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STATEMENT BY
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IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL
ON THE QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICA

NEW YORK, 15 JULY 1992

Mr. President,

At the outset, I should like on behalf of my Delegation to express our appreciation to you and to other members of the Council for giving us the opportunity to participate in these deliberations.

Allow me to extend to you, my Delegation's congratulations upon your assumption of the Council's presidency for this month. We are confident that with your extensive experience and diplomatic skills, you will guide the proceedings to a successful conclusion. I would also like to pay a well-deserved tribute to your predecessor for his able leadership of the Council during June.

Let me avail of this opportunity to warmly welcome Mr. Nelson Mandela, the President of the ANC and to congratulate him for his important address to the Council.

Mr. President,

This meeting has been convened to deal with the disturbing developments taking place in South Africa which makes it incumbent upon my Delegation to participate in these debates.

For sometime now, political tensions in South Africa have been raising in the wake of stalemate in talks between the racist regime and anti-apartheid leaders. There have even been concern that the negotiations under the auspices of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa could break because of the insistence that certain provisions of the new constitution be subject to a veto by the minority which has cast an ominous shadow for peaceful transition to majority rule. Furthermore, the potential for destabilisation by extremist groups also remains a cause for deep concern.

The situation has been markedly exacerbated by the escalating level of violence which has already taken a heavy toll in human lives. My Government was particularly appalled by the recent gruesome massacre at Boipatong Township. These wanton attacks have shown that the perpetrators are determined to terrorise township communities and create chaos in the country at large. Regrettably, the collusion of the security force and the regime's ineffectual response to the killings of innocent men, women and children have shaken the confidence of the black majority in the impartiality of the Government. These developments therefore constitute a serious setback to the continuation of any meaningful negotiations and to the eradication of apartheid.

It is obvious, Mr. President, that notwithstanding the important mile-stones on South Africa's irreversible course of reforms, the regime's duplicitous policies has reinforced suspicion of its intention to perpetuate minority rule. Its failure to prevent the spiralling violence aided and abetted by the security forces provides an unambiguous confirmation of this belief and cannot but intensify the resistance to racial domination.

In this context, my Delegation endorses the decisions taken by the OAU at its meeting held last month in Dakar, Senegal, which inter alia called for an urgent meeting of this august body to investigate the causes of violence, to take necessary measures and to create conditions conducive for a peaceful transition in South Africa. Unless the Council proceeds to take action as a matter of urgency, the situation in South Africa may deteriorate further with unforeseen consequences. The international community can no longer countenance barriers to justice and equality and the South African Government must be held accountable for its policies. The need for action has become imperative in view of the maneuvers of the regime to perpetuate apartheid which is bound to adversely impact on the on-going endeavors for a negotiated solution.

It is Pretoria's responsibility to control township violence and to maintain law and order. My Delegation therefore calls upon the Pretoria regime not to exploit the rivalries that divide a frustrated and impoverished majority or to foment unrest in the country.

Over the past two years, developments of far-reaching importance have taken place in South Africa leading to the establishment of a post-apartheid society. In this regard, my Delegation extends its full support for the CODESA process which we hope will be resumed to make a renewed and determined efforts to finalise the terms for the transitional period.

It is pertinent to recall that the Non-Aligned Movement has since its inception called for the dismantling of institutionalised racism in South Africa. Hence, at this critical stage in the struggle for a non-racial and democratic society, it is incumbent upon us to call upon the Government of South Africa to move decisively and quickly in resolving the deadlock over the transfer of power and to build a new society. The voices of the disenfranchised and oppressed can no longer be silenced. Racial reconciliation, equality of rights and majority rule will triumph and the people of South Africa will become free.

Thank you, Mr. President.