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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 22 February 1990 from the Permanent Representative
of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the President of
the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement which His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal, made upon the announcement of the release of Nelson Mandela on 11 February 1990.

I should be grateful if you would have this statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 34 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Absa Claude DIALLO

* A/45/50.

ANNEX

Statement of the President of Senegal upon the announcement
of the release of Nelson Mandela

The day of 11 February 1990 is henceforth a significant date in the history of mankind owing to the release of Nelson Mandela after 27 years of unjust imprisonment.

I am sure that I am expressing the heartfelt sentiments of the Senegalese people when I say how overjoyed and proud we are because of this event.

Despite the distance which separates us from South Africa, Senegal is no doubt the country where this illustrious prisoner and the cause for which he has always fought have been best understood and most warmly supported.

Our intellectuals, our artists and our young people, not to mention the Senegalese political class, have all in their own way glorified the man and his battle.

One day in October 1985, at the United Nations, we made a wager on the political genius and inflexible willpower of Nelson Mandela and affirmed that the role which he would play, even from prison, in promoting the fight for freedom in South Africa was fundamental. We have been vindicated by what has occurred.

Now that he is free, we are sure of being able to rely on his lucidity, his moderation and his sense of history, so that all democratic forces in South Africa will unite in the one struggle that counts, namely the establishment of a non-racial, egalitarian and democratic society in that country.

For its part, the international community must maintain its pressure on the South African régime in order to bring about, together with the lifting of the state of emergency, the release of all political prisoners and the repeal of apartheid legislation, and to create the conditions for a constructive dialogue with the democratic forces in South Africa. Senegal will assist this process, as in the past.
