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LETTER DATED 26 APRIL 1985 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID ADDRESSED TO  
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to request, on behalf of the Special Committee against Apartheid, that the attached text of the Declaration 1/ adopted by the Special Committee on 28 March 1985 at the conclusion of its special session in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) J. N. GARBA  
Chairman  
Special Committee against Apartheid

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1/ Also issued as document A/40/213, annex.

Annex

Declaration adopted on 28 March 1985 by the Special Committee against Apartheid at the conclusion of its special session in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre

1. The special session of the Special Committee against Apartheid was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 22 March 1985 to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre and focused on the theme of "Sharpeville, Soweto and Sebokeng, the struggle for liberation in South Africa and the international response".
2. In this context, the Special Committee commends the people of South Africa on the heroic resistance they have consistently offered in the face of great odds.
3. The special session of the Special Committee against Apartheid coincides with the sharp escalation of the multi-faceted struggle of the people of South Africa for their liberation, characterized by the mass upsurge in the urban and rural areas of South Africa; the courageous struggle of the black workers with the support of their communities; and the continuing and growing movement of the women and youth, combined with the politico-military resistance of all sections of the oppressed.
4. The massacres, killings and other atrocities against unarmed demonstrators perpetrated by the racist régime, culminating in the brutal attack on mourners at a funeral procession in Uitenhage on 21 March, underline the continuous repressive and authoritarian character of the Pretoria régime since the Sharpeville massacre.
5. The Special Committee vehemently condemns the continuing massacres, killings and other atrocities against defenceless opponents of apartheid perpetrated by the racist régime in Sharpeville, Soweto, Sebokeng and other townships in South Africa, including the killings in recent weeks of residents of Crossroads who were demonstrating against plans for their forced removal. Forced removals have driven millions of people off their ancestral lands, trade unions are under attack, torture is rife and the implementation of the bantustan policy is entrenching the system of apartheid, resulting in desperate poverty, exploitation, forcing family disintegration and depriving Africans of their nationality.
6. The Special Committee underlines that these and other acts of repression of innocent demonstrators, striking workers and even schoolchildren as well as the continued denial of the inalienable right of self-determination of the deprived majority have greatly aggravated the situation in South Africa. The entrenchment of the apartheid policies and their accompanying violence have ruled out any possibility of a peaceful solution of the South African problem.
7. The Special Committee rejects the manoeuvre by the racist régime which is conducting a sustained and well orchestrated campaign to create the illusion that it is introducing change and reform in South Africa. The so-called "new constitution" rejected as null and void by the General Assembly, and by Security

Council resolution 554 (1984) adopted on 17 August 1984, is aimed at dividing the oppressed people of South Africa and entrenching apartheid. The massive opposition by the so-called Coloured people and people of Asian origin to the creation of separate parliaments under this "new constitution" is a clear reaffirmation of the unity of the oppressed people of South Africa and a decisive rejection of the new constitution.

8. The racist régime has recently attempted to divide the ranks of the opposition and deflect external pressures by offering to release Nelson Mandela and other imprisoned African leaders like Zephania Mothopeng, but requiring them to renounce violence as a means of opposing apartheid. In rejecting this deceitful offer, Nelson Mandela, who has spent 21 years in jail, pointed out that it was the régime itself which was responsible for the violence in the country. The régime moreover is planning to set up a so-called black forum of hand-picked persons for the purpose of perpetuating apartheid. However, the racist régime has revealed its true intentions by proceeding at the same time to arrest a large number of the genuine representatives of leaders of the African people.

9. The Special Committee welcomes the increasing mobilization of world-wide support for the struggle for freedom in South Africa, notably through actions undertaken by parliamentary bodies, municipalities, anti-apartheid movements and non-governmental organizations, as well as by individuals of many countries, especially in Western Europe and North America.

10. The Special Committee reaffirms the legitimacy of the struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa and their liberation movements by all available means, including armed struggle, for the elimination of apartheid declared as a crime against humanity and seriously violating international peace and security.

11. The Special Committee reiterates its firm solidarity with the oppressed people and their national liberation movements in South Africa in the just struggle against apartheid and demands that the racist régime of South Africa immediately take steps to dismantle the apartheid system by:

(a) Ending repression against the black people and other opponents of apartheid;

(b) Abrogating all repressive laws;

(c) Refraining from punishing persons for acts arising from opposition to apartheid;

(d) Releasing unconditionally all South African political prisoners, captured freedom fighters, detainees and terminating all restrictions and proscriptions on persons, organizations and publications opposed to apartheid.

12. The Special Committee, recalling Security Council resolution 560 (1985), adopted on 12 March 1985, demands the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of so-called "high treason" charges against 16 members of the United Democratic Front and other opponents of apartheid in their struggle for self-determination and for

the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa. Moreover, it calls on the Security Council, in case South Africa fails to comply, to consider further appropriate action including adoption of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

13. The Special Committee declares that freedom fighters captured during the struggle for liberation are entitled to and must be granted prisoner-of-war status and treatment in accordance with the provisions of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, which recognized that wars of national liberation, like those being waged in southern Africa by movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity, are subject to the Geneva Conventions.

14. The Special Committee, noting the universal importance of 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, reiterates that racism negates all the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, is a crime against humanity and a threat to world peace and security and appeals to all Governments and organizations to strengthen their support of the struggle against all forms of racism, including apartheid and zionism.

15. It calls upon all States to take concerted international action against apartheid in order to increase effective pressure on the racist régime of South Africa as a means of complementing the struggle of the people of South Africa for the abolition of apartheid.

16. The Special Committee condemns the military, nuclear, political, economic and cultural co-operation between the Zionist régime and the South African apartheid régime. The active collaboration between the two régimes has increased apartheid South Africa's aggression and destabilization in the whole of southern Africa.

17. It condemns policies of "constructive engagement" and active collaboration with the apartheid régime followed by the United States and certain Western States, thereby encouraging its repression of the people's legitimate struggle, aggression against neighbouring States and defiance of the decisions and resolutions of the United Nations. It appeals to these States to abandon such policies and join in the concerted international efforts to bring about the desired change in South Africa.

18. Pending the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations by the Security Council, the Special Committee calls on all States urgently to adopt national legislation and take other appropriate measures against the apartheid régime of South Africa, such as:

- (a) Cessation of all investments in, and financial loans to, South Africa;
- (b) An end to all trade with South Africa;

(c) Full implementation of the arms embargo including cessation of all forms of military, police or intelligence co-operation with the authorities of South Africa;

(d) An immediate end to all forms of nuclear collaboration with South Africa;

(e) Total boycott of South Africa in the cultural, educational and sports fields.

19. The Special Committee, mindful of the responsibility of the United Nations and the international community to help to eliminate apartheid totally, appeals to all States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, anti-apartheid and solidarity movements, trade unions, religious bodies, student and other public organizations, mass media as well as city and other local authorities and individuals urgently to provide increased political, economic, educational, legal and other forms of support to the oppressed people of South Africa, as well as humanitarian and all other necessary assistance to the national liberation movements of South Africa in their just struggle for the exercise of the right of self-determination by the oppressed people of South Africa.

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