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OF SOUTH AFRICA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-sixth year

Letter dated 10 September 1981 from the Acting Chairman of the
Special Committee against Apartheid to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, in accordance with the decision of the Special Committee against Apartheid to transmit herewith the final documents of the International Seminar on Publicity and Role of Mass Media in the International Mobilization against Apartheid, held at Berlin, German Democratic Republic, from 31 August to 2 September 1981.

The documents include the Berlin Declaration, adopted on 2 September 1981 (annex I), the Declaration on Aggression by the South African Racist Régime against the People's Republic of Angola, adopted on 31 August 1981 (annex II) and the Appeal to the Mass Media, adopted on 1 September 1981 (annex III).

The Special Committee requests that this letter and its enclosures be issued as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 32 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladimir A. KRAVETS
Acting Chairman of the
Special Committee against Apartheid

* A/36/150.

ANNEX I

BERLIN DECLARATION
(adopted on 2 September 1981)

The International Seminar on Publicity and Role of Mass Media in International Mobilization against Apartheid, meeting in Berlin, German Democratic Republic, from 31 August to 2 September 1981, wishes to emphasize:

- (a) the vital interest of humanity as a whole in ensuring the speedy triumph of the struggle for national liberation in South Africa and Namibia;
- (b) the grave dangers posed by the policies and actions of the fascist apartheid regime in South Africa, and the persistent obstruction by certain Western Powers of international action against apartheid;
- (c) the imperative need for greater efforts to inform the world public of the situation in South Africa, and southern Africa as a whole, and for promoting public action to totally isolate the apartheid regime and support the national liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia; and
- (d) the crucial role and responsibility of the mass media - as well as of Governments, anti-apartheid and solidarity movements and other organizations.

With the march of independence in Africa, and especially the victory of national liberation movements in the former Portuguese colonies and Zimbabwe after heroic armed struggles, the liberation struggle in South Africa and Namibia has assumed historic world significance.

Freedom in South Africa and Namibia is the last major task to secure the total emancipation of Africa after centuries of humiliation, oppression and exploitation; to ensure the end of the tragic era of colonialism in the world; and to reach a turning point in the efforts to abolish the crime of racism and racial discrimination.

The oppressed people of South Africa and Namibia are, therefore, fighting not only for the freedom of their peoples and nations but for all humanity.

The Seminar also recognizes and salutes the heroism of the national liberation movements in South Africa and Namibia which have the full support of the African, non-aligned, socialist and other States.

They have struggled for decades in the face of inhuman repression and great odds, and have consistently upheld principles cherished by humanity.

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Apartheid is a crime against humanity which has entailed immense suffering to the people and has no parallel in modern history except for Nazism. Apartheid is imposed by a minority racist regime through the use of massive repression and torture.

The apartheid regime, by exploiting the enormous human and natural resources of South Africa and Namibia and by the assistance rendered to it by certain Western Powers, has built up a powerful repressive and military apparatus. In order to perpetuate its rule, it has not only crossed all bounds in repression of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia and has embarked on incessant acts of terrorism, subversion and aggression against independent African States.

The expansion of its military power, and its acquisition of nuclear weapon capability, pose an enormous danger to peace in the entire region and, indeed, in the world.

While the international community has recognized for many years the need to eliminate apartheid, effective international action under the United Nations Charter has been blocked by the persistent obstruction by a few Western Powers and the greed of numerous transnational corporations to profit from the crime of apartheid. A continuation of the situation poses a grave peril to humanity. The United States of America and other Western Powers bear a great responsibility in this respect.

The continuing protection of and collusion with the apartheid regime by these powers require intensification and greater co-ordination of efforts by the great majority of Governments which are genuinely committed to freedom in southern Africa, the many anti-apartheid and solidarity movements inspired by the heroic struggle for liberation in South Africa and Namibia and, indeed, all organizations and institutions which value peace and freedom.

All those committed to the liberation of South Africa must make every effort to mobilize public opinion in all countries, especially in Western and other countries which provide vital support to enable the apartheid regime to survive, and promote widest public action, in concert with the efforts of committed governments and in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations and other international organizations.

In this context, the mass media have a crucial role and responsibility.

The media must publicize the legitimacy of the struggle against apartheid waged by the national liberation movements.

The media must make the world aware of the inhumanity of apartheid, the struggle of the people of South Africa and Namibia under the leadership of their national liberation movements, and the need for effective international action.

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The media must expose the nefarious propaganda of the apartheid regime and its allies including the efforts to defame the national liberation movements.

The media must investigate, publicize and expose the substance of the apartheid regime by certain Western Powers and transnational corporations through:

- supply of arms, technology and other vital resources in contravention of United Nations resolutions;
- integration of racist South Africa into imperialist military alliances;
- development of further links with the apartheid regime as an ally in the context of aggravating international tension and conflict.

