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OF SOUTH AFRICA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-eighth year

Letter dated 21 September 1983 from the Chairman of the Special
Committee against Apartheid to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the attention of the General Assembly and the Security Council, the Declaration adopted by the Latin American Regional Conference for Action against Apartheid, held at Caracas from 16 to 18 September 1983.

The Conference was organized by the Special Committee against Apartheid in co-operation with the Government of Venezuela.

I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 32, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alhaji Yusuff MAITAMA-SULE
Chairman of the
Special Committee against Apartheid

ANNEX

Caracas Declaration for Action against Apartheid

(Adopted by the Latin American Regional Conference for Action against Apartheid, Caracas, Venezuela, 16-18 September 1983)

The Latin American Regional Conference for Action against Apartheid, organized by the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid in co-operation with the Government of Venezuela - and attended by representatives of Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as eminent public leaders and experts - adopts the following Declaration:

1. The Conference declares that apartheid is an inhuman system of racist domination and exploitation, a negation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, indeed, a crime against humanity.
2. Since power was handed over to the white minority in South Africa seventy years ago, successive regimes have entrenched the privileges of the minority, dispossessed the African people of their land, and deprived them of their fundamental rights including the right to self-determination. Racist domination in South Africa, institutionalized as apartheid in 1948, has caused immense human suffering and constitutes a growing threat to international peace and security.
3. The Conference affirms that apartheid is a problem of universal concern and that the international community has a vital interest in combating the doctrine of apartheid and ensuring its speedy elimination.
4. It recalls that the United Nations has considered the problem of apartheid in South Africa for over three decades, condemned that inhuman policy and called for a peaceful and just solution. The repeated appeals and demands by the United Nations and other international organizations, as well as world public opinion and individual Governments, have been spurned by the racist regime in South Africa.
5. By persisting in its efforts to entrench and perpetuate apartheid, through reliance on force and terror, it has aggravated the situation in the whole of southern Africa.
6. Making a mockery of the rule of law, it has caused enormous suffering to the oppressed people of South Africa; resorted to brutal repression and killings of opponents of apartheid including women and children; and escalated acts of aggression, destabilization and subversion against independent African States.
7. The continued defiance of world opinion by the apartheid regime, its atrocities against the great majority of the South African people, its threats to, and violations of, the security, territorial integrity and independence of neighbouring States on the continent, as well as its repeated acts of aggression, constitute a serious challenge to the authority of the United Nations.
8. The Conference declares that the international community has a duty to redouble efforts and exert all necessary pressure for the elimination of apartheid, thereby enabling the people of South Africa to establish a society based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. All nations, irrespective of their other interests, must unite in full support of this universal objective.

9. The Conference reaffirms that apartheid is totally repugnant to the ideals of the Latin American and Caribbean peoples and reiterates the determination of the governments and peoples of the region to contribute effectively to international action to eliminate apartheid.
10. The Conference expresses its utmost concern over the grave situation in the whole of southern Africa resulting from the policies and the actions of the Pretoria regime and over the danger of a wider conflict if effective international action is not taken without delay.
11. It expresses its full solidarity with the oppressed people of South Africa and Namibia and with the independent African States in southern Africa.
12. It recognizes that there can be no stability nor peace in southern Africa without the elimination of apartheid.
13. The Conference rejects so-called reforms by the apartheid regime. The proposed constitutional amendment in South Africa and the creation of so-called "independent" States in scattered and unviable tribal reserves for Africans are designed to dispossess the African majority even of its citizenship rights and entrench racist domination.
14. The Conference declares that apartheid structurally deforms the economic basis and the social and political organization of the society and, hence, cannot be reformed, but must be totally eradicated.
15. The Conference affirms the legitimacy of the struggle of the South African people for the elimination of apartheid and the establishment of a non-racial society guaranteeing the enjoyment of equal rights by all the people of South Africa, irrespective of race, colour or creed. It recognizes the right of the oppressed people of South Africa to choose their means of struggle. It holds the racist regime totally responsible for the violence resulting from its brutal repression of the movement for freedom and justice in South Africa.
16. The Conference calls on the South African regime to end repression, release political prisoners, revoke the Unlawful Organizations Act and seek a peaceful and just solution by negotiations with the genuine leaders of the oppressed people in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council. It urges all States to exert their maximum influence towards that end.
17. The Conference declares that, in view of the intransigence and defiance of the racist regime, the international community must exert effective pressure on it through sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations; provide all appropriate humanitarian, educational, political and other assistance to the victims of apartheid and to their national liberation movement in its legitimate struggle; and encourage world opinion to exert its influence in full support of those efforts.
18. The Conference pledges full support to the United Nations efforts for the elimination of apartheid.

