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MEETING



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**CONTENTS**

|  | <i>Page</i> |
|--|-------------|
| Agenda item 34:<br>The policies of <i>apartheid</i> of the Government of South Africa: report of the Special Committee on the Policies of <i>Apartheid</i> of the Government of the Republic of South Africa ..... | 13          |

*Chairman:* Mr. Eugeniusz KULAGA (Poland).

**AGENDA ITEM 34**

**The policies of *apartheid* of the Government of South Africa: report of the Special Committee on the Policies of *Apartheid* of the Government of the Republic of South Africa (A/7538 and Add.1 and 2, A/7625, A/7715)**

1. The CHAIRMAN invited to Mr. ALO (Nigeria), Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the Policies of *Apartheid* of the Government of the Republic of South Africa, to introduce the Committee's report (A/7625).

2. Mr. ALO (Nigeria) introducing the report, regretted that the situation in South Africa had continued to deteriorate. United Nations decisions were being flouted with impunity; the arms embargo called for by the Security Council had been violated; South Africa's major trading partners had increased their financial and economic involvement in the *apartheid* system; the South African Government had set itself on an expansionist and militarist course in its relations with some neighbouring States and had moved closer to the brink of what might prove to be a disaster for all mankind. Despite all its efforts, the international community had been unable to find a formula to avert the potential danger inherent in *apartheid*. During the year, further thousands of non-white families had been uprooted from their homes and communities and resettled in camps and areas that lacked the barest minimum of facilities.

3. More stringent measures for racial separation and discrimination had been enforced by new legislation. Some of the new laws, such as the Public Service Amendment Act, No. 86 of 1969, which established the Bureau of State Security (BOSS), and the Security Service Special Account Act, No. 81 of 1969, which provided for the establishment of the Secret Special Account to operate the Bureau, were extending the erosion of all basic human rights. Clause 10 of the General Law Amendment Act, No. 101 of 1969, known as "the BOSS Law" because it not only extended the scope of the Official Secrets Act, but also made it illegal to publish anything about BOSS provided that any person who communicated information relating to military, police

or security matters in any manner and for any purpose prejudicial to the safety or interests of the Republic would be liable to a fine or up to seven years' imprisonment. The definition of the term "security matter" was very broad. Under the provisions of clause 29, a certificate issued by a Minister or an official delegated by him was enough to forbid a person giving evidence in a court of law or to any other body if it contained information considered prejudicial to the interests of the State or to public safety. The Deputy Minister of Justice had said that clause 29 might prohibit a person from giving evidence even in his own defence.

4. Arbitrary detention, banishment and banning of all opponents of *apartheid* had increased and of five persons reported dead in detention during the first nine months of 1969, one had been a native of a neighbouring State. South Africa's determination to entrench white minority repressive rule on its neighbours in order to consolidate the white supremacy in its own territory intensified the risk of racial conflict. Since the nationalists of southern Africa had been denied every means of bringing about peaceful change, they were determined to fight for their inalienable rights.

5. The Special Committee reiterated the hope expressed by the Secretary-General in the introduction to his annual report<sup>1</sup> that the United Nations would be able to adopt effective measures to persuade the South African Government to abandon its policy of racial discrimination and that the measures already adopted by the competent United Nations organs would be effectively implemented. The Committee's report made certain recommendations.

6. Firstly, it recommended that the international community should translate its overwhelming moral support for the liberation movement into concrete terms. The movement planned to conduct its own armed fight and did not ask the United Nations for arms or military aid but would appreciate non-military aid such as food, clothing and medical supplies.

7. Secondly, the Special Committee emphasized the need for a more diversified and vigorous programme of information to enlighten public opinion on the South African situation and counteract the distorted reports on the fight for liberation put out by South African Government propaganda.

8. Thirdly, it urged the United Nations to ensure that sanctions were fully applied and that Member States did not evade their responsibilities. Economic exploitation was

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 1A*, para. 152.

inherent in the *apartheid* system, yet the volume of trade between South Africa and some of its major trading partners had increased and new methods of circumventing United Nations decisions had been evolved both by them and by new trading partners.

9. Fourthly, the Special Committee urged that it be recommended that the Security Council should resume consideration of the situation in South Africa, which it had not discussed since 1964, in order to evolve effective measures for compliance with its own decisions.

10. Mr. ASTROM (Sweden), Chairman of the Committee of Trustees for the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, introducing the Committee's report (A/7715), said that during the past year the Trust Fund, established by the General Assembly in 1965 to give assistance to the victims of the *apartheid* legislation, in the form of legal aid, education and relief to prisoners and their dependents, had received contributions from a somewhat greater number of States than during previous years. The need for legal defence and relief to families, however, was increasing because the South African Government was continuing to subject large numbers of people to imprisonment, detention, house arrest and banishment. The Committee of Trustees hoped that attempts by that Government to dissuade potential donors from contributing to that work would be firmly rejected. The Fund was grateful for the support it had received from the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity and for the contributions made by permanent members of the Security Council and many other States.

11. The members of the Committee, conscious of the position of trust given to them, had made every effort to ensure that the Fund was used efficiently and strictly for the purposes laid down by the General Assembly. The work of the Fund was not intended to solve the political and social problems in South Africa but to meet urgent needs of a humanitarian character. Those were continuing needs and he appealed to all States to make annual contributions. Even if the contributions were small, they were a token of solidarity with the oppressed people of South Africa.

12. The Committee of Trustees suggested that Member States might consider means to promote generous contributions to the Trust Fund as part of the observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21 March 1970, the tenth anniversary of the Sharpeville incident. It would be desirable to request the Secretary-General to take steps to ensure wider dissemination of information on the continued repression of opponents of *apartheid* and the increasing hardships faced by them and their families, in order to encourage Governments and the public to contribute to the Fund.

13. The humanitarian work of the Fund was in no way a substitute of political action in the context of the United Nations but it represented tangible proof of world-wide concern for the fate of victims of racial discrimination, which was highly appreciated by those who bore the brunt of the burden in the fight for freedom. The Committee therefore strongly felt that the work deserved the continued support of the General Assembly.

*The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.*