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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 19 December 1986 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to send you a copy of a statement issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London on 19 December 1986 (see annex) about a démarche made earlier that day to the South African Deputy Foreign Minister by the British Ambassador in Pretoria representing the Presidency of the European Community. The démarche reflects the grave concern felt by the Twelve member States of the European Community at the growing evidence of serious abuses of human rights in South Africa.

I should be grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) J. A. THOMSON

ANNEX

Statement issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office
of 19 December 1986

The British Ambassador in Pretoria, Sir Patrick Moberly KCMG, in his capacity as the Ambassador of the United Kingdom Presidency this morning, 19 December, called on the South African Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. K. Meiring, in the absence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Sir Patrick delivered a démarche on behalf of the Twelve member States of the European Community, expressing the Twelve's grave concern at growing evidence of serious abuses of human rights in South Africa. Sir Patrick made clear that in particular the Twelve deplored:

(a) The apparent continuation of forced removals from black townships; such action was contrary to assurances previously given by the South African Government that such removals had stopped;

(b) The continuing and indefinite detention without charge of large numbers of people and especially of many young people and children;

(c) The imposition of draconian new restrictions on press freedom, which ran counter to the principles of democracy and freedom of information.

He stressed that taken together these various infringements and abuses of human rights brought into question the claim of the Government of South Africa to be committed to Western values.
