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LETTER DATED 21 MARCH 1977 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF LIBERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a message addressed to you by
Dr. William R. Tolbert, Jr., President of the Republic of Liberia, on "The
question of South Africa".

I would appreciate it very much if this message could be circulated as
a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Angie BROOKS-RANDOLPH
Permanent Representative

Annex

Message by the President of the Republic of Liberia,
Dr. William R. Tolbert, Jr., to the President of the
United Nations Security Council on the occasion of
the debate on "The question of South Africa" on
21 March 1977

On behalf of the Government and people of Liberia and in my own name, I extend greetings to Your Excellency in your capacity as President of the United Nations Security Council and members of the Council as you are about to debate "The question of South Africa", which falls on the anniversary of the International Day, 21 March, dedicated to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination.

As this day and the start of the debate in your august body coincide with the seventeenth anniversary of the savage massacre at Sharpeville of 69 unarmed African men, women and children by the South African police, a grim reminder of the unrelenting and desperate struggle of an oppressed and suppressed people against apartheid, the Liberian Government and people appeal to the conscience of the Security Council and all the Member States of the United Nations Organization to demonstrate to the world through positive action that apartheid is indeed a crime against humanity, an anachronistic and humanly debased system that contravenes the basic principles of the United Nations Charter as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and which is increasingly leading to a racial conflagration in southern Africa. By positive action we mean the application against South Africa of Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter and in particular Article 41 of the Charter. To those Member States of the United Nations who continue to supply arms to South Africa directly or indirectly we call upon them to undertake a serious reassessment of their policy and bring to an end their disturbing trade in weapons that result in massacres like Sharpeville and Soweto.

While the Government of Liberia has been consistent in advocating a peaceful and internationally accepted solution to the question of South Africa, recent statements by the South African Government raise grave doubts about the sincerity and willingness of that Government to abandon its heinous apartheid laws and policy. The Council must be aware that there is every reason to believe that time is rapidly running out for peaceful solutions to the problems of southern Africa and when all the doors to a peaceful settlement will have been closed, the Security Council will not be blameless for its failure to take timely positive action. We appeal specifically to the friends of South Africa in the Security Council to cause the South African Government to see the folly of its apartheid policy before it is too late.

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The Government and people of Liberia will never relent in their total support for the eradication of apartheid and the full restoration of the fundamental and inalienable rights of Africans in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. While it is our fervent hope that your august body will give serious and favourable consideration to this and other similar appeals in the interest of the millions of people in South Africa held in bondage by the diabolical apartheid system, we wish to assure the Council of Liberia's continuing support for the United Nations Organization, its Charter and its positive and meaningful efforts towards finding speedy satisfactory solutions to the problems of southern Africa and other areas which threaten international peace and security in our one world.
