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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 14 January 1983 from the Permanent Representative of  
Jamaica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith for your information a statement issued on 13 January 1983 by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Jamaica, the Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer, on the tour of South Africa by a group of West Indian cricketers.

I should be grateful if you would have this text distributed as an official document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa".

(Signed) E. R. RICHARDSON  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Jamaica  
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Statement issued on 13 January 1983 by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Jamaica on the tour of South Africa by a group of Jamaican and other West Indian cricketers

It has now been confirmed that a group of Jamaican and other West Indian cricketers has gone to South Africa to play cricket.

The Government of Jamaica condemns the action of these players in the strongest terms as being unpatriotic and a betrayal of the black people of South Africa on whose behalf a long campaign has been fought against the obnoxious policy of Apartheid.

The tour by these cricketers clearly violates the principles and intentions of the International Declaration Against Apartheid in Sports, the Gleneagles Agreement (1977) and the Code of Conduct adopted at the Commonwealth Games in October, 1982 all of which were specifically intended to discourage sporting contracts with South Africa as part of the larger campaign against South Africa's policies on Apartheid.

It is well known that the South African regime is increasingly using sport in order to attempt to create a favourable image for its Apartheid policy, and is trying to break out of its isolation by offering high financial rewards to entice sports personalities to engage in sporting activities in South Africa.

The Jamaican cricketers involved are all fully aware of the situation and it should be noted that before their departure all of them continued to deny any intention of playing cricket in South Africa. By engaging in these sporting contacts with South Africa they have shown a shameless disregard for the country's national policy of opposition to the South African regime and have demonstrated their support for South Africa's obnoxious policy of Apartheid.

The Government's policy against Apartheid is one on which national consensus has emerged and consolidated over the last quarter of a century, and to which successive governments have given the highest level of international support, in the struggle to achieve the total eradication of this abominable and inhumane system in all its forms and in all areas.

The Minister of Youth and Community

Development on January 6th reiterated the Jamaican Government's full support for the stand taken by the West Indies Cricket Board of Control that anyone who plays cricket in South Africa under that country's present racial restrictions is debarred from ever again wearing the West Indies cricket colours.

In discussions with the President of the Jamaica Cricket Association, I have received specific assurances that the Jamaican cricketers involved will be debarred by the Jamaica Cricket Board of Control for life from playing representative cricket at international, national and individual club level.

The Government has decided that the other West Indian cricketers who have joined in this tour of South Africa will be debarred permanently from playing cricket in Jamaica at either the international, national or club level.

I take this opportunity to remind other sporting bodies that the Gleneagles Agreement of 1977 and the Code of Conduct for National Games Federations adopted during the Commonwealth Games held in Brisbane, Australia, in October, 1982 apply to all sport, and not just to cricket. This code of conduct requires Commonwealth

sporting bodies, at the national level, to so conduct their affairs to ensure that no approval, recognition, support or facility is given to sports contact between sportsmen and sports administrators from their countries and those of any country which practises Apartheid.

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