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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-third year

Letter dated 21 March 1988 from the Permanent Representative of
Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the texts of letters of protest by mass organizations of Romania against the sentencing to death of six South African young people, the Sharpeville Six (see annexes I-V).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annexes were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 36 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Petre TANASIE
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Socialist Republic of Romania

* A/43/50.

ANNEX I

Letter of protest addressed by the General Union of Trade Unions
of the Socialist Republic of Romania to the Secretary-General

Along with the entire Romanian people, the trade unions of Romania have learned with deep indignation about the new arbitrary act of the Pretoria authorities, namely the sentencing to death of six young black people, and vigorously protest against this decision, which is a flagrant encroachment upon the most elementary human rights.

The General Union of Trade Unions of Romania, a member of the most representative, democratic and largest forum of the country, the Socialist Front for Unity and Democracy, and on behalf of its millions of members, condemns in most resolute manner the abhorrent sentence passed by the Pretoria régime and firmly addresses an appeal to the United Nations to intervene urgently with all its authority in order to save the lives of the sentenced young people.

We firmly demand the halting of the racist repressions perpetrated by the Pretoria authorities, the abolition of its profoundly inhumane policies and its practices of racial discrimination and apartheid, in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the Security Council, and the establishment in the Republic of South Africa of a democratic society based on social equality and justice.

ANNEX II

Letter of protest addressed by the Union of Communist
Students Associations of the Socialist Republic of
Romania to the Secretary-General

Along with the entire public opinion of Romania, the Union of Communist Students Associations and the young university generation have learned with deep indignation of the death sentences passed on the six young black South Africans from Sharpeville.

Condemning firmly the repressive measures of the Pretoria régime and its brutal rejection of the most elementary human rights, we are demanding the immediate cessation of the odious policy of racial discrimination and apartheid, and of the cruel persecution against the black majority population of South Africa.

Expressing our solidarity with the just struggle of the people, youth and students of South Africa against the policy of apartheid, we appeal to the United Nations to act forthwith in order to call off the death sentences on the six black young people, and to secure their immediate release, as well as that of all political detainees in South Africa, the cessation of massacres, the assurance of full participation of all South African citizens in political and social life, and the fulfilment of the aspirations for freedom and justice of the South African people.

ANNEX III

Letter of protest addressed by the Organization of Women of the
Socialist Republic of Romania to the Secretary-General

Along with our entire people, the women's organizations of the Socialist Republic of Romania, a component of the Socialist Front for Unity and Democracy, have learned with deep indignation about the decision of the racist authorities of Pretoria to sentence to death the six young black people from Sharpeville, militants of the anti-apartheid movement in the Republic of South Africa.

On behalf of the mothers and of all women of Romania, who value life above all, we firmly raise our voice in protest against the abhorrent decision of the South African racist authorities. We express our full solidarity with the just struggle of the majority population, of women and of all South African mothers against the apartheid régime. We strongly support their courageous actions aimed at defending the legitimate right to a respectable and free life.

We address to the United Nations an appeal that it intervene urgently, with all its authority, to prevent the perpetration of a new crime, to save the lives of the six innocent young people and to release them forthwith.

ANNEX IV

Declaration by the Romanian League of Friendship
with the Peoples of Asia and Africa

Along with world public opinion, we have learned with deep indignation about the new repressive action of the Pretoria racist authorities, which have sentenced to death six young black people from the South African city of Sharpeville. The total lack of legal grounds for such a decision attests to the fact that in reality it is a matter of premeditated intimidation and bloody repression of the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa.

Any human being of good faith cannot stand idly by over this act of gross violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms. We resolutely condemn the unjust and illegal sentence passed on those six young people who are fighting for the goals of freedom, equality of rights and progress. We demand unflinchingly that the South African authorities call off this unjust and arbitrary decision, an act that would fully comply with the generally recognized norms of law and the regulations and international treaties presently in force concerning the observance and protection of fundamental human rights and political and civil freedoms.

We join the position of various Governments, political parties and organizations and personalities of world-wide reputation who speak in favour of saving the lives of those sentenced young people. We reaffirm again on this occasion our deep sympathy and full solidarity with the struggle and actions of the overwhelming majority of the population from South Africa, for the abolition of apartheid and the attainment of democratic change in the social and political life of that country.

ANNEX V

Letter of protest addressed by the Union of Communist Youth of
the Socialist Republic of Romania to the Secretary-General

Having learned with deep indignation and revulsion of the South African authorities' decision to condemn six young black people from Sharpeville to death, the youth of Romania categorically demand the repeal of this unjust death sentence, which represents a flagrant violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the primordial right of individuals and peoples freely to determine their destinies.

On behalf of the millions of young people in Romania we appeal to the United Nations to intervene swiftly in accordance with its Charter and the resolutions of the Security Council, to save the lives and secure the release of the young militants, and to procure the freedom of all those campaigners against apartheid who are at present inside the prisons of the Pretoria régime.

The Union of Communist Youth and all young people in Romania reaffirm their active, militant solidarity with the national anti-apartheid movement in South Africa and protest energetically and strenuously against the inhumane, racist and discriminatory actions of the South African authorities.