The media must expose the links developed by the apartheid regime with racist and fascist regimes and groups all over the world.

Neither the media nor anyone else can be neutral on apartheid which is the greatest moral challenge of our time and a grave threat to peace and international security and co-operation.

Any action which provides comfort to the apartheid regime constitutes collusion with the crime of apartheid. Any action which seeks to undermine the struggle of the oppressed people against apartheid is a disservice to humanity and human values.

Governments, anti-apartheid and solidarity movements, trade unions, religious bodies, organizations of youth, students, women and others as well as academic, cultural and other institutions have also an important role in disseminating public information and promoting public action. Many of them have made a valuable contribution in this respect. It is essential that their activities should be further expanded and co-ordinated.

The Seminar commends the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid and the Centre against Apartheid for their efforts to promote the dissemination of information against apartheid and public action against apartheid.

The Seminar recalls the results of the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa, held in Paris from 20 to 27 May 1981, which reflected the overwhelming consensus in the international community for action against the apartheid regime and its collaborators, and adopted historic declarations on effective international action.

It welcomes the proposal to proclaim 1982 as the International Year of Mobilization for Sanctions against South Africa in order to promote the most effective mobilization by all governments, organizations and individuals in support of the declaration of the Paris Conference.

The Seminar proposes the following recommendations for the immediate attention of the mass media, United Nations, Governments and organizations:

I. General

1. The United Nations, Member Governments, organizations and institutions should assist the national liberation movements in their information activities. Such assistance, at the request of the national liberation movements, might include:

- (a) Provision of broadcasting facilities;
- (b) Printing and distribution of publications;
- (c) Technical and professional training;
- (d) Provision of equipment and supplies; and
- (e) Assistance to liberation movements to gather information.

2. The Seminar notes the public campaigns launched in many countries by anti-apartheid and solidarity movements and other public organizations, in co-operation with the Special Committee against Apartheid. Such campaigns should be further developed and co-ordinated, and adequate resources provided for the purpose. The Seminar makes special reference to campaigns on:

- (a) Sanctions against South Africa;
- (b) Arms and nuclear embargo against South Africa;
- (c) Oil embargo against South Africa;
- (d) Preventing loans to South Africa;
- (e) Sports and cultural boycott of South Africa;
- (f) Solidarity with the oppressed peoples of South Africa and Namibia;
- (g) Assistance to the national liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia;
- (h) Campaign for the release of all political prisoners;
- (i) Campaign for according prisoner-of-war status to the freedom fighters.

3. Large sections of the major Western and other collaborating countries assist the South African regime through advertising to recruit mercenaries as well as white skilled workers, to raise financial loans, to promote tourism, etc. Campaigns should be launched against this form of collaboration.

4. The governments and non-governmental organizations, including the mass media, should facilitate the dissemination of information material produced by the liberation movements in southern Africa.

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5. Liberation movements require assistance in improving and developing the skills of their personnel who are responsible for dissemination of information. They should be offered all assistance in this regard by governmental and non-governmental organizations.

II. United Nations

6. The Seminar commends Governments and organizations which have assisted the United Nations in the dissemination of information against apartheid through contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Publicity against Apartheid, co-operation with the United Nations Centre against Apartheid, provision of facilities for United Nations broadcasts to southern Africa and in other ways. It urges all governments and organizations to increase their assistance, especially in connexion with the International Year of Mobilization for Sanctions against South Africa.

The Seminar recommends that the present modest provision in the United Nations budget for translation of publications into various languages should be greatly increased.

7. The Special Committee against Apartheid, in consultation with Governments and organizations, should promote wider observance of International Days relating to South Africa and Namibia, and seek greater co-operation of the media. For instance:

- (a) International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March)
- (b) Africa Liberation Day (25 May)
- (c) Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa (16 June)
- (d) Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa and Namibia (9 August)
- (e) Namibia Day (26 August)
- (f) Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners (11 October)

8. The efforts of the United Nations Centre against Apartheid should be greatly expanded and adequate resources be provided by the United Nations in order to enable the Centre to discharge its responsibilities.

Governments, organizations and institutions should extend to the Centre all necessary co-operation.

9. The Special Committee should urgently arrange for the preparation and publication of expert studies on:

- (a) Propaganda by the apartheid regime and its supporters;
- (b) Lobbies which promote South African propaganda in other countries;

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(c) Misleading reporting by Western and other media of developments in southern Africa;

(d) The role of transnational corporations in promoting South African propaganda.

10. The Special Committee against Apartheid should monitor the one-way flow of information by the major Western news agencies and other media in presenting distorted reports about events in South Africa and Namibia. This should be publicized. It should also monitor the way in which these agencies and organs report specific events such as acts of aggression and terrorism against Frontline States.

