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GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Thirty-sixth session  
Item 32 of the preliminary list\*  
POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT  
OF SOUTH AFRICA

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-sixth year

Letter dated 11 May 1981 from the Chairman of the Special Committee  
against Apartheid to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the attention of the General Assembly and the Security Council, a statement I have issued today on a proposed conference at Buenos Aires to discuss a "South Atlantic alliance" including the racist régime of South Africa.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 32 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) B. Akporode CLARK  
Chairman of the  
Special Committee against Apartheid

\* A/36/50.

ANNEX

Statement by the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid

My attention has been drawn to press reports that the idea of a "South Atlantic alliance" would be discussed at a conference on military strategy being organized in Buenos Aires on 26 May by the Institute of American Relations and the Council for Inter-American Security in Washington, D.C., in co-operation with two Argentine institutes - the Carlos Pellegrini Foundation and the Ateneo de Occidente.

The organizers of the Conference in Buenos Aires have announced that participants will include representatives from South Africa, the United States of America, Argentina, Brazil and other Latin American countries. One of the participants is General Vernon Walters of the United States of America, a former deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency. After retirement, he became a member of the foreign policy advisory committee of Mr. Ronald Reagan during his presidential campaign in 1980.

This Conference is being organized at a time when the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa will be meeting in Paris under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity. It is timed to coincide with the day when the apartheid régime came to power in South Africa in 1948, on a platform of white domination and hostility to black people, as if to underscore its racist character and its presumed political significance.

I would like to recall that the racist régime of South Africa has attempted since the late 1960's to promote a South Atlantic alliance in order to integrate itself into the system of Western military alliances. The Special Committee drew the attention of the countries concerned to its nefarious plans and received assurances in 1969 that they had no intention to conclude such an alliance.

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The South African régime has now revived this project in the vain hope that it would enjoy the active support and encouragement of some military and political circles in Latin America and the United States of America. The Special Committee has, therefore, been closely watching the development of military links and contacts between South Africa and some Latin American countries.

A military alliance with South Africa would constitute not only a flagrant violation of the mandatory arms embargo instituted by the United Nations Security Council against South Africa, but a hostile act against the oppressed people of South Africa and against all independent African States. It is a challenge to the entire international community which is committed to the eradication of apartheid.

As the Special Committee has repeatedly warned, the governments and peoples committed to the eradication of the inhuman system of apartheid cannot but take action against a military alliance with the racist régime of South Africa. It therefore warmly welcomes the timely appeal launched by the extraordinary session of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-aligned Countries, held in Algiers in April 1981, requesting the international community to take all appropriate measures to prevent a South Atlantic alliance.

On behalf of the Special Committee against Apartheid, I vigorously denounce the move for a Conference to discuss a military alliance with the South African racist régime, and express the hope that no one committed to the principles of freedom, human rights and justice will participate in it.

I invite the friendly governments of Latin America immediately and categorically to dissociate themselves from any involvement in this Conference, denounce its purposes and declare their firm opposition to a military alliance with the racist régime.