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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 30 June 1988 from the Permanent Representative
of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by the Federal Military Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (see annex) in reply to the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Equatorial Guinea, on the presence of South Africans in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, as published in document A/43/395 of 7 June 1988.

I should be grateful if you could be kind enough to arrange for the distribution of the present letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly under item 36 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Major-General J. N. GARBA, CFR
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/43/50.

ANNEX

Statement issued by the Federal Military Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the presence of South Africans in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea

The attention of the Federal Military Government of Nigeria has been drawn to a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Equatorial Guinea (A/43/395 of 7 June 1988). It is regrettable that several facts have been distorted. The Minister of External Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria did not visit Malabo in June as contained in the statement, but was in Malabo from 3 to 4 May 1988. In the course of various meetings during the visit, the point was repeatedly made that the only concern of the Government and people of Nigeria is the presence of South Africans in Equatorial Guinea; that Nigeria has no expansionist ambition and that Nigeria would respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all its neighbours, including Equatorial Guinea.

Given the confirmation of the South African presence in Equatorial Guinea, the Nigerian Government naturally had the right to be legitimately concerned about the threat to its security, especially in the light of the widely known acts of armed attacks and destabilisation of the racist régime of South Africa against the front-line States, which are continuing their struggle for the elimination of apartheid. Furthermore, given Nigeria's anti-apartheid stance, the presence of South Africans so close to Nigeria should naturally be viewed with serious concern in spite of the professed pursuit of the policy of good-neighbourliness by Equatorial Guinea.

The Federal Military Government wishes to point out further that freedom of the Nigerian Press to air its views, which in many cases are at variance with government policies, is well recognized and protected. It was only after independent confirmation of the reported presence of South Africans in Equatorial Guinea that the Nigerian Government approached and expressed its serious concern to the Government of Equatorial Guinea on the development. The Federal Military Government, however, notes with happiness that the issue was discussed during the visit of the Nigerian Minister of External Affairs in a friendly atmosphere by the two countries which arrived at a satisfactory solution based on the assurance that the South Africans will be expelled from Equatorial Guinea. The Federal Government of Nigeria is firmly resolved in ensuring the full implementation of this satisfactory solution.

Finally, the Federal Military Government of Nigeria wishes to assure the Government and people of Equatorial Guinea of its desire to maintain and consolidate the existing ties of brotherhood and co-operation between our two countries on the basis of sovereign equality and independence. The Federal Military Government also wishes to express the hope that the Government and people of Equatorial Guinea will not allow apartheid South Africa to use their country as a base to perpetrate acts of aggression and destabilization against the Government and people of Nigeria. It further hopes that the Republic of Equatorial Guinea will continue their contribution to African effort to prevent the expansion of South African destabilization activities and to eliminate apartheid from the continent.