

# United Nations GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE, 554th  
MEETING



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Chairman: Mr. Humberto LOPEZ VILLAMIL  
(Honduras).

## AGENDA ITEM 35

The policies of apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa (continued) (A/6688, A/6818 and Corr.1):

- (a) Report of the Special Committee on the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa (A/6864 and Add.1);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/6825, A/6873)

1. Mr. JIMENEZ (Philippines) noted that the Secretary-General, in the introduction to his annual report on the work of the Organization for the period 16 June 1966 to 15 June 1967 (A/6701/Add.1), had emphasized that there had been no improvement in the situation in South Africa and that there was now a danger of violence in that country.

2. The United Nations had expressed its views on apartheid in unequivocal language and the General Assembly, in its resolutions, had indicated the means for putting an end to apartheid. The policy of apartheid was intended above all to bring about the fragmentation of the African population and to deprive the vast majority of Africans of their inalienable political, economic and social rights—such as freedom of residence and movement, the right to free choice of employment and stability of employment, freedom of association and freedom to develop their own skills—all of which were enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and protected by the International Covenants on Human Rights. On 11 October 1966 the Minister of Labour of the Republic of South Africa had stated that Bantus living in the areas reserved for Whites were not there as permanent residents and did not have any political rights there. The late Prime Minister, Mr. Verwoerd, had declared his Government's intention to increase the separation progressively so that in every sphere Whites and non-Whites would not intermingle and develop into a single unit.

3. In its report (A/6864 and Add.1) the Special Committee on the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa had presented un-

impeachable evidence of the evil effects of apartheid, which its advocates were vainly trying to justify in the name of the so-called principle of "separate development". Apartheid could not be justified on the basis of any economic theory, and the argument that it was the purely a domestic affair was untenable. It was alarming to note that the only reaction of the Republic of South Africa to repeated appeals by the United Nations had been the constant reinforcement of racially discriminatory and segregationist measures accompanied by more and more stringent laws. In that connexion, he wished to reiterate the statement made by the Philippine Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ramos (1566th plenary meeting), when he had declared his country's strong opposition to the pernicious and revolting policies of apartheid, and had stressed the need for unrelenting efforts to overcome the resistance, indifference and ignorance which had prevented many countries from harmonizing their policies with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the objectives of its resolutions.

4. In pursuance of relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Philippine Government had broken consular and diplomatic relations with South Africa; it was applying economic sanctions against South Africa, including a measure prohibiting all authorized banks from issuing letters of credit for imports coming from South Africa; it was boycotting South African goods; it had placed an embargo on the export of strategic materials and had closed Philippine ports to all vessels flying the South African flag; it had contributed to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa for the victims of apartheid of South Africa; and it had ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

5. Unfortunately, it seemed that the sincere efforts of the small- and medium-sized Powers were not sufficient to persuade the Government of the Republic of South Africa to abandon its policy of apartheid. As the Secretary-General had said, the effectiveness of the United Nations in dealing with the problem would "depend essentially on the willingness and ability of the permanent members of the Security Council and the main trading partners of the Republic of South Africa to harmonize their positions and take more effective measures to persuade the South African Government to abandon its present course" (see A/6701/Add.1, para. 118).

6. In view of the imminent danger, his delegation invited members of the Committee to give serious consideration to the recommendations of the Special Committee (A/6864, paras. 119 to 167) and to implement them without delay. In particular, it wished to draw the Committee's attention to the need for urgent

action and for considering the situation in southern Africa as a whole, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the International Seminar on Apartheid, Racial Discrimination and Colonialism in Southern Africa (A/6818, para. 123), concerning measures to promote the international campaign against apartheid.

7. In 1966 a member of the South African Parliament, stating that the South African White could not be saved by legislation devoid of any equitable or moral basis, had told the House of Assembly at Pretoria that the South African Government, by associating the name of South Africa with a political concept rejected by the majority of mankind, had aroused a hatred which would outlive the present generation. The Philippine delegation hoped that the South African Government would heed that warning and respond to the demands of world opinion.

8. In conclusion, he said that the Special Committee, of which the Philippines was a member, had constantly followed with dedication and perseverance the various aspects of the question of apartheid, in accordance with its mandate from the General Assembly.

9. Mr. TINOCO (Costa Rica) congratulated the officers of the Committee on their election, adding that he was particularly glad to note that the representative of the first country on the American continent to abolish slavery had been elected Chairman.

10. The United Nations had tried since its establishment to promote the rights and equality of all men, regardless of race, religion or political ideology. But serious situations still existed in some countries whose policies were a veritable challenge to the Organization.

11. In signing the Charter of the United Nations at San Francisco, the founding Members of the United Nations, determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, had to that end not only given expression to a number of principles governing relations between States but also established rules to protect the rights and freedoms of individuals. As the Special Committee had stressed on a number of occasions, any State which, like the Republic of South Africa, prevented the exercise of those rights and freedoms was thereby creating a serious threat to international peace and security. The Secretary-General had therefore quite rightly given warning of the possibility of a conflict which might be more horrible than any war man had known.