19. The Conference expresses its appreciation to the Special Committee against Apartheid for the dedication with which it is promoting international action for the elimination of apartheid.

20. It denounces the actions of states and transnational corporations which assist the apartheid regime, and calls on them to desist from such collaboration with racism.

21. It emphasizes the special responsibility of the permanent members of the Security Council and the main trading partners of South Africa, and urges them to take effective action in the implementation of all relevant resolutions.

22. It attaches utmost importance to the full implementation of the mandatory arms embargo against South Africa, instituted by the United Nations Security Council, and to the cessation of any co-operation with the racist regime of South Africa in the nuclear field.

23. It recognizes the importance of cultural, sports and consumer boycotts of South Africa as an expression of the universal rejection of apartheid.

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24. The Conference considered means to enhance the contribution of governments and peoples of the region in the international campaign against apartheid.

25. It recognized the need for ensuring the widest public awareness of the inhumanity of apartheid, of the struggle of the South African people for freedom, and of the efforts of the United Nations for the elimination of apartheid.

26. The Conference attaches great importance to the participation of Latin American public in the international campaign against apartheid. It encourages the establishment of national anti-apartheid movements or other appropriate bodies for this purpose. It supports a total sports and cultural boycott of South Africa so long as apartheid is practised in that country.

27. It invites the intellectuals of Latin America - as well as religious bodies, trade unions and other non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and mass media - to participate more actively in the international campaign against apartheid.

28. The Conference requests the United Nations, UNESCO, ILO and other organizations to provide the Governments, organizations, institutions and media in Latin America with relevant information material in the languages of the region.

29. The Conference calls on all Latin American Governments and peoples to mount a powerful campaign for the release of Nelson Mandela and all other South African political prisoners.

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30. It endorses the proposal of the Special Committee against Apartheid to observe 1984 as the "Year of South African Women".

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31. The Conference emphasizes that Namibia is the direct responsibility of the United Nations which is exercised through the United Nations Council for Namibia, the legal Administering Authority for the Territory until its independence, and expresses its strong support for the efforts of the United Nations Council for Namibia in the fulfilment of the mandate entrusted to it.

32. The Conference declares that South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia constitutes an act of aggression against the Namibian people and recognizes the legitimacy of the struggle of the Namibian people, by all means at their disposal, to secure their liberation.

33. The Conference expresses its firm solidarity with the people of Namibia in their courageous liberation struggle under the leadership of SWAPO, their sole and authentic representative. It calls for increased assistance to SWAPO in its legitimate struggle.

34. It affirms that Walvis Bay and the Penguin and other offshore islands of Namibia are an integral part of Namibia and declares all measures by South Africa to annex them to be illegal, null and void.

35. It strongly supports the United Nations Council for Namibia's Decree No.1 of 27 September 1974 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia.

36. It declares that South Africa and foreign economic interests that are rapidly depleting the natural resources of Namibia, and of its territorial waters, exclusive economic zone and the sea-bed, as a result of their systematic plunder, will be held liable to pay reparation to the freely-elected government of Namibia.

37. The Conference strongly condemns racist South Africa for its continued obstruction of Namibia's independence and persistent refusal to comply with Security Council decisions and General Assembly resolutions on Namibia. It declares that the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia, endorsed by Security Council resolution 435 (1978), remains the only basis for a negotiated settlement of Namibia.

38. The Conference declares that the inalienable right of the people of Namibia to independence is not subject to any conditions or barter. It rejects the attempts by the South African regime and the United States of America, to link Namibia's independence to the presence of Cuban forces in Angola, which presence is solely within the competence of the two sovereign States of Angola and Cuba.

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39. It supports the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations towards the immediate implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia in pursuance of Security Council resolution 532 (1983).

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40. On this two hundredth anniversary of the birth of the great Liberator, Simon Bolivar, the Conference drew inspiration from his life and work, especially his abhorrence of racism and his leadership of people of all racial origins in a united struggle for freedom.

41. It sends its warm greetings to the oppressed people of South Africa and Namibia and to their national liberation movements - and to all those imprisoned, restricted or exiled for their struggle for freedom and justice.

42. It proclaims the solidarity of the Governments and peoples of Latin America with the governments and peoples of Africa in their struggle for the total emancipation of their continent and for peace, freedom and justice.
