



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
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Distr.
GENERAL

S/14486
25 May 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

MAY 26 1981

UN/SA COLLECTION

NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The President of the Security Council wishes to bring to the notice of Member States the following message from the President of the Security Council, delivered by his representative, to the President of the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa in Paris on 25 May 1981:

"The International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa, convening in Paris with eminent participants from every continent, is a clear demonstration of the seriousness with which the world community regards the policy and practice of apartheid in South Africa. Apartheid is a crime against the conscience of mankind, and violates the rights and dignity of man which are affirmed by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Security Council has repeatedly expressed its grave concern and indignation at the policy and oppressive practices of apartheid which are incompatible with the progressive history of democracy.

"Following the World Conference for Action against Apartheid which was held at Lagos in August 1977, the Security Council adopted on 4 November 1977 under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations its resolution 418 (1977) calling for the imposition of a mandatory arms embargo against South Africa. Then, in order to secure full implementation of the arms embargo, the Security Council decided by its resolution 421 of 9 December 1977 to establish a committee whose tasks would include studying ways and means by which the mandatory arms embargo could be made more effective against South Africa and making recommendations to the Council.

"On 13 June 1980, in response to the worsening of the situation in South Africa, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 473 (1980). This resolution strongly condemns the Government of South Africa for further aggravating the situation, for its massive repression against all opponents of apartheid, and for killings of peaceful demonstrators and political detainees. It called upon the Security Council Committee, referred to above, to redouble its efforts to secure the full implementation of the arms embargo against South Africa.

"The Committee has subsequently produced a substantive report, analysing in detail the problems encountered in the implementation of the arms embargo to insure its universal application. The Security Council will continue its efforts to strengthen the arms embargo.

"The Security Council recognizes the legitimacy of the struggle of the South African people for the elimination of apartheid and for the establishment of a democratic society in which all the people of South Africa as a whole, irrespective of race, color or creed, will enjoy equal and full political and other rights and participate freely in the determination of their destiny. The Council maintains the hope that the inevitable changes in South Africa's racial policies can be attained through peaceful means, and has declared that the violence and repression by the South African régime and its continuing denial of equal human and political rights to the great majority of the South African people greatly aggravate the situation in South Africa. Such practices will certainly lead to violent conflict and racial conflagration, with serious international repercussions and the further isolation and estrangement of South Africa.

"In the light of these considerations, the Security Council has called upon the South African régime to take measures immediately to eliminate the policy of apartheid and grant to all South African citizens equal rights.

"The establishment in South Africa of a régime of justice and equality for all citizens is a matter of great urgency. The world community can never cease its efforts until the system of apartheid and its attendant evils have been eradicated once and for all. The members of the Security Council and the other members of the United Nations will continue to demonstrate their legitimate concern and encourage the changes required for the elimination of apartheid so that a democratic society founded upon human dignity and human rights can be attained in South Africa.

"In closing, although this message does not prejudice the individual position of members of the Security Council, the Council is unanimous in its condemnation of apartheid and its belief in the need for urgent progress to eliminate it.

"In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I wish to extend to the President of the Conference, and through him to the participants of the Conference, my sincere wishes for success in hastening the elimination of the scourge of apartheid."
