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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Report of the Special Political Committee (Part I)

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled

"Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa:

"(a) Reports of the Special Committee on Apartheid;

"(b) Reports of the Secretary-General"

was included in the provisional agenda of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly in accordance with resolution 1978 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963.

2. At its 206th and 207th meetings, on 20 September 1973, the General Committee decided to recommend the inclusion of the item in the agenda and its allocation to the Special Political Committee for consideration and report. At its 2123rd plenary meeting, on 21 September, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the General Committee.

3. The Special Political Committee began consideration of the item at its 859th meeting, on 9 October. The Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Special Committee on Apartheid; 1/
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolutions 2923 D and E (XXVII) (A/9165);
- (c) Report of the Special Committee on Apartheid on the implementation by States of United Nations resolutions on apartheid (A/9168);
- (d) Report of the Special Committee on Apartheid on the International Conference of Trade Unions against Apartheid (A/9169);
- (e) Report of the Special Committee on Apartheid on the military build-up in South Africa and implementation of the arms embargo against South Africa (A/9180-S/11005).

4. The attention of the Special Political Committee was drawn to the report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference of Experts for the Support of Victims of Colonialism and Apartheid in Southern Africa, held at Oslo in April 1973 (A/9061).

5. The Special Political Committee also had before it a letter dated 14 September from the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee on Apartheid to the Secretary-General (A/9160-S/11000); a letter dated 21 September from the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/SPC/161); and a letter dated 3 October from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/9188).

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 22 (A/9022). Also submitted to the Security Council under the symbol S/11006.

6. In addition, the Special Political Committee had before it a letter dated 19 September from the Chairman of the Special Committee on Apartheid to the Chairman of the Special Political Committee (A/SPC/160). Annexed to that letter was a statement on political prisoners in South Africa adopted by the Special Committee on Apartheid on 17 August. In this letter the Chairman of the Special Committee on Apartheid conveyed the Special Committee's request that the Special Political Committee "devote one or two meetings ... on 11 October to the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners", and "that the South African liberation movements be invited, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity, to participate in the debates on the 'policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa' in the Special Political Committee".

7. At its 859th meeting, on 9 October, the Special Political Committee agreed without objection to accede to the two requests of the Special Committee on Apartheid, as contained in document A/SPC/160. The Committee also agreed without objection to hear statements, pursuant to the requests addressed to the Chairman, by Mr. David Sibeko, Head of the Mission to Europe and the Americas of the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania, and Mr. Martin Ennals, Secretary-General of Amnesty International, in connexion with the observance of the Day of Solidarity, and by Mr. Romesh Chandra, Secretary-General of the World Peace Council, who with other members of his delegation would be heard by the Committee at a later date. At its 861st and 862nd meetings, on 11 October, the Committee further agreed to hear statements in connexion with the Day of Solidarity; pursuant to the requests addressed to the Chairman, by Mr. Thami Mhlambiso, representative of the African National Congress, and by Mr. Otto Kersten, General Secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

8. Pursuant to these decisions, the Special Political Committee devoted its 861st to 863rd meetings, on 11 and 12 October 1973, to the commemoration of the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, in the course of which it heard statements on the question by the Chairman of the Special Committee on Apartheid, by the representatives of 54 countries, and by Mr. Sibeko, Mr. Ennals, Mr. Mhlambiso and Mr. Kersten.

## II. DRAFT RESOLUTION

9. At the 861st meeting, on 11 October, the representative of Sweden introduced a draft resolution regarding political prisoners in South Africa (A/SPC/L.264) sponsored by Australia, Austria, Finland, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden. The sponsors were later joined by Denmark and Iceland.

10. The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation 2/ at the 863rd meeting (see paragraph 11 below).

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2/ Subsequently, the representative of Portugal stated that her delegation would have abstained if there had been a vote.

### III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

11. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution.

#### Political prisoners in South Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the numerous resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly regarding political prisoners and persons imprisoned, interned or subjected to other restrictions for their opposition to apartheid,

Gravely concerned at continuing reports of repression by the South African Government against opponents of apartheid and of ill-treatment and torture of detainees and political prisoners,

Noting with appreciation the statement on political prisoners in South Africa, adopted by the Special Committee on Apartheid on 17 August 1973, 3/

Reaffirming the legitimacy of the struggle of the people of South Africa against apartheid and racial discrimination,

Strongly convinced that the release of leaders of the oppressed people of South Africa and other opponents of apartheid from imprisonment and other restrictions is essential for a peaceful solution of the grave situation in South Africa,

1. Condemns the failure of the Government of South Africa to comply with the repeated requests of the General Assembly and the Security Council for the release of all persons imprisoned, interned, or otherwise restricted for their opposition to apartheid;

2. Again calls upon the Government of South Africa to grant forthwith unconditional release to all such persons;

3. Appeals to all Governments, organizations and individuals to undertake more vigorous and concerted action to publicize and support the legitimate cause of all those persecuted in South Africa for opposition to apartheid and racial discrimination.

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