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VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE
AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS

Cable dated 19 February 1982 from the Chairman of the Special
Committee against Apartheid addressed to the Chairman of the
Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-eighth session

On behalf Special Committee against Apartheid have honour draw your attention to recent grave developments in South Africa and urge appropriate action by Commission on Human Rights. Recent death in detention of Neil Aggett physician and trade union leader is further evidence of increasing torture by racist police against opponents of Apartheid and leaders of oppressed people. Regime is resorting greater brutality faced with growing mobilization of workers, students and others against Apartheid and significant advance of armed struggle. Neil Aggett is but latest of many eminent trade union leaders killed in detention. Participation of thousands of blacks in work stoppages and in funeral of white trade unionist demonstrates once again attachment of oppressed people to true non-racialism. Special Committee shares concern of millions of South African people for safety of scores of trade unionists, students and churchmen now in detention as Pretoria regime prepares through torture for mass trial. It is concerned about safety of Oscar Mpetha, ailing trade union leader over seventy years old, who has long been kept in prison and is being tried on charges which may involve sentence of death. World Community must recognize Pretoria regime is terrorist regime and take urgent action to save its victims. Special Committee supports call by international trade union movement for international commission of enquiry into circumstances leading to death of Neil Aggett. Special Committee recalls six freedom fighters sentenced to death are still awaiting results of appeal and many others are threatened with death sentences. Pretoria regime not even disclosed information on refugees abducted during its criminal raid on Maputo, Mozambique, in January 1981. It is proposing further measures to restrict press. International community must act in accordance with Paris declaration on sanctions against South Africa adopted last May and by wider observance of 1982 as International Year of Mobilization against South Africa.

Special Committee commends work of Commission on Human Rights, Ad Hoc Working Group on southern Africa and other subsidiary bodies and assures them of continued co-operation. It invites their full participation in activities for International Year organized by Special Committee.

(Signed) Alhaji Yusuff Maitama-Sule
Chairman
Special Committee against Apartheid