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SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 8 February 1990 from the Permanent Representative of
Guyana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit for your information the statement issued by the Government of Guyana on recent developments in South Africa.

I should be grateful if you would have the above statement circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. R. INSANALLY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



ANNEX

Statement issued by the Government of Guyana
on recent developments in South Africa

The Government of Guyana welcomes the announcement in Parliament on 2 February 1990 by South African President de Klerk of the unbanning of the African National Congress (ANC) and other political organizations and the commitment given for the release from prison unconditionally of that heroic leader and stalwart freedom fighter, Nelson Mandela. This development is positive. But it was inevitable, since it was only a matter of time before the ruling authorities in South Africa bowed to the intense pressure which resulted from the combination of internal and external forces.

The Government of Guyana recalls that the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons had since 1986 designed a possible negotiating concept containing measures which should be adopted by the South Africa régime if negotiations between it and the authentic leaders of the oppressed majority were to be initiated. The measures announced by President de Klerk are only a part of that comprehensive set of measures.

The Government of Guyana nevertheless hopes that the measures announced, when implemented, will help to create a climate which will facilitate the process towards dialogue and peaceful negotiations. It should be remembered, however, that the pillars of apartheid, especially the Group Areas Act, the bantustan "homelands" policy and the system of separate education, are still intact. While therefore the action to be taken as signalled by President de Klerk gives cause for some optimism, there is a clear need to remain vigilant and to maintain international pressure on the régime and to continue support for the liberation and other democratic forces within South Africa.

The Government of Guyana takes the opportunity provided by this occasion to pay once again the highest tribute to Nelson Mandela, who epitomizes the determination of the majority to regain their freedom, and to recommit its full support to the struggle for liberation in South Africa.
