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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 12 November 1976 from the Permanent Representative
of the Libyan Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

I have the honour, on behalf of the African Group at the United Nations, to draw your attention to the explosive situation created by the recent closure by the South African racist régime of the border between South Africa and the southern border of Lesotho adjacent to the so-called independent Transkei.

The closure of the border on 26 October 1976 is calculated to arm-twist Lesotho into according recognition to the bantustan Transkei which is an appendage of the apartheid Government of South Africa.

The African Group views with the greatest concern the serious adverse economic effects which this action taken by the racist régime in Pretoria has on Lesotho. If the situation is allowed to continue for any length of time, over a third of the population of Lesotho will be deprived of its basic needs such as food and medical supplies. Moreover, export commodities could not be sent out owing to the mountain ranges that separate the area affected from the rest of the country and render communication impossible.

South Africa's action is a flagrant breach of international law which stipulates safe passage of transit goods to and from land-locked countries.

The situation in that area does not only pose a serious economic problem to the people of Lesotho but constitutes a threat to the peace and security in that region.

The African Group strongly maintains that the international community must assume its responsibility to give every support required by Lesotho for its existence and the welfare of its people. The Government of that country should

not be left alone to be cowed down by the Pretoria régime because of Lesotho's abhorrence of the policy of apartheid in South Africa and its full support of all United Nations resolutions, in particular General Assembly resolution 31/6 A of 26 October 1976 in which the Assembly rejected the so-called independence granted by the racist régime in South Africa and called upon all Governments to deny any form of recognition to the so-called independent Transkei and to refrain from having any dealings with the so-called independent Transkei.

I would appreciate it if you would circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Mansur R. KIKHIA
Permanent Representative of the Libyan
Arab Republic to the United Nations
Chairman of the African Group for
the month of November
