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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 3 June 1988 from the Permanent Representative
of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea concerning the alleged existence of relations of co-operation between Equatorial Guinea and the racist minority Government of South Africa (see annex).

In that connection, I should like to request you kindly to arrange for the text of the statement to be circulated to all States Members of the United Nations as an official document of the General Assembly under item 36 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Dr. Dámaso Obiang NDONG
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/43/50.

ANNEX

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Equatorial Guinea on the alleged existence of relations of co-operation between Equatorial Guinea and the racist Government of South Africa

With reference to the statements made to the Nigerian mass media by the honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Major General Ike Nwachukwu, on the conclusion of his official visit to Malabo on 4 and 5 June 1988, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation issues the following

Statement:

There have been references of late in the mass media and certain official sources in the Federal Republic of Nigeria to an alleged South African presence in Equatorial Guinea and the supposed existence of relations of co-operation between our country and the South African régime.

It has been said that agreements have been signed between Equatorial Guinea and the Republic of South Africa involving an imagined economic contribution of several million United States dollars to finance the construction of a satellite link between Pretoria and Europe, the expansion of the Malabo airport and the construction of a South African military base which would be made available for use by South African aircraft.

Following the circulation of this information, which is utterly baseless and nonsensical, the Government of Equatorial Guinea, faithful to and mindful of its policy of unity, peace and justice at home and its principles of friendship, co-operation and good-neighbourliness with all countries which share these same principles, has not hesitated, as will be recalled, to establish high-level contacts with Nigeria, in which it has categorically rejected the charge that it has relations with the racist régime of South Africa and denied having concluded any co-operation agreements with that régime.

As has been demonstrated in the past, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea can never betray its freedom and independence or compromise its sovereignty by allowing itself to be used as a spring-board for destabilization that may threaten the security, sovereignty and independence of any other State, since to do so would be at variance with its policy and principles, and moreover, as far as the Federal Republic of Nigeria is concerned, would violate the commitment embodied in the Treaty of Friendship and Good-neighbourliness signed at Malabo on 15 October 1982, which has so far been ratified only by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea on 8 January 1983, no ratification having been received from the other party.

The stand of the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea on South Africa's apartheid policies has been repeatedly and unambiguously set forth in

every international forum, including the United Nations system, the Organization of African Unity and the Movement of Non-aligned Countries, and it has been expressed consistently and constantly in each and every one of the official statements made by the President of the Republic to mark various national observances. The Government of Equatorial Guinea has condemned, condemns and will continue to condemn the policies of apartheid and has supported, supports and will continue to support the liberation movements in southern Africa and recognition of the rights of black South Africans to majority rule in their own country.

The Government of Equatorial Guinea considers the struggle against apartheid, from the African point of view, to be one and the same as the struggle to secure for the black majority the same rights as are enjoyed by the whites in South Africa; the assistance of all African Governments in combating the apartheid system is, therefore, an urgent necessity. Accordingly, we do not consider that the struggle for the elimination of apartheid should entail the establishment of another system that is similar in nature; hence Equatorial Guinea supports the initiatives that have led to the historic meeting at Dakar between black and white South Africans in opposition to apartheid.

Equatorial Guinea pursues an economic policy based on the free market and is resolved to work closely with others to combat any system which precludes the free development of popular democracy, and it does not allow itself to be influenced in this endeavour by extraneous considerations of dogma.

The various reports circulated in a provocative manner by the Nigerian mass media and other official sources concerning the insecurity which would allegedly result for the Nigerian State from the imagined relations between Equatorial Guinea and South Africa are nothing more than an excuse for pursuing aims which are both denied and avowed.

In the face of such manoeuvres, which ultimately involve misrepresentations and distortions of the reality of the situation for the sole purpose of distracting and confusing world public opinion, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation takes this new opportunity to recall the established principles and criteria which guide and, it is hoped, will continue to guide co-operation between the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and reiterates the invitation extended by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Mr. Marcelino Nguema Onguene, to diplomatic and consular representatives and representatives of international agencies and the world press to come to Equatorial Guinea to see for themselves the facts of the situation.

Malabo, 11 May 1988
