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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 18 September 1990 from the Permanent Representative  
of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a press statement from the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. R. F. Botha, on the adoption of resolution 44/244 by the General Assembly of the United Nations on the "Declaration on Apartheid".

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 34 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Jeremy B. SHEARAR  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

\* A/45/150 and Corr.1.

ANNEX

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR RF (PIK) BOTHA, ON THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON 17 SEPTEMBER 1990 BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE "DECLARATION ON APARTHEID", PRETORIA, 17 SEPTEMBER 1990

During its resumed 44th session, the General Assembly has embarked on an unwarranted discussion of the report which the Secretary-General circulated on 1 July 1990 after the visit to South Africa by a team under the leadership of Mr A A Farah, Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions.

In that report it was made clear that negotiations between the various parties concerned, towards the framing of a new constitution, in which all South Africans would participate, were under way and were still at an early stage.

There was accordingly nothing for the General Assembly to discuss, unless it were to take the opportunity I recommended in my letter of 11 September 1990 to the Secretary-General, viz to recognise the changes that have taken, and are taking, place in South Africa and to reaffirm that it is for South Africans alone to determine their future.

Since the General Assembly failed to make use of this opportunity, I must state that the Government considers any resolution which endeavours to prescribe to South Africans how they should conduct their internal affairs, as a violation of the United Nations Charter and therefore rejects it. Much of what is contained in the resolution is obsolete rhetoric. The General Assembly has not been able to come to terms with what has happened in South Africa since 2 February 1990.

To those who still persist in refusing to admit the evidence of "profound and irreversible change" I invite them to describe how the Government can reverse the actions it has already taken and those to which it is irrevocably committed.

At the same time, I would be remiss if I failed to note with appreciation that the international community, as a whole, has at least publicly recognised the important changes being implemented by the Government and hope that this more realistic assessment of events in South Africa will convince those who follow them less closely.