



Security Council

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PROVIS IONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND
EIGHT HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 23 November 1988, at 6.15 p.m.

President: Mr. Scialoja

(Italy)

Members: Algeria
Argentina
Brazil
China
France
Germany, Federal Republic of
Japan
Nepal
Senegal
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland
United States of America
Yugoslavia
Zambia

Mr. OUYAHIA
Mr. DELPECH
Mr. NOGUEIRA-BATISTA
Mr. YU Mengjia
Mr. BLANC
Count YORK von WARTENBURG
Mr. KAGAMI
Mr. RANA
Mrs. DIALLO
Mr. SMIRNOV

Sir Crispin TICKELL
Mr. IMMERMANN
Mr. PEJIC
Mr. ZUZE

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The meeting was called to order at 6.25 p.m.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT: As this is the first public meeting of the Security Council for the month of November, I should like to take this opportunity to pay a warm tribute on behalf of the Council, and on my own behalf, to my predecessor, His Excellency Alexander Count York von Wartenburg, Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations, for his dedicated service as President of the Council for the month of October. I am sure I speak for all members of the Security Council in expressing deep appreciation to His Excellency Count York for the great diplomatic skill and unfailing courtesy with which he conducted the Council's business last month.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

THE QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICA

LETTER DATED 23 NOVEMBER 1988 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/20289)

The PRESIDENT: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council is meeting in response to the request contained in a letter dated 23 November 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/20289).

Members of the Council have before them document S/20290, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Algeria, Argentina, Nepal, Senegal, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

It is my understanding that the Security Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall take it that that is the case.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

(The President)

Before putting the draft resolution to the vote, I shall call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

Sir Crispin TICKELL (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): Mr. President, as you said at the very beginning, this is the first public session of the Security Council this month, and I should not like the occasion to pass without conveying our warm thanks to your predecessor for his management of Security Council business last month, and wishing you all success for the month of November. We are delighted to have you personally as our President, but ask you to convey our sympathy and best wishes to your Permanent Representative.

My Government has often joined in appeals for clemency by the Council where the cases concerned have clearly been political and there are extenuating circumstances or grounds for doubting the fairness of the judicial process. Earlier this year, for example, we voted in favour of Security Council resolutions 610 (1988) and 615 (1988), in the case of the Sharpeville Six. In 1985, we agreed to a presidential statement in the case of Mr. Benjamin Moloise, and did so again in the case of the Sharpeville Six in December last year. But we have looked most carefully at the circumstances in the case of Mr. Setlaba and are unable to support the draft resolution before the Council. We shall therefore abstain.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for the kind words addressed to me and for the wishes for the prompt recovery of Ambassador Migliuolo.

Mr. IMMERMAN (United States of America): My delegation too would like, first, to express appreciation to the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany for the manner in which it conducted the business of the Security Council last month.

We should like also, Mr. President, to convey our congratulations to your delegation on assuming the presidency and to express the hope that its permanent representative will have a speedy recovery.

On numerous occasions the United States Government has made abundantly clear its opposition to continuing violence in South Africa. Violence does nothing to further the resolution of the serious problems facing the people of South Africa.

The United States also remains unalterably opposed to the system of apartheid. In this connection we have clearly conveyed our view that there must not be violations of the human rights of any South African citizens. When there have been such violations we have been quick to condemn them. In the particular case before us, however, we cannot ignore the fact that the individual concerned has admitted that he was a party to the act for which he was convicted - the murder of another South African.

The continued use of violence by those who seek as well as by those who resist change in South Africa can only exacerbate an already serious and inflamed situation. My Government cannot condone violence by any party. Therefore my Government too must abstain in this vote.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the United States for the kind words he addressed to me personally and for his kind comment concerning the Permanent Representative of Italy, Ambassador Migliuolo.

I shall now put to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/20290.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Japan, Nepal, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia, Zambia

Against: None

Abstaining: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows: 13 votes in favour, none against and 2 abstentions. The draft resolution has been adopted as resolution 623 (1988).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.