, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Noumou DIAKITE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Bamako Proclamation

1. In response to the call of the Malian people, the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Southern Africa was held throughout the territory of Mali, from 7 to 14 November 1988, with the participation of representatives of the African National Congress (ANC), the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC), the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), representatives of the front-line States and eminent persons known for their commitment to the just cause of the oppressed peoples of Africa.

2. The Week of Solidarity began with an important address by His Excellency General Moussa Traoré, President of the Republic of Mali and current Chairman of OAU, who urged the participants to work in unity of thought and action for freedom, independence and peace in southern Africa.

3. This week of reflection and exchanges featured political debates, artistic and cultural events, visits to historic sites and contacts with the real Mali.

4. The Week enabled the participants, who were well aware of the serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region, to reaffirm their positions on the various aspects of that situation and to strengthen their solidarity with the peoples of southern Africa.

5. The situation in southern Africa at the time of the Week of Solidarity is characterized by:

(a) The persistence of the Pretoria racists in their policy of repression, oppression, aggression and state terrorism;

(b) The intensification of the struggle of the South African people to win their political, economic, social and cultural rights;

(c) The mobilization of the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO so as to enable their territory to accede to independence in accordance with the relevant resolutions of OAU and the United Nations;

(d) The constructive role played by the front-line States in the search for solutions that would bring an atmosphere of security, stability, trust and peace to the subregion.

6. In the course of the Week, the participants carried out an in-depth analysis of the serious implications of the policy of apartheid and acts of aggression of all kinds perpetrated by the racist authorities of Pretoria against the front-line States.

The situation in South Africa

7. The participants condemn the apartheid system in the strongest possible terms, as a policy whose tragic effect is to transform the territory of South Africa into an immense concentration camp through "bantustanisation", the denial of fundamental freedoms and basic rights, and the oppression and exploitation of the black population, who have been reduced to the status of outcasts.

8. Accordingly, the participants hail the courageous struggle waged at great sacrifice by ANC, PAC, labour and church organizations, youth and women's movements, and men of peace from different social backgrounds and races, in order to bring about a democratic and multiracial society.

9. Given the international recognition of the legitimacy of the struggle of the national liberation movements, the participants ask that captured freedom fighters be given the status of prisoners of war in accordance with the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.

10. Since foreign nationals currently represent 40 per cent of the South African defence forces, it is urgent for the international community to put pressure on their countries of origin to stop their criminal collusion.

11. Considering the thousands of South African children between the ages of 7 and 14 who have been forced into exodus and exile for fear of being arrested, tortured and murdered, the participants issue an urgent appeal to all the women of the African continent and elsewhere to work towards ending this policy, which destroys the future of the South African populations. The participants salute the courageous and heroic struggle that the women of southern Africa are waging against apartheid.

12. The participants believe that any negotiation regarding the future of the South African people will necessarily have to be conducted by the South African liberation movements concerned.

13. In this connection, the participants have noted with profound concern the attempts made by the racist régime of South Africa to obtain recognition. The participants consequently reaffirm their strong commitment to heightening the isolation of the racist Pretoria régime until such time as apartheid is completely dismantled.

14. The participants ask that universal and wide-ranging economic sanctions be imposed on the racist apartheid régime.

15. The participants call once again upon the international community to give firm support in all possible ways to this emancipation struggle, a profound expression of the people, who are becoming increasingly aware of their solidarity and their shared destiny in a South Africa that has once and for all rid itself of the cancer of apartheid.

The situation in Namibia

16. The participants once again condemn the illegal occupation of Namibia by the South African racist régime and reaffirm their support for all resolutions on this question adopted by OAU and the United Nations.

17. In this connection, they congratulate SWAPO on the heroic struggle it has waged for years, and salute the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) for its victories over South African occupying troops. They give their full backing to SWAPO in its courageous struggle to enable the undaunted Namibian people to exercise their inalienable right to independence, and appeal urgently for increased material, financial and moral support to enable SWAPO to continue the struggle.

18. Accordingly, they request the international community to shoulder its special responsibility for the administration of the Territory and the management of its natural resources. They demand the immediate and unconditional implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) on Namibian independence.

The situation in the front-line States

19. The participants welcome the stubborn resistance with which the front-line States meet continual destabilising and destructive acts of aggression by Pretoria, which are creating a climate of insecurity in the region.

20. In this connection, they endorse the bold initiatives by the front-line States, which are determined to establish within the subregion an environment based exclusively on peace and co-operation between free, independent African countries.

21. The participants express the hope that the quadripartite talks will yield concrete results, ensuring that South Africa will respect the security of Angola and the independence of Namibia. They likewise express their support of efforts by Mozambique to ensure that its independence and integrity are respected, with an end to all foreign assistance to the armed bandits.

22. The international community is urged to mobilise further in order to provide these countries with all the assistance they need to strengthen their defensive capability and to sustain their drives for reconstruction and development.

23. The participants, marking well the systematic violations of the rules of international law by South Africa, believe it is more important than ever to enforce the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, in order to compel South Africa to:

(a) Proceed with the systematic and total dismantling of the system of apartheid;

(b) Free Mandela and all persons imprisoned in South African gaols for their political or trade-union views or for having fought against racism;

(c) Apply without any restriction Security Council resolution 435 (1978) on Namibian independence;

(d) Put an end to the acts of aggression and destruction perpetrated against the front-line States, which are determined to consolidate their national independence, defend their territorial integrity and pursue a policy in line with the legitimate aspirations of their peoples for freedom, peace and co-operation;

(e) Respect scrupulously the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

24. The participants express the need to strengthen unity of action in the struggle being waged against apartheid by the African States and by labour and church organisations.

25. The participants issue a resounding appeal to all peoples that love freedom, justice and peace to intensify their all-round support to the liberation movements of southern Africa and to the front-line States.

26. The participants invite the African countries which have not yet done so to ratify the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and all international conventions on the elimination of apartheid and racial discrimination.

27. They also invite all Governments, intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, anti-apartheid movements and humanitarian organisations to redouble their efforts to eradicate apartheid.

28. The participants appeal to all African States to make their contributions to the Special Fund of the OAU Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa.

29. The participants express the wish to see the development, sector by sector and profession by profession, of continental solidarity with a view to forging a new kind of link between Africa and the Namibian and South African populations.

30. The participants hail the intifada (uprising) being waged by the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories. They express their support for the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in its struggle against the Zionist occupation in order to regain its inalienable national rights, including its right to return, to achieve self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian State on its native soil.

31. The participants, in commemoration of the centenary of the birth of Jawaharlal Nehru, pay tribute to that great statesman, one of the founding fathers of the Non-Aligned Movement and a great pioneer in the anti-colonial struggle, who described apartheid as the greatest breach of international law. He firmly supported the struggle of the Non-Aligned Movement against the minority régime of Pretoria and the setting up of the Africa Fund to combat all racist and discriminatory actions.

32. In this context, the participants urge the international community to undertake bolder initiatives aimed at bringing to southern Africa trust, justice, co-operation and peace, indispensable factors for making southern Africa a region whose political vitality and economic dynamism will contribute to the consolidation of peace and progress.
