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LETTER DATED 17 APRIL 1987 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the request of the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Mr. R. F. Botha, I forward herewith the text of a letter dated 17 April 1987 which
he has addressed to Your Excellency.

It would be appreciated if this letter together with the South African Foreign
Minister's letter could be circulated as documents of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. L. MANLEY

Annex

Letter dated 17 April 1987 by the Minister of Foreign Affairs
of South Africa

I have the honour to refer to the statement on South Africa issued by you on 16 April 1987.

The South African Government rejects the standpoint contained in that statement.

It is the duty of the South African Government to maintain law and order in South Africa. The Security Council of the United Nations knows very well that the African National Congress and its fellow travellers want to gain power in South Africa through violence and death. The African National Congress and its front organizations in the Republic of South Africa do not care in the least for democracy or for fundamental human rights. In fact they abuse democracy in order to destroy freedom. It is their avowed policy to maim and kill people without trial.

It is for you and for other Member States of the United Nations to indicate clearly whether they approve of necklace murders or not. It is unacceptable to the South African Government that the African National Congress should be permitted to get away with murder while no stone is left unturned to criticize the South African Government whenever steps are taken to protect South Africans against violence.

It is a matter of great concern to the South African Government that steps of this nature have had to be taken. The limitations apply however to security-related matters and are aimed at countering confrontation and violence and promoting peace and stability. The South African Government cannot back away from this responsibility. No one in South Africa who differs from the Government in a normal civilized manner and who might adopt a different standpoint, could feel inhibited by the restrictions. I am convinced that the vast majority of South Africans expect it of the South African Government to take steps to advance peace and stability in the country.
