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SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-second year

International Anti-Apartheid Year

Special report of the Special Committee against Apartheid

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Proposed programme for the International Anti-Apartheid Year

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

1 November 1977

Sir,

I have the honour to send you herewith, for the attention of the General Assembly and the Security Council, the special report of the Special Committee against Apartheid on the International Anti-Apartheid Year, adopted unanimously by the Special Committee on 28 October 1977.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Leslie O. HARRIMAN
Chairman of the
Special Committee against Apartheid

His Excellency
Mr. Kurt Waldheim
Secretary-General of the
United Nations
New York

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Special Committee against Apartheid has given special attention during this year to the proposal to designate 1978 as the International Anti-Apartheid Year, considering it an effective means to promote world-wide solidarity with the oppressed people of South Africa in their legitimate struggle for the eradication of apartheid and the building of a new society based on the principle of self-determination for all the people of the country, irrespective of race, colour or creed. The Committee has promoted wide support for the proposal and held extensive consultations on a programme for the Year.

2. It may be recalled that the Economic and Social Council decided, in resolution 2082 B (LXII) of 13 May 1977, to recommend that the General Assembly should declare 1978 International Anti-Apartheid Year.

3. The Special Committee immediately welcomed the recommendation. In a statement issued on the same day, the Chairman of the Special Committee said:

"The recommendation of the Economic and Social Council to designate 1978 as the 'International Anti-Apartheid Year' is most opportune. The time has come to secure world-wide recognition that apartheid is a crime akin to slavery which must be stamped out by effective international action.

"It is essential that international solidarity with the oppressed people of South Africa must be raised to a higher level. Maximum publicity should be given to the grave situation in South Africa, the heroic and determined struggle of the oppressed people of that country and the noble and righteous objectives of their liberation movement so that peoples all over the world will be encouraged to demonstrate their support for the eradication of apartheid and the establishment of a non-racial society.

"The effective observance of the Year will require co-ordinated action by the United Nations, specialized agencies and the Organization of African Unity, as well as all Governments, political parties, trade unions, churches and non-governmental organizations. It will require the effective participation of information media and educational institutions.

"The Special Committee will not fail to give urgent attention to a programme for the observance of the Year.

"I hope that all Governments and organizations will consider the recommendation urgently and make appropriate plans so that the Year will demonstrate the universal abhorrence of apartheid and generate much greater support for the struggle of the South African people for freedom and human equality."

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II. CONSULTATIONS BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

4. On 2 June 1977, pursuant to a decision of the Special Committee, the Chairman addressed letters to Member States and to a number of non-governmental organizations active in the intergovernmental organizations, inviting suggestions on the programme for the International Anti-Apartheid Year.

5. The Chairman also sent a letter to the Secretary-General, requesting him to consider appropriate steps towards the formulation of plans of action by the Secretariat departments concerned and to encourage specialized agencies and other bodies to give the matter their urgent consideration.

6. The Chairman held consultations on the matter during missions of the Special Committee with specialized agencies, with the NGO Sub-Committee on Decolonization, Racial Discrimination and Apartheid and with a large number of non-governmental organizations.

III. ENDORSEMENT OF THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR

7. The proposal for the International Anti-Apartheid Year was endorsed by the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-ninth ordinary session, held at Libreville from 23 June to 3 July 1977. Resolution CM/Res. 591 (XXIX) adopted by the OAU Council of Ministers read as follows:

"The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its twenty-ninth ordinary session in Libreville, Gabon, from 23 June to 3 July 1977,

"Recognizing the imperative need for effective international action for the total eradication of apartheid and in support of the just struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa, led by their liberation movements, for freedom,

"Considering that maximum efforts must be made to mobilize world public opinion for this purpose,

"Taking note of the recommendation of the United Nations Economic and Social Council recommending that 1978 be declared as the International Anti-Apartheid Year,

"1. Endorses the proposal to declare 1978 as the International Anti-Apartheid Year;

