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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF SOUTH AFRICA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-eighth year

Note verbale dated 30 June 1983 from the Permanent Mission of the
Bahamas to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the recent letter addressed to him by Senator the Honourable Paul L. Adderley, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Attorney-General of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, a copy of which is annexed, regarding the execution by the South African Government of three members of the African National Congress despite widespread appeals by the international community and by the Security Council for executive clemency.

The Permanent Mission hereby requests that the above-mentioned letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 32 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

* A/38/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Bahamas
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to your telex message containing the text of resolution 533 (1983), which was unanimously adopted by the Security Council, appealing to the South African Government for executive clemency for the three condemned members of the African National Congress.

The execution by the South African Government of these three men will be received with deep anger and sadness throughout the world. This is yet another calculated act by South Africa aimed against its own citizens who have had to turn to active resistance in response to the inhumanities directed against them by a repressive Government.

The failure of the South African Government to respond favourably to the appeals by Governments and the United Nations Security Council for the commutation of the sentences of the three African National Congress members cannot be too strongly condemned.

It will be recalled that the so-called crime of high treason was born as a result of the brutalities and injustices of the Soweto student rising in 1976. Sanctions of this nature, therefore, will not deflect the course of the freedom struggle in South Africa nor weaken the resolve of the many who support it. By this latest act of retribution and defiance, Pretoria has again demonstrated its disdain for the sensitivities of the international community. The Bahamas may be geographically far away, but as a nation which cherishes freedom and justice, will continue to support the struggle against apartheid.

(Signed) Paul L. ADDERLEY
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Commonwealth of the Bahamas