12. Since the Special Committee had been set up, his delegation had always taken an active part in its work and had, by its presence, demonstrated its dedication to the cause of human rights. Costa Rica and all Latin American countries hoped that the General Assembly resolution calling for the enlargement of the Special Committee (2054 (XX)) would finally be implemented, since a massive effort was the only way to bring relief to the victims of apartheid and to put an end to that ignoble policy. If the membership of the Committee were enlarged, its recommendations would have greater force, and the South African Government might perhaps be induced to recognize at last that its policies were wrong and fraught with dangerous consequences.

13. There was still hope in South Africa, however, for the Government's policy was not unanimously endorsed even among the Whites. Opposition was growing daily. It was particularly encouraging to note that, with the exception of the Dutch Reformed Church, all religious groups condemned segregation and, pending the attainment of a truly integrated society, endeavoured to mitigate the rigours of apartheid.

14. Perhaps it would not be presumptuous to say that the weight of public opinion throughout the world and in South Africa might lead the Pretoria authorities to recognize the error of their ways and result in the establishment of a régime based on equality in that country, which was still a member of the United Nations. Although the Prime Minister of South Africa, refusing to recognize that the condemnation expressed by the United Nations was based on the highest principles of international morality, had spoken of the possibility of South Africa's withdrawing from the United Nations, its withdrawal would solve nothing since it had accepted those principles on joining the Organization.

15. For the time being, the United Nations could only maintain a policy of censure and moral sanctions, which were perhaps more effective than economic sanctions, but later, if South Africa persisted in its policies it might have to bring greater economic pressure to bear.

16. In that connexion he said that his country's legislature had unanimously adopted a law prohibiting all trade with the Republic of South Africa, despite the sacrifices which that measure entailed for the country.

17. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the Committee and the General Assembly would approve the Special Committee's recommendations and that the day would soon come when discrimination in South Africa gave way to social peace and racial equality.

18. Mr. PIÑERA (Chile) noted that the situation in South Africa was worse than ever; the policy followed by Mr. Vorster had resulted in intensified repression and had helped to form a veritable entente in southern Africa designed to maintain the status quo.

19. The General Law Amendment Acts adopted between 1962 and 1967 had aggravated the discrimination and oppression; moreover, the retroactive application of those laws violated the very principles of criminal law, and the restrictions imposed on the practice of the legal profession made it impossible for adversaries of the régime to defend themselves.

20. The execution on 30 May 1967 of nine members of the Pan-Africanist Congress, despite the repeated appeals of the Special Committee, had been a further flagrant violation of the resolutions (190 (1964) and 191 (1964)) adopted by the Security Council on 9 and 18 June 1964.

21. He recalled that Chile had taken part in the International Seminar on Apartheid, Racial Discrimination and Colonialism in Southern Africa held at Kitwe, Zambia from 25 July to 4 August 1967. The discussion at the Seminar had shown where certain Member States stood and would be a useful contribution to

the search for a final solution to the problem of apartheid, whose consequences were no longer limited to South Africa but seriously jeopardized decolonization throughout the southern part of the African continent.

22. South West Africa remained under the effective domination of South Africa in spite of the decision of the United Nations to end South Africa's mandate. The illegal racist régime in Southern Rhodesia survived, thanks to the example and support of South Africa, and the situation remained unchanged in Angola and Mozambique. In the circumstances it was easy to understand the belief that there was an "unholy alliance" designed to maintain a stronghold of colonialism and racial discrimination in southern Africa. It was therefore essential to find a solution to the problem, for nothing would be more serious, or would do more to delay the forward march of history, than a racial war.

23. It was futile to continue to adopt new resolutions if those already adopted were not being applied by all. While the representative of Chile recognized that the stopping of trade with South Africa would cause difficulties for certain countries, he nevertheless considered that the attitude of some Member States which profited from the sacrifices of others should be very strongly condemned.

24. His delegation categorically rejected the argument advanced by South Africa to the effect that apartheid was a domestic matter. It was convinced that South African propaganda concerning the alleged benefits of the régime should be combated. Public opinion should be mobilized, particularly in countries whose Governments had not joined in the United Nations action against apartheid. As a member of the Committee of Trustees of the United Nations Trust

Fund for South Africa, Chile had given assistance to the victims of South Africa's race laws, and it hoped that in future larger contributions would enable the Trust Fund to perform its noble task with increasing efficiency.

25. Mr. BARROMI (Israel), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, said that statements had been made at the previous meeting which impugned his country's reputation.

26. Apartheid affected the life and dignity of millions of individuals and its existence was contrary to the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter. It was both a political and a moral problem. The Charter called upon Member States to combine their efforts to accomplish the common aims of the Organization and to fulfil in good faith the obligations they had assumed.

27. That being the case, it could hardly be claimed that the examples and analogies mentioned at the previous meeting helped to advance the cause of human rights and fundamental freedoms in South Africa. Digressions on the situation in the Middle East at a meeting concerned with apartheid were hardly a disinterested and constructive contribution to the Committee's work. His delegation was not afraid to engage in a debate on the substance of the problem of the Middle East, but it wished to avoid any tangential, bitter and unproductive polemics.

28. He wished to make a solemn appeal to the members of the Committee to forget hatred, recriminations and disputes which had nothing to do with apartheid, and to concentrate their efforts on finding a solution to the problem of apartheid. His delegation pledged its whole-hearted support to those efforts.

*The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.*