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QUESTION OF RACE CONFLICT IN SOUTH AFRICA RESULTING FROM THE  
POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF  
SOUTH AFRICA

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Edmond Sylvain (Haiti)

1. On 13 August 1958, Ceylon, the Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, the United Arab Republic and Uruguay proposed the inclusion of the following item in the agenda of the thirteenth session of the General Assembly: "Question of race conflict in South Africa resulting from the policies of apartheid of the Government of the Union of South Africa" (A/3872). In an explanatory memorandum attached to this request, the representatives of these countries stated that there was no indication yet that the Government of the Union of South Africa had taken any steps in response to the appeal contained in resolution 1178 (XII) adopted by the General Assembly on 26 November 1957. On the contrary, the situation continued unameliorated, and a grave threat to peaceful relations between ethnic groups of the world, to which attention had been drawn by successive resolutions of the General Assembly, continued. In the circumstances, it would undoubtedly be the wish of the General Assembly to address itself again to the question of race conflict in the Union of South Africa with a view to taking appropriate steps in the light of the prevailing situation and so as to secure adherence to the provisions of the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
2. On 22 September 1958, the General Assembly decided to place the item on its agenda and to refer it to the Special Political Committee for consideration.

3. The Committee examined the item from 10 to 21 October 1958 in the course of nine meetings, the 86th to 94th.
4. On 16 October a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.25) was submitted by Afghanistan, Argentina, Burma, Ceylon, Denmark, Ethiopia, the Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, the United Arab Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yemen. Yugoslavia and Saudi Arabia subsequently joined the sponsors of this proposal (A/SPC/L.25/Add.1 and 2). The draft resolution provided that the Assembly, recalling its previous consideration of the question and in particular paragraph 6 of its resolution 917 (X) of 6 December 1955 calling upon the Government of the Union of South Africa to observe its obligations under the Charter, (1) declared again that in a multi-racial society harmony and respect for human rights and freedoms and the peaceful development of a unified community were best assured when patterns of legislation and practice were directed towards ensuring equality before the law of all persons regardless of race, creed or colour, and when economic, social, cultural and political participation of all racial groups was on a basis of equality; (2) affirmed that governmental policies of Member States which were designed to perpetuate or increase discrimination were inconsistent with the pledges of the Members under Article 56 of the Charter; (3) called upon all Member States to bring their policies into conformity with their obligation under the Charter to promote the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms; (4) expressed its regret and concern that the Government of the Union of South Africa had not yet responded to appeals of the Assembly that it reconsider governmental policies which impaired the right of all racial groups to enjoy the same rights and fundamental freedoms.
5. At the 94th meeting, the Committee voted on the draft resolution paragraph by paragraph as follows:

The preamble was adopted by roll-call vote by 65 votes to 5, with 7 abstentions.

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In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, France, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Abstaining: Canada, Dominican Republic, Finland, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain.

Operative paragraph 1 was adopted by roll-call vote by 73 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Dominican Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Operative paragraph 2 was adopted by roll-call vote by 70 votes to 3, with 4 abstentions.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Belgium, France, Portugal.

Abstaining: Australia, Dominican Republic, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Operative paragraph 3 was adopted by roll-call vote by 70 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Belgium, Portugal.

Abstaining: Australia, Dominican Republic, France, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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Operative paragraph 4 was adopted by roll-call vote by 67 votes to 5, with 5 abstentions.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, France, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Abstaining: Dominican Republic, Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Spain.

The draft resolution as a whole was adopted by roll-call vote by 68 votes to 5, with 4 abstentions.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, France, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Abstaining: Dominican Republic, Finland, Netherlands, Spain.

6. The Special Political Committee accordingly recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

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Question of Race Conflict in South Africa Resulting from  
the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of the Union  
of South Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous consideration of the question of race conflict in South Africa resulting from the policies of apartheid of the Government of the Union of South Africa,

Recalling in particular paragraph 6 of its resolution 917 (X) of 6 December 1955, calling upon the Government of South Africa to observe its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations,

1. Declares again that in a multi-racial society harmony and respect for human rights and freedoms and the peaceful development of a unified community are best assured when patterns of legislation and practice are directed towards ensuring equality before the law of all persons regardless of race, creed or colour, and when economic, social, cultural and political participation of all racial groups is on a basis of equality;

2. Affirms that governmental policies of Member States which are not directed towards these goals, but which are designed to perpetuate or increase discrimination, are inconsistent with the pledges of the Members under Article 56 of the Charter of the United Nations;

3. Solemnly calls upon all Member States to bring their policies into conformity with their obligation under the Charter to promote the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

4. Expresses its regret and concern that the Government of the Union of South Africa has not yet responded to appeals of the General Assembly that it reconsider governmental policies which impair the right of all racial groups to enjoy the same rights and fundamental freedoms.

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