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SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE, 611th  
MEETING



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Chairman: Mr. Abdulrahim Abby FARAH  
(Somalia).

*In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Lannung (Denmark), Rapporteur, took the Chair.*

## AGENDA ITEM 31

The policies of apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa: report of the Special Committee on the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa (continued) (A/7254, A/7259, A/7270)

1. Mr. VIERA LINARES (Cuba) expressed his sympathy to the Saudi Arabian delegation on the death of Mr. Omar Azouni.

2. Cuba, which in 1968 was celebrating the centennial of the start of its struggle for independence, had never ceased to fight for the political and economic emancipation of its people, both black and white. Its independence had put an end to slavery, racial persecution and the arbitrary division of the nation into ethnic groups; those phenomena, characteristic of societies in which man exploited man, were associated with colonialism, neo-colonialism and the aggressive policies of imperialism.

3. Apartheid in South Africa was an expression of the colonial domination by the white minority and was closely linked with the policies being carried out by the imperialist Powers, under the leadership of the United States, against the under-developed countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. As an instrument used by the white minority in South Africa to perpetuate its control over the country's wealth, apartheid had meant the enslavement of the entire black population, which had been subjected to every form of cultural, economic and political oppression. The African majority was compelled to endure poverty, illiteracy and the loss of its national identity. The colonialists were clearly attempting to transform an entire nation into a faceless mass of producers whose only task was to provide for the needs of local and foreign white masters. The world could not fail to be alarmed at the development of the international policy of apartheid.

4. The supporters of that policy, who were intimately linked with imperialist adventures, gave their backing to the aggression committed against the people of Korea and Viet-Nam. However, it was on the African continent that the colonial and neo-colonial Powers were playing their main role, for, genuinely frightened at the proportions assumed by the struggle for national liberation, they were trying to preserve the interests of the United States and its allies in that part of the world. No one could deny the existence and the dangerous nature of that policy, which involved aiding the Portuguese colonial enterprises in Angola and Mozambique, giving military and economic support to the illegal régime in Rhodesia, threatening the territorial integrity of Zambia and the United Republic of Tanzania, and sending mercenaries to combat the African liberation movements in other countries and which was also being extended to Namibia.

5. There was no question that the time for action to put an end to apartheid had long since come. The people of South Africa and the African continent must be liberated without further delay from the Pretoria régime, that ally of imperialism. Each year, the report of the Special Committee on the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa showed that the South African régime was receiving an increasing amount of commercial, financial and military aid from the United States and its allies, in violation of United Nations resolutions and of the spirit of the Charter. The South African racists' contempt for the numerous resolutions adopted by the Organization showed that it was the people of South Africa themselves who would put an end to their exploitation and expel the capitalists. Only through revolutionary violence and an armed struggle for liberation would the people of South Africa be able to achieve their destiny.

6. His country wished to assure the people of South Africa once again that they could count on the fullest material and moral assistance from the Cuban people and Government. Cuba was firmly convinced that, no matter what difficulties were encountered in the final struggle, victory would come to those who, as in Viet-Nam, were fighting imperialism and colonialism.

7. Mr. SHERIFIS (Cyprus) congratulated the members of the Special Committee on their detailed report (A/7254), which could not but arouse indignation at the Pretoria régime's refusal to comply with United Nations decisions and heed the international community's call to reason. As the report pointed out, it was obvious that "the South African Government has shown no inclination towards a peaceful solution in conformity with the decisions of the General Assembly and the Security Council" (*ibid.*, para. 94). On the contrary, it had increased its repressive measures

against the indigenous population and was continuing to occupy Namibia, was supporting the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia and was collaborating with Portugal in every possible way in Angola and Mozambique. As the Secretary-General had said, "the South African Government has set not only South Africa but the whole of southern Africa on a collision course" (see A/7201/Add.1, para. 134). It was therefore perfectly clear that the Pretoria régime's policies were a threat to international peace and security. During the International Year for Human Rights, it was deplorable that the racist régime in South Africa was applying, as it were, in reverse the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

8. Every year, the Special Political Committee tried to depart from the established pattern, but in vain, for the essentials of the problem were always the same and they always brought into play the same principles of the Charter—those calling for the elimination of all forms of injustice resulting from economic or social inequality. It had been said that the Members of the United Nations had not been united in their search for proper means of dealing firmly with the intransigence of the South African racists and that instead of taking resolute and drastic measures they had been evasive. However, the more than seventy resolutions adopted so far on apartheid provided for measures aimed at achieving the declared objectives. It was their implementation that had been lacking, and it was not surprising that the South African authorities showed no respect for the decisions of the United Nations, since many of the latter's Members were themselves indifferent to them.

