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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-third year

Letter dated 5 May 1988 from the Permanent Representative of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of a message by the Minister
for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, E. A. Shevardnadze, to the Special Committee
against Apartheid on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary.

I should be grateful if you would have that text circulated as an official
document of the General Assembly, under item 36 of the provisional list, and of the
Security Council.

(Signed) A. BELONOGOV

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ANNEX

Message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR
to the Special Committee against Apartheid

The United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid is marking 25 years of activity to mobilize the efforts of the international community in the struggle to eradicate the system of apartheid from South Africa.

The stubborn refusal of the leaders in Pretoria to end their policy of racial discrimination and subjugation, repression and terror against those who campaign against that inhuman system, or to end their illegal occupation of Namibia and their acts of aggression against the front-line States, has turned the situation in southern Africa into a destabilizing factor of international significance.

The system of apartheid would long since have sunk into oblivion were it not for the protection extended to the racist régime by the most reactionary circles in the West. They are not at all abashed that the policy and actions of South Africa have been condemned by the United Nations as a gross violation of the United Nations Charter and the universally recognized principles and norms of international law, as a threat to peace and security and as a crime against humanity.

The situation in southern Africa remains explosive, and the immediate implementation of the decisions on the subject by the United Nations and Security Council, and also the imposition against the South African régime of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, are essential if it is to be defused.

What is needed now is a resolute, more cohesive stance by the international community in the campaign against apartheid, to give some impetus to the quest for a political settlement in southern Africa which balances the interests of all the countries embroiled in the regional conflict. We see the kinds of decision that would promote stronger independence, freedom and security for the countries of the region as providing the basis for a settlement.

The role played by the United Nations in bringing about agreement in negotiations on a settlement relating to Afghanistan is a fine example, and a stimulus to renewed effort to reach political solutions to the international conflicts in various parts of the world.

The situation in southern Africa makes it imperative for all Members of the United Nations that hold the goals and ideals of the Organization dear to work more vigorously, in defence of the just cause of the South African people who have called for the abolition of the hateful system of apartheid; in support of the Namibian patriots fighting for the independence of their native land; and against the policy of aggression and subversive action being pursued by the South African racists against the front-line States. The Soviet Union will continue to strive for a just and lasting settlement in southern Africa, in the interests of the peaceful existence and flowering of the peoples of that part of the globe.

I am certain that the Special Committee against Apartheid will continue to make its own worthy contribution to the campaign by the world community to eradicate that anachronism of our time, the apartheid régime in South Africa.