"2. Appeals to all Governments and organizations to make maximum efforts during the proposed International Year to inform public opinion of the inhumanity of apartheid and encourage moral, political and material assistance for the struggle for freedom in South Africa;

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"3. Requests the Administrative Secretary-General and the African Group at the United Nations to co-operate closely with the Special Committee against Apartheid with a view to promoting effective and world-wide observance of the proposed International Year." 1/

8. The proposal for the International Anti-Apartheid Year was also endorsed by the Second International Trade Union Conference for Action against Apartheid, held at Geneva, on 10 and 11 June 1977; 2/ by the World Conference on Apartheid, Racial Discrimination and Colonialism in Southern Africa, held at Lisbon from 16 to 19 June 1977; 3/ and by a large number of individual non-governmental organizations.

9. The World Conference for Action against Apartheid, held at Lagos, from 22 to 26 August 1977, stated in its Declaration for Action against Apartheid:

"32. It endorses the proposal to proclaim 1978 as the International Anti-Apartheid Year and appeals to all Governments and organizations to observe it in the spirit of this Declaration." 4/

10. The report of the Commission of the Conference stated:

"The Commission strongly supports the proposed International Anti-Apartheid Year in 1978 and calls on all Governments to fully contribute to the United Nations programme for the Year and to facilitate in all practical ways activities in observance of the International Year by non-governmental organizations, anti-apartheid movements, trade unions and all other organizations and individuals concerned." 5/

IV. PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR

11. The Special Committee considered the programme for the International Anti-Apartheid Year in the light of its extensive consultations, as well as suggestions it received from Governments, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and units of the United Nations Secretariat. It took into account proposals received from the Ad Hoc Working Group on Southern Africa of the Commission on Human Rights and the NGO Sub-Committee on Decolonization, Racial Discrimination and Apartheid.

1/ See A/32/310, annex I.

2/ See A/32/22/Add.1.

3/ See A/AC.115/L.467.

4/ Report of the World Conference for Action against Apartheid, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.XIV.2), p. 36.

5/ Ibid., vol. II, sect. VII.

12. In the light of the above, the Special Committee submits for the consideration of the General Assembly the proposed programme for the International Anti-Apartheid Year annexed to this report.

V. CONCLUSION

13. The Special Committee is confident that the effective observance of the International Anti-Apartheid Year can enable the United Nations to develop the international campaign against apartheid to a new level as demanded by the present crucial stage of the struggle for the liberation of South Africa. The Year should be an occasion to inform people all over the world of the situation in South Africa, and the struggle of the national liberation movement, and mobilize their active support for the cause of freedom and dignity.

14. The effectiveness of the International Anti-Apartheid Year will depend on the full co-operation of Member States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as information media and educational institutions. The Special Committee trusts that such co-operation will be forthcoming.

15. The Special Committee undertakes, for its part, to do its utmost to promote the effective observance of the International Anti-Apartheid Year in solidarity with the national liberation movement of South Africa and in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

16. The Special Committee notes that the implementation of the programme for the International Anti-Apartheid Year, and the expansion of international action against apartheid resulting therefrom, will increase the responsibilities of the Special Committee and the workload of the Centre against Apartheid. Necessary resources will need to be provided for this purpose.

17. The Special Committee wishes to express its great appreciation to the Secretary-General and the executive heads of specialized agencies, as well as Member States and non-governmental organizations, for their co-operation in the formulation of the programme for the International Anti-Apartheid Year. It acknowledges with appreciation the assistance it received from the Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination, the Director of the Centre against Apartheid, the NGO Sub-Committee on Decolonization, Racial Discrimination and Apartheid, the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Southern Africa of the Commission on Human Rights and the South African liberation movements recognized by OAU.

18. The Committee also appeals to Governments to contribute generously to the United Nations Trust Fund for Publicity against Apartheid in order to facilitate the production of adequate information material for the International Anti-Apartheid Year and its widest dissemination.

