



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERALA/45/157
6 March 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
Item 34 of the preliminary list*

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 1 March 1990 from the Permanent
Representative of Pakistan to the United
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a message from Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, addressed to Mr. Nelson Mandela on his release from the South African prison:

It is with a deep sense of satisfaction and pleasure that I offer to you warmest felicitations on my own behalf and on behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan on your long-awaited freedom.

The saga of your epic struggle against injustice and oppression has earned you the respect and reverence not only of the people of Pakistan but of freedom-loving people everywhere.

Your unflinching faith in the equality of all persons and the indomitable courage with which you continued to stand for these principles is greatly admired by us. You have been a source of inspiration for the suffering masses of South Africa, who continue to struggle valiantly for the ideal of a just, democratic and free society, in which all races can live together in harmony. You are a symbol of the struggle against oppression, apartheid and racial discrimination.

The long years that you have spent in South African prisons have not been in vain. We are proud that you refused to bow down to pressures or to accept any compromises in order to regain your freedom. The Government of South

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Africa was left with no option but to free you unconditionally and to legalize the African National Congress and other nationalist parties in Africa.

The dismantling of the system of apartheid has only just begun. You have a long struggle ahead of you. We look forward to the day when the people of South Africa are restored their fundamental rights of equality and majority rule is established in South Africa.

Benazir BHUTTO
Prime Minister of the Islamic
Republic of Pakistan

I request you to have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 34 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Nasim AHMED
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