11. In view of the lack of factual and accurate information about the evil apartheid system in many countries, an elementary handbook on the subject should be produced by the United Nations Centre against Apartheid to educate and encourage the people in these countries to promote anti-apartheid action.

12. The United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid should encourage national and international journalist organizations to establish awards for journalists with outstanding record of exposing the apartheid system, particularly investigative and other forms of specialized reporting.

13. The UNESCO, in the process of formulating the aims and principles of a new international information order, should take into account the special problem of apartheid. In this context the IPDC of UNESCO should promote the information media of the liberation movements.

14. The United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid should help organize national or regional workshop seminars for leading journalists to consider the general question of the role of the media in counteracting the apartheid system.

15. The United Nations Centre against Apartheid should develop close liaison with media institutions particularly in Western countries;

(a) to make them aware of the severe restriction imposed by the apartheid system which makes it impossible to gather and disseminate objective information; and

(b) to make available details of covert and overt operations of the South African regime and its agents to influence world public opinion in favour of apartheid.

16. The Special Committee against Apartheid should start a special bulletin to give publicity to news from the Member States about activities against apartheid.

17. During the International Mobilization Year 1982, a day should be designated by the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid as Anti-Apartheid Media Day.

18. The United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid has published a register of sportsmen and sportswomen collaborating with apartheid sport. In order to make this exposure more effective, the Special Committee should organize special briefings for sports journalists and others at which background information is provided about the operation of apartheid in South African sport.

19. The United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid and the United Nations Centre against Apartheid should produce films, posters and other audio-visual materials in different languages which the national solidarity organizations can use on a wide scale for mass public education against apartheid. With a view to exposing the countries' collaboration with the apartheid regime, relevant material should be translated into the languages of these countries.

20. The Special Committee against Apartheid, in co-operation with the national liberation movements, should arrange the publication of the history of the struggle of the people of South Africa and Namibia against apartheid.

III. Governments

21. All Governments should take active steps to inform the public in their countries, through all media, about the struggle for national liberation in South Africa and Namibia and about the efforts of the United Nations for the elimination of apartheid.

They should prevent and counteract the propaganda by the apartheid regime in their countries.

Committed Governments, should, moreover, instruct all their external information services and offices to take all appropriate action to help in the dissemination of information against apartheid in co-operation with the United Nations, the OAU and the anti-apartheid and solidarity movements.

22. Governments should undertake appropriate measures in monitoring propaganda on behalf of the apartheid system by prohibiting the distribution of racist publications produced by South Africa and by imposing a general ban on racist propaganda.

IV. Media

23. The Seminar calls for actions of support, especially by media and media workers, for the journalists subjected to repression by the apartheid regime.

24. The Seminar calls upon trade unions with membership in the media to consider discussing with management the editorial policy on the reporting and presentation of news and information on the situation in southern Africa as a whole, and South Africa and Namibia in particular.

25. The non-aligned news agency pool should set up an anti-apartheid desk to collect and disseminate news about the liberation struggle in South Africa and Namibia.

26. A news agency in one of the Frontline States should be entrusted with the task of collecting news and background materials about the evils of apartheid and the people's struggle for national liberation. The agency should be helped to transmit the news to other national news agencies. To this end the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid, United Nations Council for Namibia, United Nations Committee on Information, the Department of Public Information, UNESCO, and the International Telecommunications Union should extend all possible technical and material assistance.

27. It was noted that the Pan African News Agency (PANA) has been formed under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity, and the Special Committee against Apartheid was urged to co-operate with PANA in exposing the evils of apartheid.

28. Since the media in the third world countries are largely dominated by Western news and broadcasting agencies, it is essential that professional journalist organizations and trade unions in these countries set up special anti-apartheid committees to ensure that false and distorted information about South Africa and Namibia is not automatically disseminated. In this way, adequate vigilance can be exercised in order to implement the appeal adopted by the Seminar.

V. Organizations

29. The anti-apartheid and solidarity organizations, particularly in the collaborating countries, do invaluable work in publicizing the evils of apartheid and disseminating information about the liberation struggle in South Africa and Namibia. They should be given material and other assistance by Governments as well as public organizations so that they may have adequate resources to conduct their national and international mobilization of public opinion.

30. Trade unions, religious groups, political parties and other non-governmental organizations should be encouraged to carry special articles and information about the African liberation struggle in their journals and other publications; provide an opportunity to representatives of the liberation movements and anti-apartheid organizations to speak at their meetings and actively participate in national and international anti-apartheid campaigns, particularly during the International Year of Mobilization for Sanctions against Apartheid.

