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GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 15 October 1987 from the Chairman of the
Special Committee against Apartheid addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the attention of the General Assembly and the Security Council, the Declaration adopted by the International Student Conference in Solidarity with the Struggle of the Students of Southern Africa, held in London from 31 July to 3 August 1987 (see annex).

The Conference was organized by the Special Committee against Apartheid in co-operation with the British Anti-Apartheid Movement and the National Union of Students (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

I request that this letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Joseph N. GARBA
Chairman of the
Special Committee against Apartheid

ANNEX

Declaration of the International Student Conference in Solidarity
with the Struggle of the Students of Southern Africa

Preamble

The International Student Conference in Solidarity with the Struggle of the Students of Southern Africa was organized by the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid, and held in London from 31 July to 3 August 1987 at Goldsmiths College, University of London. The British Anti-Apartheid Movement and the National Union of Students (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) co-operated with the Special Committee in arranging the facilities of the Conference.

Presided over by His Excellency Air Commodore Bayo Lawal, Minister of Youth, Sports and Social Development of Nigeria, the Conference brought together representatives and leaders from national, regional and international student and youth organizations; various United Nations bodies; as well as national liberation movements; and inter- and non-governmental organizations committed to the struggle against apartheid.

Student organizations from five continents united in declaring:

(a) Total rejection of the system of apartheid, which represents a crime against humanity and is incapable of being "reformed";

(b) Total opposition to South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia and condemnation of the brutal crimes being committed by South Africa's military occupying force against the people of Namibia;

(c) Condemnation of the apartheid régime's war of aggression and destabilization against the front-line States, including the actions of its surrogates UNITA and MNR, and their full support for the Governments and peoples of the front-line States in their struggle to defend their territorial integrity and sovereignty;

(d) Total solidarity with the struggle of the students of South Africa, Namibia and the front-line States in their common struggle to eliminate the evils of apartheid, racism, colonialism and exploitation in southern Africa;

(e) Complete solidarity with the national liberation movement of South Africa, the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) of Namibia that unite all sections of the oppressed people, including students and young people as a whole, and which are together engaged in a common struggle against a common enemy - the apartheid régime - in order to create a non-racial, democratic, united and unfragmented South Africa and to secure genuine independence for Namibia.

The Conference further recognized that:

1. The growing all-round intensification of the struggle by the people of South Africa is driving the apartheid régime into a deeper and deeper political, economic and social crisis, from which it is unable to extricate itself. The actions of the Botha régime:

- (i) In re-imposing the state of emergency;
- (ii) Its attacks against COSATU;
- (iii) Its mass arrests and detentions;
- (iv) Its use of vigilantes;
- (v) The recent assassination and kidnapping of ANC members in neighbouring African States;
- (vi) Its draconian clamp-down on the media;
- (vii) The dramatic increase in death sentences against opponents of apartheid; and many other similar actions;

are all characteristic of a desperate régime that is incapable of ruling except by the most repressive and brutal means.

2. The recent moves by Pretoria to prepare the grounds for a Namibia Unilateral Declaration of Independence are further evidence that South Africa has no intention of implementing the United Nations decolonization plan for the independence of Namibia, as endorsed in United Nations Security Council resolution 435 (1978). However, the deep divisions and conflicts existing within the puppet so-called "Transitional Government of National Unity", appointed and installed by South Africa on 17 June 1985, are reflections of the deep crisis facing Pretoria over Namibia from which it is also seemingly unable to extricate itself and which have been decisively sharpened as SWAPO has intensified its military and all-round mass mobilization against South Africa's illegal occupation. As a consequence of this growing intensification of the struggle by the people of Namibia, South Africa has increased its repression; and through an unprecedented massive military build-up combined with a battery of repressive "security legislation", scores of civilians disappear daily without trace.

3. Students and youth as a whole are in the forefront of the struggle in South Africa and Namibia and have thus been special targets for arrest, detention, torture and killing. Women in particular suffer a triple burden of oppression under apartheid, sharing national oppression and class exploitation with men, but traditionally discriminated against because of their sex. In South Africa itself school students have been subjected to unimaginable brutalities: their organization, the Congress of South African Students, has been banned; their schools are occupied by troops; they have been shot in cold blood when they have protested; and numerous of them, some as young as 11 years old, have been

arbitrarily detained without trial for long periods. Likewise, universities and other institutions of higher and further education have been under military occupation and their students similarly brutalized. Similarly, in Namibia, students and youth have been the targets of South African repression. In Namibia, schools have been destroyed by bombing and by deliberate fire; students and youth suffer persistent harassment and intimidation; and death threats are not uncommon. Young people are conscripted into the racist army. Furthermore, students and youth in Namibia are arbitrarily arrested and detained without trial.

The Conference moreover recognized that:

4. The apartheid system, its illegal occupation of Namibia, its economy and its war machine have all been developed and sustained by South Africa's principal allies, the major Western Powers, together with the hundreds of transnational corporations with investments in South Africa and Namibia. Certain States Members of the United Nations, in particular the United States of America, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, France and Israel, as well as non-member Switzerland, have persistently ignored United Nations resolutions on sanctions first adopted in 1962, and through trade, investment, technology transfer and loans have enabled South Africa to develop its military-industrial complex, which in turn gives the apartheid régime the capacity to pursue its aggressive and repressive policies.

