

General Assembly Security Council

Distr. GENERAL

A/44/156 J 5/20497 1 March 1989 ENGLISH

ORIGINAL:

ENGLISH/FRENCH/ SPANISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY Forty-fourth session Item 28 of the preliminary list* POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

SECURITY COUNCIL Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 1 March 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text, in English and French, of a statement on press censorship in South Africa made by the 12 States members of the European Community on 24 February 1989 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and the annex hereto circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 28 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Francisco VILLAR

 $[\]lambda/44/50.$

A/44/156 S/20497 English Page 2

ANNEX

Statement by the Twelve on press censorship in South Africa (Brussels, Madrid, 24 February 1989)

The Twelve have repeatedly expressed to the South African Government their concern for the press censorship prevailing in South Africa. The suspension for three months of the newspapers <u>Grassroots</u> and <u>New Era</u>, in spite of the <u>démarche</u> by the Twelve carried out last 9 February constitutes an act which seriously erodes the freedom of expression, and which does not contribute to the improvement of the present situation.