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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF SOUTH AFRICA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-sixth year

Letter dated 13 October 1981 from the Chairman of the Special
Committee against Apartheid to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a Declaration adopted by the Special Committee against Apartheid at its 485th meeting, held on 12 October 1981, in observance of the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners.

The Special Committee requests that this Declaration be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 32, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alhaji Yusuf MAITAMA-SULE
Chairman of the
Special Committee against Apartheid

ANNEX

Declaration adopted by the Special Committee against Apartheid to
commemorate the Day of Solidarity with South African prisoners a/

1. The United Nations and the international community have a special responsibility towards political prisoners in South Africa, and towards all those restricted, banished or exiled for their struggle against the crime of apartheid.
2. These men, women and children -- workers, peasants, students, teachers, churchmen and other religious leaders, writers, jurists etc. - are persecuted for their participation in the just and legitimate struggle against the crime of apartheid and for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
3. They have made a notable contribution to the purposes of the United Nations and the ideals cherished by all humanity.
4. They are the genuine leaders of the overwhelming majority of the people of South Africa and the trustees of the destiny of that great nation.
5. The apartheid régime has defied numerous and unanimous demands of the international community for two decades for an unconditional release of Nelson Mandela, Zephania Mothopeng and all others imprisoned, restricted, banished or exiled for opposition to apartheid. It refuses even to accord prisoner-of-war status under international law to captured freedom fighters. Six freedom fighters of the African National Congress are now awaiting execution and the lives of many others are threatened.
6. Apartheid, the unique system of racist domination, is a crime against humanity. It is imposed by ever more brutal repression against the people.
7. Solidarity with South African political prisoners is a solemn duty of the international community and of all men and women of conscience committed to freedom, human dignity and peace. Their cause is the cause of all humanity.
8. The Special Committee appeals to all Governments, organizations and individuals:
 - (a) To denounce the brutal repression in South Africa;

a/ Adopted, without objection, by the Special Committee against Apartheid at its 485th meeting, on 12 October 1981, on the proposal of the Chairman.

(b) To demand the immediate and unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and all others imprisoned, restricted, banished or exiled for their opposition to apartheid;

(c) To publicize and mobilize support for the noble ideals for which they have dedicated their lives;

(d) To honour, in all appropriate ways, the martyrs and leaders in the struggle for liberation in South Africa;

(e) To support the struggle for liberation by implementing all resolutions of the United Nations for the isolation of the criminal apartheid régime and for all necessary assistance to the national liberation movements.

9. The Special Committee solemnly pledges its continued and redoubled efforts in solidarity with the South African political prisoners until the apartheid régime is destroyed and replaced by a democratic State of all the people of South Africa. It invites all Governments, organizations and individuals to co-operate with it in the discharge of this imperative international duty.