



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 29 JULY 1985 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
BURKINA FASO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you the attached text of the letter dated 25 July 1985 addressed to you by Comrade Oliver Tambo, President of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa.

I should be grateful if you would have this text distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Léandre B. BASSOLE
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

Annex

Letter dated 25 July 1985 from Mr. Oliver Tambo, President of
the African National Congress, addressed to the President of
the Security Council

The African National Congress welcomes the convening of the Security Council to discuss the question of South Africa. We thank the Republic of France for taking this timely initiative and are grateful to all the powers for making it possible for the Council to convene at such short notice.

An extremely grave situation obtains in South Africa. This situation has come about as a result of the stubborn refusal of the Pretoria régime to abandon the criminal apartheid system. The formal proclamation of martial law on 20 July, covering parts of our country, is an inevitable consequence of the system of rule by force.

The new measures of repression instituted by the Botha régime mean that even greater numbers of our people are going to be murdered in cold blood, tortured and imprisoned. It is to hide these acts of a vicious war against the people that this régime has introduced additional controls on the press.

The international community cannot stand aside when state terrorism in South Africa has reached the levels of bestial savagery that it has. The argument of the Pretoria régime that it has an obligation to restore law and order has no merit since all it means is that this régime wishes to assert the authority of exactly the law against which the people are struggling. To agree with this argument would therefore be to agree to the enforcement and perpetuation of the apartheid system. It would be to endorse the defence of a racist constitution which the Security Council itself has declared null and void.

A special responsibility devolves on the Council to take decisive action to stop the further commission of the apartheid crime against humanity. Mere condemnation of the apartheid system and pleas to the Botha régime to change course, only serve to convince this régime that the international community is unable to take firm action to end apartheid. To avoid action is to encourage the racists to hold the United Nations Organization, including the Security Council, in contempt.

The time has come that the Council should impose comprehensive sanctions against apartheid South Africa under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. Certainly, our people who have to bury their dead every day, expect that by the time it rises, the Security Council will have adopted practical measures that will result in the further isolation of the apartheid régime.

Failure to do so would mean that the Security Council has given a carte blanche to the Pretoria régime to massacre our people and to ignore the demands that the Security Council itself has made on this régime on previous occasions.

We are certain that the Council cannot fail us at this moment when millions of people in South Africa need its assistance most.

Oliver TAMBO
President

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