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ANNEX

Proposed programme for the International Anti-Apartheid Year

I. PURPOSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR

1. The main objective of the International Anti-Apartheid Year should be to make world opinion fully aware of:

(a) The inhumanity of apartheid and its wider dangers to international peace;

(b) The struggle of the oppressed people, under the leadership of their liberation movements, to attain freedom and human equality;

(c) The noble objectives of the liberation movements of the South African people and their contribution to the purposes of the United Nations;

(d) The cause of all those imprisoned, banned, banished and otherwise persecuted for their opposition to apartheid;

(e) The imperative need for the cessation of any collaboration with the South African régime in the military, political, economic or other fields which encourages it to persist in the policies of apartheid;

(f) The need for international assistance to enable the South African people to eradicate apartheid and establish a new society, based on the exercise of the right to self-determination by all the people of the country as a whole, irrespective of race, colour or creed.

2. The observance of the International Anti-Apartheid Year should promote:

(a) Further isolation of the South African régime;

(b) An intensification of the international campaign against apartheid;

(c) Greatly increased assistance to the oppressed people of South Africa and their liberation movements by Governments and organizations, as well as the public in general;

(d) Maximum publicity to the inhumanity of apartheid and the international efforts for its elimination.

3. During the International Anti-Apartheid Year, efforts should be made to promote the establishment of anti-apartheid and solidarity movements or committees, with broad public support, in all regions where they do not exist and to encourage practical arrangements for closest liaison among such organizations and between them and the United Nations.

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II. PROGRAMME FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR

A. General

4. The President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the Chairmen of all United Nations bodies concerned (Special Committee against Apartheid, Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, United Nations Council for Namibia, Commission on Human Rights), as well as the executive heads of the specialized agencies, should be invited to issue messages in connexion with the International Anti-Apartheid Year. These messages should be widely disseminated all over the world.
5. The United Nations bodies concerned should be invited to consider, as early as possible, their contribution to the observance of the International Anti-Apartheid Year.
6. All Heads of State and Government should be invited to issue special messages in connexion with the International Anti-Apartheid Year.
7. All Governments and organizations should be invited to ensure the most effective observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March), the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa (16 June) and the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners (11 October).
8. All those Governments which have not done so should be urged to cease completely all kinds of collaboration with the apartheid régime in military, political, economic, cultural and any other fields, and to implement the corresponding decisions and resolutions of the United Nations.
9. All those Governments which have not done so should be urged to become parties to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid during the International Anti-Apartheid Year.
10. The General Assembly should devote a special meeting on 11 October or 10 December 1978 to the International Anti-Apartheid Year.

B. Action by the Secretary-General

11. The Secretary-General should be requested to publicize as widely as possible, through the Centre against Apartheid and the Office of Public Information of the Secretariat, and through all media:
 - (a) Actions taken by the United Nations and specialized agencies for the eradication of apartheid;

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- (b) Information on political prisoners in South Africa;
- (c) Documents on the struggle for liberation in South Africa.

12. He should be requested to take all appropriate steps to promote the full implementation of resolutions of the United Nations on apartheid and the Lagos Declaration for Action against Apartheid.

13. He should further be requested to make appropriate arrangements, in consultation with the agencies concerned, for the co-ordination of plans for the observance of the International Anti-Apartheid Year by the United Nations system of organizations.

C. Action by Governments

14. All Governments should be requested:

(a) To proclaim the International Anti-Apartheid Year and encourage cities and non-governmental organizations to proclaim the Year;

(b) To encourage parliaments to hold special sessions devoted to the International Anti-Apartheid Year, for instance on 21 March 1977, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;

(c) To establish national committees for the International Anti-Apartheid Year to ensure maximum publicity for its objectives or designate the anti-apartheid movements or similar organizations, where they exist, as the national committees for the Year;

(d) To encourage information media to give maximum publicity to the International Anti-Apartheid Year and its purposes and, in this connexion, to the just struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa and their liberation movements;

(e) To promote the widest dissemination of information against apartheid in educational institutions;