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VI. Others

31. The Seminar calls for the establishment in all countries, where they do not exist, of anti-apartheid and solidarity movements or other national committees for the struggle against apartheid.

32. It asks Governments and organizations to consider the establishment of national committees for the International Year of Mobilization for Sanctions against South Africa.

33. The Seminar calls on universities, cultural institutions, writers, artists and others to contribute to the maximum to the international campaign against apartheid.

ANNEX II

Declaration on Aggression by the South African Racist Regime
against the People's Republic of Angola (adopted on 31 August 1981)

The Seminar strongly condemns the premeditated series of armed attacks and the large-scale invasion by the racist regime of South Africa against the People's Republic of Angola. This massive invasion follows a long series of acts of aggression, terrorism and subversion against Angola and other Frontline States.

It is a clear breach of the peace and has been acknowledged as such by the unprecedented and almost universal condemnation and demands for immediate withdrawal. Unless firm international action is taken to end this aggression the consequences will be extremely grave for international peace and security.

This invasion was launched from the International Territory of Namibia for which the United Nations has special responsibility. It has resulted in the maiming and killing of numerous Angolan and Namibian men, women and children.

Acts of aggression by the apartheid regime against Frontline States for their support of the legitimate struggle of the national liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia constitute not only a violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of these independent African States but also an aggression against Africa and the world. They are a blatant challenge to the authority of the United Nations.

It is the imperative and solemn duty of all Governments, organizations and people, committed to peace, freedom and international cooperation to defend Angola and protect its sovereign and territorial integrity.

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The apartheid regime has continued with its acts of aggression against Angola and other Frontline States because the major Western powers have persistently protected the racist regime and prevented the United Nations and its Security Council from securing South Africa's compliance with the United Nations Plan for the Independence of Namibia.

The apartheid regime's determination to escalate its undeclared war is a direct result of the encouragement and support provided by the policies of the Reagan Administration in the United States of America. These hostile policies towards Africa must be reversed.

The Security Council must

- (a) declare the racist regime of South Africa as the aggressor;
- (b) demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of South African forces from Angola;
- (c) declare that South Africa is liable for full reparations;
- (d) adopt comprehensive and mandatory sanctions without further delay;
- (e) call on all States, individually and collectively, to assist Angola, at its request, for the defence of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia must be terminated. The United Nations must discharge its solemn responsibility to the people of Namibia by taking all necessary measures for the immediate implementation of the United Nations Plan for the Independence of Namibia.

The apartheid regime constitutes one of the greatest threats to world peace. Until it is overthrown and replaced by a democratic society there can be no peace and stability in the region.

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The international community must step up action to ensure the total isolation of the racist regime of South Africa, and to assist the national liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia as well as the Frontline States which are discharging an international responsibility in Southern Africa.

The Seminar appeals to all Governments, organizations and mass media urgently to mobilize world public opinion towards this end.

ANNEX III

Appeal to the Mass Media

(adopted on 1 September 1981)

The participants in the Seminar on Publicity and Role of Mass Media in International Mobilization against Apartheid, organized by the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid in Berlin, the capital of the German Democratic Republic, appeal

to journalists of all media,
to all film-makers,
to all national, regional and international
associations, organizations and institutions
of journalists, writers, mass
communicators, and
to all organizations within the United Nations system

to do their utmost to mobilize world public opinion against apartheid and expose and condemn on a global scale the racist regime in South Africa and its external allies and accomplices.

The United Nations has declared apartheid as the most brutal form of racism; a violation of international law; a crime against humanity; and a danger to world peace.

In the face of intensified repression by the South African regime against the majority of people of South Africa and Namibia and the renewed aggression against the People's Republic of Angola, it is the duty of all journalists to report objectively the events in southern Africa.

We call upon you:

- To be vigilant and guard against the continuing clandestine propaganda paid for by the South African regime on behalf of apartheid;
- To express concern at the suppression of press freedom in, and manipulation of news by, South Africa;
- To expose in words and pictures those who are collaborating with the apartheid regime;
- To point out the violations of the United Nations decisions against racism and apartheid;
- To publicize the activities of the national liberation movements in southern Africa and to extend all-round solidarity to journalists, publicists and writers of these movements;
- To expose the crimes of the apartheid regime and the operations of the transnational corporations in assisting apartheid;
- To inform world public opinion of the decisions and activities of the United Nations system and other international organizations against racism and apartheid.

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With this Appeal we are emphatically reaffirming the Declaration of Fundamental Principles Concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International Understanding, to the Promotion of Human Rights and to Countering Racism, Apartheid and Incitement to War, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its twentieth session.

We make this Appeal on the anniversary of the unleashing of the Second World War by the Nazi racists in order to prevent the racists of South Africa from threatening world peace and security.
