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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Item 36 of the provisional agenda*
POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-third year

Note verbale dated 20 July 1988 from the Permanent Representative
of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to enclose the text of a statement made on 18 July 1988 by Marlin Fitzwater, Assistant to the President for Press Relations, on the occasion of the seventieth birthday of Nelson Mandela (see annex), and to request that it be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 36 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

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ANNEX

Statement made on 18 July 1988 by the Assistant to the
President for Press Relations

Today is the seventieth birthday of Nelson Mandela. For the last 26 years, Mr. Mandela, a pre-eminent figure in the struggle against apartheid, has been imprisoned in South Africa. He is widely recognized as the embodiment of black aspirations in South Africa, and while he and other political leaders remain in prison, South African Government plans for political reform are not likely to gain any significant support from the black community.

On the occasion of his seventieth birthday, we renew our appeal to the Government of South Africa to release Nelson Mandela and the other political prisoners. Their release would contribute greatly to creating an environment that could foster serious broad-based negotiations for the abolition of apartheid and the establishment of a non-racial democracy in South Africa.