9. The members of the Special Committee felt that the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council provided a proper framework for international action if they were fully implemented by States. Unfortunately, those resolutions were not being implemented, and the Special Committee considered it essential to reaffirm them and, at the same time, draw the attention of the Member States concerned to the grave responsibility which they bore for the deteriorating situation. In resolution 2307 (XXII), which his country had joined in sponsoring, the General Assembly had reiterated that action under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter was essential in order to solve the problem of apartheid and that universal mandatory economic sanctions were the only means of achieving a peaceful solution. The same resolution had included a provision proposed by his delegation by which the General Assembly invited Member States to encourage the establishment of national organizations for the purpose of enlightening public opinion on the evils of apartheid. It was regrettable that very few States had even troubled to acknowledge receipt of the Secretary-General's note, dated 3 January 1968, calling upon them to implement that decision. The resolution adopted at the current session should recall the earlier decision and call upon Member States to implement it.

10. The policy of apartheid had been defined as a crime against humanity, punishable under the provisions of the international instruments dealing with such crimes. It had been so declared in paragraph 4 of

resolution III of the Teheran Conference,<sup>1/</sup> adopted on 11 May 1968, which had been supported by his delegation. Even more recently, his delegation had supported that thesis in the Third Committee during the debate on the question of the punishment of war criminals and of persons who have committed crimes against humanity. Also before the Third Committee, his delegation had been one of the sponsors of a draft resolution adopted by the Committee which condemned South Africa for resorting to the threat or use of capital punishment in its attempt to suppress the natural aspirations of the people of southern Africa its social and economic justice, civil rights and political freedom.<sup>2/</sup>

11. His delegation urged acceptance of the Special Committee's recommendation (A/7254, para. 130 (c)) that countries of asylum should issue travel documents to refugees from South Africa. Member States, organizations and individuals should make generous contributions to the voluntary organizations which helped the victims of apartheid. Generous contributions should also be made to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and to the United Nations Training and Educational Programme. Furthermore, the resolution to be adopted should call once again for the release of all persons imprisoned or restricted for their opposition to apartheid.

12. The time for rhetoric was past and the time for action had come if the desired objectives were to be attained.

*Mr. Farah (Somalia) took the Chair.*

13. Mr. KANYOGOTO (Burundi) offered his condolences to the delegation of Saudi Arabia on the death of Mr. Azouni.

14. He paid a tribute to the Special Committee whose report (A/7254) was of a very high standard. At a time when the whole world was celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, one Member of the Organization was defying the entire human race by pursuing a shameless policy equalled only by Hitler's nazism. Ever since its attainment of independence and its admission to the international community, his country had been constantly preoccupied with the tragic situation in South Africa. It had been unsparing in its denunciation of the racist policy of the Pretoria régime and had always supported the General Assembly resolutions and Security Council decisions calling upon the South African Government to return to the path of reason. At the national level, every means had been employed to make the people of Burundi aware of the evils of apartheid. His Government was prepared at all times to co-operate with the United Nations in assisting the people of South Africa in their legitimate struggle to gain the rights recognized in the Charter of the United Nations. His delegation appealed once again to the South African Government to put an end to that loathsome policy which weighed so heavily upon all mankind.

<sup>1/</sup> See Final Act of the International Conference on Human Rights (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XIV.2), p. 6.

<sup>2/</sup> See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Annexes, agenda item 59, document A/7303, para. 19. After modifications, the draft resolution was adopted as resolution 2394 (XXIII) of the General Assembly.

15. South Africa, a Member of the United Nations, was infringing provisions of the Charter which it had freely accepted. What could be more arrogant than to come to the rostrum of the General Assembly, as the South African Minister for Foreign Affairs had done at the 1680th plenary meeting, on 3 October 1968, and hurl unjustified criticism at the Secretary-General? What could be more cynical than to depict in a favourable light a régime which the General Assembly had described as guilty of committing a crime against humanity? Indeed, throughout the whole of his statement the representative of the Pretoria régime had merely echoed the contempt which his country had shown for the United Nations. Some people attributed that state of affairs to the impotence of the Organization. His country felt, however, that the latter was becoming increasingly paralysed because of the actions of a majority of those very States which had originally established it.

16. He asked the Committee to direct an urgent appeal to the great Powers to make the necessary sacrifices and to lay aside their individual interests in favour of the interest of mankind, for in the last analysis it was mankind as a whole which was threatened by the scourge of apartheid and racial discrimination. In so doing, those Powers would earn the gratitude of the whole world, for the policy of apartheid, based on a diabolical philosophy, might sooner or later create conditions which would lead to a general conflagration.

17. The South African Minister for Foreign Affairs had boasted of the tremendous upsurge of his country's economy, but he had carefully refrained from saying anything whatever about the huge investments which the Western industrial countries had made in South Africa. The efforts of the United Nations would obviously be doomed to failure so long as South Africa's trading partners were unwilling to apply the resolutions of the United Nations and to persuade the South African Government to abandon its present attitude.

18. Burundi remained unyielding in its stand against South Africa's racist policy. His delegation called for the drafting, at the end of the present debate, of a firm and unequivocal draft resolution condemning once and for all the policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa and its confederates.

#### Organization of the Committee's work

19. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee's general debate on the policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa was now closed. He noted that inasmuch as no draft resolution had as yet been submitted, the Committee had decided to defer the completion of its consideration of that question in order to take up agenda item 33 dealing with the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

*The meeting rose at 4 p.m.*