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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Note verbale dated 5 January 1991 from the Permanent
Representative of Botswana to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General*

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit for information a copy of a press release issued by the Government of the Republic of Botswana in response to the speech by President de Klerk on the occasion of the opening of the South African Parliament on 1 February 1991 (see annex).

The Permanent Representative would be grateful if the press release could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 34.

* The present note verbale replaces NV/91/6 dated 5 February 1991.

ANNEX

Press release issued by the Government of
Botswana on 4 February 1991

The Government of Botswana has made a careful study of this year's speech by President de Klerk opening the South African Parliament on 1 February.

The speech contains some positive elements as well as some elements that show little or no progress.

On the positive side, the Government welcomes the intention of the South African Government to put before Parliament legislation aimed at the abolition of the Group Areas Act, the Land Acts of 1913 and 1936, the Development of Black Communities Act of 1984 and the Population Registration Act.

In certain areas, however, the speech has not shown much progress from the previous policies of the South African Government. For instance, the speech has given prominence to such concepts as community rights - but is silent on the question of violence and the release of political prisoners.

Overall, however, the Government of Botswana is encouraged by the continuing commitment on the part of Mr. de Klerk to keep South Africa on the path of reform and the complete abolition of apartheid.

We look forward to the release of the "Manifesto for the new South Africa", which we learn will define common values for all South Africans. Botswana urges the South Africa Government to accelerate the pace of reform.
