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Note verbale dated 20 October 1960 from the Chairman of the delegation
of the Union of South Africa addressed to the Secretary-General

The Leader of the Delegation of the Union of South Africa presents his compliments to the Secretary-General and, with reference to the South African statement in the General Debate at the 905th plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 14 October 1960, and the replies made by the representatives of Iraq, Norway and Sweden at the 907th meeting on 17 October 1960, has the honour to request that the attached statement be circulated to all Members of the United Nations for their information.

Statement by the Leader of the South
African Delegation

In view of the ruling by the President of the Assembly on Monday last, setting out the procedure to be followed by delegates who avail themselves of "the right of reply", I was unable to deal with the "replies" to the statement which I made in the course of the General Debate. In the circumstances, I am obliged to do so in this manner.

Mr. Jawad, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq, in his "reply" contended that my statement regarding conditions in his country was distorted and false, and that it related to conditions prevailing before the revolution, which he rightly described as conditions of "decay and neglect". Naturally in my statement I also referred to conditions which have prevailed in Iraq during the past ten years. It is interesting to note that Mr. Jawad, the present Minister of Foreign Affairs, was Iraq's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in 1956, when conditions of "decay and neglect", to which he referred, prevailed in his country, and when his delegation joined with other delegations in attacking South Africa! But I also gave information, from equally reliable sources, regarding conditions in Iraq as late as December of last year - about eighteen months after the revolution of July 1958.

One is glad to know that improvements have been effected by the new régime, but even so, I am satisfied that the Bantu in South Africa are better cared for in respect of housing, social and medical services, and education, than the peasants and labouring classes in Iraq.

In making charges against South Africa, the delegate of Iraq has not come to this, or to previous Assemblies, with clean hands.

The representatives of Sweden and Norway, respectively, in their "reply" did not attempt to refute the evidence which I presented to the Assembly, in the shape of editorials and articles from their leading newspapers, including those supporting the Government, condemning racial discrimination practised against their Lapp (Same) minorities. Both their delegations were prepared to go no further than to state that they would deal with my statements when the South African items are considered in the Special Committee. They are, however,

aware of the fact that, in accordance with South Africa's stand on Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter, Union delegations have for many years refused to participate in the proceedings of that Committee when South Africa's domestic affairs are discussed.

18 October 1960