5. Many States Members of the United Nations have refused to enact effective legislation and consequential administrative measures to enforce the United Nations mandatory arms embargo against South Africa and this has enabled South Africa to establish a world-wide network of arms smuggling operations, which together with the failure of many States to implement strictly the arms embargo, especially by sanctioning the export of "dual purpose" equipment, has resulted in South Africa being able to continue to strengthen its military capacity.

6. The United Nations oil embargo against South Africa - a particularly effective sanction against a country not self-sufficient in oil - is being circumvented by various corporations and traders, who have connived with some oil exporting countries and the apartheid régime to by-pass the embargo, and the willingness of important shipping companies to allow oil to be carried on their vessels to South Africa.

7. The various selective measures which have been introduced by some of South Africa's traditional collaborators, while contributing to some extent to the international isolation of apartheid South Africa, cannot have the impact of United Nations comprehensive mandatory sanctions, and moreover in a number of cases specifically exclude Namibia.

8. The United States Administration's policy of "constructive engagement" has been directly responsible for aggravating the situation in southern Africa by providing a framework for strengthening the alliance between the United States of America and South Africa, while its policy of "linkage" continues to delay the independence of Namibia, thus prolonging the suffering of the Namibian people while refusing to recognize the right to self-determination and sovereignty of the

Government of Angola. United States support for apartheid South Africa has been exemplified by the vetoes cast by the United States together with the United Kingdom in the United Nations Security Council on successive resolutions proposing action over Namibia, South Africa and the front-line States, as well as the provision of overt and covert assistance to its surrogate UNITA, including the delivery of arms to South Africa for UNITA's use.

9. The case for international action against the apartheid régime had been underlined by the position adopted by the Botha Administration - to the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons in 1985. This mission provided further evidence that the South African Administration is not prepared to enter into meaningful negotiations with genuine leaders of the Black majority in South Africa. The failure of this mission also further emphasized the legitimacy of all forms of struggle against the apartheid system, including armed struggle.

The Conference acknowledged that:

10. The international student movement has a special responsibility both to mobilize solidarity with the struggle of the students of southern Africa and to take action to halt all forms of collaboration between educational institutions and apartheid South Africa, as well as South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia. In particular, students have a key role in promoting United Nations resolutions for an academic boycott of South Africa; to ensuring that all universities and other educational institutions disinvest from companies operating in South Africa or Namibia; and that all recruitment for South Africa and Namibia is banned. At the same time, the international student movement has a responsibility to contribute to the international campaign against apartheid as a whole, and participants placed on record their appreciation for the contribution being made by the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the socialist countries, the Nordic countries and the national liberation movements of southern Africa, and they particularly welcomed the establishment of the Africa Fund.

11. The United Nations International Student Conference also takes cognizance of the acts of aggression committed against the front-line States, namely, the People's Republic of Angola, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, and the sacrifices made by their youth and students in their support for the liberation struggle in Namibia and South Africa.

12. Finally, the student and youth participants stressed that students and young people throughout the world have a special role to play in promoting human freedom and dignity and seeking the elimination of apartheid, racism, colonialism and exploitation. The world of tomorrow will be the responsibility of the youth and students of today. Its problems and its possibilities will be their future. The very existence of the system of apartheid casts a grave shadow over the whole continent of Africa; it is an affront to humanity and directly to the people of African origin the world over; it succours racism and fascism; it threatens and constantly breaches international peace and security; and it constitutes a crime against humanity.

In the light of the considerations set out in this Declaration, we the student and youth participants at the United Nations International Student Conference therefore resolve to:

- (1) Salute the courageous students and youth of South Africa and Namibia, especially the young combatants of Umkhonto We Sizwe and the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, and send greetings to the newly founded South African Youth Congress and the Namibia National Students Organization, as well as the reconstituted South African National Students' Congress and the National Union of South African Students, and pledge to do everything in our power to mobilize solidarity with them;
- (2) Salute the courageous students and youth of the front-line States in their unflinching support for freedom, justice and peace in southern Africa, and send greetings to the newly formed Zimbabwean Student Union;
- (3) Salute the courageous, heroic women who play an integral role in the liberation struggles of South Africa and Namibia, and resolve to ensure that their contribution forms a major element in all anti-apartheid work;
- (4) Salute the courageous struggle of the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the National Union of Namibian Workers;
- (5) Campaign for the immediate imposition of universal comprehensive and mandatory United Nations sanctions against South Africa, and for the total isolation of apartheid South Africa;
- (6) Campaign to compel South Africa to end its illegal military occupation of Namibia and for the immediate implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 435 of 1978, which calls for free and fair elections in Namibia under United Nations supervision, including the imposition of United Nations universal comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa and a ban on all trade with and investment in Namibia;
- (7) Monitor and participate in the academic, sports and cultural boycott of South Africa;
- (8) Campaign for the release of Nelson Mandela and of all political prisoners and detainees and to stop the execution of the 32 activists on death row in South Africa, and the continuing illegal trials in Namibia;
- (9) Strive for the complete implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by this Conference.