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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 13 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative  
of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach a copy of a press statement issued by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. R. F. Botha, regarding resolutions adopted today by the General Assembly concerning South Africa (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 37.

(Signed) V. R. W. STEWARD  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa,  
issued at Pretoria, on 13 December 1991

The United Nations General Assembly has again adopted a series of resolutions on South Africa, while flash points and immense economic problems elsewhere cry out for attention. However, it was at least encouraging to note that the United Nations was at last recognizing important political developments in South Africa. These included the recent signing of the National Peace Accord, the accession by South Africa to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the convening of the preparatory meeting for the Convention for a Democratic South Africa and the agreement between the Government and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the return of exiles. This represents a considerable advance on the attitude of the United Nations over previous years. Specific recognition of the progress made in overcoming obstacles to negotiations was another important step forward by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly's decision to resume academic, scientific, sport and cultural links confirmed that sanctions were crumbling, despite its continuing short-sightedness on financial and trade sanctions. It was essential for the progress and well-being of South Africa's people that the Assembly should support economic growth rather than inhibit it.

I welcome the fact that a number of delegations of important countries had adopted strong positive positions in the debate.

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