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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-third session
Items 36 and 88 of the preliminary list*
POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF SOUTH AFRICA
ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF
HUMAN RIGHTS OF POLITICAL, MILITARY,
ECONOMIC AND OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE
GIVEN TO THE RACIST AND COLONIALIST
REGIME OF SOUTH AFRICA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-third year

Letter dated 7 March 1988 from the Permanent Representative of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose the text of a statement issued on 6 March 1988 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR concerning the banning by the South African Government of the activity of a number of democratic organizations.

I request you to arrange for the circulation of the statement as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 36 and 88 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council, and to bring it to the attention of the Council for Namibia, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Special Committee against Apartheid.

A. M. BELONOGOV

* A/43/50.

ANNEX

Statement of 6 March 1988 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
the USSR concerning the banning by the South African Government
of the activity of a number of democratic organizations

The racist authorities in South Africa have recently decided to ban political activity by a number of mass democratic organizations, including the United Democratic Front (UDF) and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU). Such is the challenge issued by the apartheid régime to all decent people in South Africa advocating freedom and justice and opposing oppression and deprivation of rights. This constitutes yet another vain attempt on its part to crush the growing resistance to the racist order and suppress the wave of activity by democratic anti-racist organizations whose membership comprises representatives of all races and strata of society.

The authorities in Pretoria should long ago have realized that South Africa's future is linked not with suppression of its people's struggle against the apartheid system, but with the cessation of repression and the transition to a mode of thinking which would make it possible to put an end to the shame of apartheid and unite the efforts of all South Africans in the cause of establishing a united, democratic, non-racial State.

Apartheid is doomed, and neither the new wave of terror and repression, nor the continuing occupation of Namibia, nor the acts of armed aggression against the "front-line" African States will save it. The reliance on force and terror and on suppression of the people's rights and freedoms bears witness not to the régime's strength but to its weakness, and demonstrates its moral bankruptcy and its vicious nature.

The war which the racist authorities have now declared against those organizations which advocate non-violent forms of struggle demonstrates yet again the scorn with which Pretoria treats the South African people's pursuit of freedom and basic human rights. The Pretoria régime also openly disregards the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - the fortieth anniversary of whose adoption will be celebrated in the United Nations this year - the International Covenants on Human Rights and the 1948 Convention concerning freedom of association and protection of the right to organize.

The international community cannot feel itself secure when universal human values and the moral and ethical standards of civilization are being trampled underfoot in South Africa. The United Nations long ago proclaimed the illegality of the régime based on racial discrimination, describing its actions as a gross breach of international law, a threat to peace and security and a crime against humanity.

By its actions the South African Government is tightening still further the knot of conflict in southern Africa. Under the circumstances, the world community must take effective steps to compel South Africa onto the course of a just

political settlement in the region. The embargo on the supply of arms to South Africa imposed by the Security Council must be fully, firmly and scrupulously observed. Faith in the authority of international law cannot be allowed to be lost. It is time to take the next step - to introduce comprehensive mandatory sanctions against the apartheid régime under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

The veto which has more than once been employed in the Security Council against the adoption of decisions on sanctions is tantamount to patronage of the racists. It is a veto also against democratization and humanity, against the exercise of human rights and freedoms in South Africa. One may rightly ask how this veto is to be reconciled with the statements of those who use it about their devotion to human rights and the principles of self-determination and freedom of peoples. The further anti-democratic action of the racist régime cannot be allowed to pass unpunished yet again.

In the Soviet Union, the escalation of the policy of apartheid arouses anger and indignation. Continuation of the repressions will lead to the further escalation of tension and violence in South Africa, to increased instability and a deterioration of the situation throughout a region which, through the fault of the Pretoria régime, is one of the planet's hot spots. All of this cannot fail to cause serious concern.

The USSR is ready to go hand in hand with all those who are attached to the lofty principles of the United Nations and the ideals of freedom and equality of rights. The time has come for action, and decisive action, to eradicate apartheid and put an end to the conflict situation in southern Africa.