(f) To review actions taken in accordance with resolutions of the United Nations on apartheid and consider further action, particularly for the full implementation of the Lagos Declaration for Action against Apartheid concerning the cessation of military, nuclear, economic and other collaboration with South Africa;

(g) To increase moral, material and political assistance to the oppressed people of South Africa and their liberation movements;

(h) To invite leaders of the liberation movements and other opponents of apartheid in South Africa in order to publicize the objectives of the struggle for freedom and human dignity in South Africa;

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(i) To arrange, wherever practicable, public collections for assistance to the oppressed people of South Africa and their liberation movements;

(j) To make generous special contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Publicity against Apartheid for the observance of the International Anti-Apartheid Year, and increase contributions to funds for assistance to the oppressed people of South Africa.

D. Action by specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations

15. The specialized agencies and other institutions within the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, should be requested:

(a) To publicize, each within its mandate, the inhumanity of apartheid and the international efforts for its elimination;

(b) To publicize more widely, or initiate, studies on apartheid, within their mandates, in consultation with the Special Committee against Apartheid.

16. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in particular, should be invited, in co-operation with the United Nations, to publicize the actions of all United Nations agencies against apartheid and to pay special attention to material for educational institutions and to audio-visual information.

17. The International Labour Organisation should be invited to co-operate closely with the Special Committee against Apartheid with regard to the observance of the International Anti-Apartheid Year by the trade union movement at the international and national levels.

18. The Universal Postal Union should be invited to encourage the issuance of special stamps for the International Year.

19. The World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations should be invited, in co-operation with the United Nations, to publicize widely the effects of apartheid within their respective mandates.

20. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should be invited, in co-operation with the United Nations and other agencies, to publicize the needs for assistance of the refugees from South Africa and the inhumanity of the apartheid system which caused the efflux of refugees.

21. The specialized agencies and other institutions within the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, should be requested to review assistance provided by them to the oppressed people of South Africa and their liberation movements and consider means to increase such assistance as required.

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E. Action by trade unions, churches and other non-governmental organizations

22. Trade unions, churches, anti-apartheid and solidarity movements and other non-governmental organizations should be requested:

(a) To undertake further action against apartheid in the light of relevant resolutions of the United Nations, particularly General Assembly resolution 31/6 J of 9 November 1976, entitled "Programme of Action against Apartheid";

(b) To give priority during the International Anti-Apartheid Year to action against apartheid and formulate concrete programmes for that purpose;

(c) To co-operate with the Special Committee against Apartheid in promoting the widest and most effective observance of the International Anti-Apartheid Year.

F. Action by the Special Committee against Apartheid

23. The Special Committee against Apartheid should be requested to take any appropriate action to promote the widest and most effective observance of the International Anti-Apartheid Year and, in this connexion:

(a) To maintain close co-operation with the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies, the Organization of African Unity and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned;

(b) To take active steps to promote increased assistance to the oppressed people of South Africa and their liberation movements - through funds of the United Nations and of the Organization of African Unity and other channels - and, in this connexion, encourage public collections for this purpose;

(c) To promote the cessation of any political, military, nuclear, economic and other collaboration with the apartheid régime;

(d) To arrange, in co-operation with Governments and appropriate organizations, regional seminars and seminars for workers, students, women and churchmen on aspects of apartheid;

(e) To participate effectively in the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;

(f) To promote accessions by all States which have not yet done so to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

24. The Special Committee against Apartheid should be authorized to send delegations to meet with the executive heads of specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to consult on plans

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for the International Anti-Apartheid Year. It should be authorized further to send representatives to various regions of the world to consult with Governments, organizations and information media to promote the Year.

25. Under the guidance of the Special Committee against Apartheid, the Centre against Apartheid should be requested and authorized:

(a) To increase publicity against apartheid and give special emphasis to audio-visual material;

(b) To publish, in co-operation with the Office of Public Information, a bulletin on the observance of the International Anti-Apartheid Year;

(c) To take any other appropriate action to promote the observance of the International Anti-Apartheid Year in all countries.
