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OPENING STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AT THE
FIRST MEETING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON POLICIES OF APARTHEID
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

"I welcome you to the first meeting of the Special Committee on the policies of apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa, established by General Assembly resolution 1761 (XVII).

"The General Assembly has asked this Committee to keep the racial policies of the Government of South Africa under review when the Assembly is not in session, and to report either to the General Assembly or to the Security Council, or to both, as may be appropriate from time to time.

"It may be recalled that the question of racial policies of the Government of South Africa has been before the United Nations, in one form or another, since 1946. The General Assembly has adopted altogether 28 resolutions on the subject. The Security Council also adopted a resolution on 1 April 1960 after the serious incident at Sharpeville.

"In these circumstances, the General Assembly and the Security Council expressed their serious concern that the racial policies of the South African Government were not only not in conformity with its obligations and responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations, but that they were also a source of international friction and a danger to the maintenance of international peace and security.

"The lack of response on the part of the Government of South Africa to the repeated recommendations and decisions of the United Nations organs has given rise to increasing concern among Member States, a concern which I share.

"I wish to add, on this occasion, that the attitudes of the South African Government and its leaders, as disclosed in recent statements concerning the role of the United Nations, is also a matter of serious concern to us.

"Finally, I wish to express the hope that your deliberations will be constructive and fruitful. The Secretariat will provide all the assistance it can to facilitate the discharge of your responsibilities."

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