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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 23 July 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Zambia
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am enclosing a statement issued by the Government of the Republic of Zambia on the situation in South Africa following the statement made by the President of the United States of America.

I would be grateful if the statement could be issued as a document of the General Assembly under item 33 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Dr. Paul J. F. LUSAKA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/41/150.

ANNEX

Statement issued by the Government of Zambia on the situation
in South Africa following the statement made by the President
of the United States of America

Zambia had been anxiously awaiting the much advertised policy statement on South Africa which was made yesterday by the President of the United States, Mr. Ronald Reagan. We had hoped that commensurate with the gravity of the situation in South Africa, the statement would represent a significant shift from the present policy of the United States administration to a more positive and realistic posture which would allow that great country to contribute meaningfully to the realization in South Africa of the ideals of liberty, freedom, justice, human dignity and democracy which we know the American people cherish greatly not only for themselves but also for humanity as a whole.

The statement by the President of the United States disappointed us greatly. We fear that its emphasis on East-West rivalries and its negative characterization of the role of the liberation movements of South Africa can only embolden the Pretoria régime in its intransigence. Equally we regret the refusal of the United States administration to recognize the urgent need for the imposition of economic sanctions against South Africa in order to bring about change in that country. In fact, we cannot escape the conclusion that the statement by the President was calculated to forestall the moves in the United States Congress to impose effective economic sanctions against South Africa.

Zambia calls upon the United States administration to reconsider its policy and bring it in line with the overwhelming international demand for concrete and meaningful action now to bring about an immediate end to the scourge of apartheid in South Africa. The South African régime will not, out of its own volition, dismantle apartheid unless it is compelled to do so. It is no longer enough to merely call for an end to apartheid. Such calls can only be credible and effective if they are followed by concrete measures in the form of economic sanctions, which are, after all, provided for in the Charter of the United Nations as one available means for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

As one of the leading world Powers and because of the ideals of liberty, freedom, justice, human dignity and democracy which it cherishes, the United States can and should play a meaningful and effective role in relation to the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa. The alternative to sanctions against South Africa is a ghastly conflagration in which thousands upon thousands of lives will be needlessly lost and race relations will be strained for a long time to come.
