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REGISTERS FOR PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNITED NATIONS FUNDS FOR
SOUTHERN AFRICA TO OPEN IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES ON 21 MARCH

Registers will be opened on 21 March -- the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination -- at United Nations Headquarters and at United Nations Information Centres in several countries for the receipt of contributions from the public for "the victims of the policies of apartheid and racism in South Africa".

Contributions will be accepted for the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and for the United Nations Educational and Training Programme (for South Africa, Namibia, Southern Rhodesia and Territories under Portuguese administration).

The Secretary-General, U Thant, in the introduction to his annual report to the General Assembly last year, appealed for greater financial support for "these humanitarian programmes through which the international community can show its determination to alleviate the plight of the victims of racial discrimination".

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, in a resolution adopted on 6 March 1967 (resolution 2 (XXIII)), recommended that the Secretary-General, "in consultation with Member States, arrange to provide facilities whereby Registers for the receipt of contributions from all sources, private and public, for the victims of the policies of apartheid and racism in South Africa may be opened in each country".

At United Nations Headquarters, a Register will be opened for a one-week period in the public area in the General Assembly building, with volunteers from two non-governmental organizations -- the United Nations Association of the United States and the African Aid and Legal Defense Fund (of the American Committee on Africa) -- manning the Register desks.

A ceremony will be held at 10:30 a.m. on 21 March in the Economic and Social Council Chamber to mark the opening of the Register.

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Registers will also be opened on 21 March at the United Nations Information Centres in Sydney and Manila, in co-operation with non-governmental organizations in those regions.

Contributions may also be made by mail. Cheques may be made out to "United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa" or the "United Nations Educational and Training Programme" and mailed to:

Treasurer of the United Nations
Room 3763

United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017

Organizations as well as individuals may make contributions.

United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa

The United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa was established by the General Assembly in 1965 to help the victims of apartheid. Its purpose, as revised in 1968, is to provide grants to voluntary organizations, the Governments of host countries of refugees from South Africa and other appropriate bodies towards:

- "(a) Legal assistance to persons persecuted under the repressive and discriminatory legislation of the Republic of South Africa;
- "(b) Relief to such persons and their dependents;
- "(c) Education of such persons and their dependents;
- "(d) Relief for refugees from the Republic of South Africa".

No grants are made to individuals.

The Committee of Trustees decides on the use of the Fund and acts to promote co-operation and co-ordination in the activities of voluntary organizations concerned with relief and assistance to victims of the policies of apartheid in South Africa. The Committee is composed of five members, nominated by Chile, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan and Sweden.

By the end of 1968, the Trust Fund had received contributions totalling \$637,367 from 43 Member States of the United Nations and other donors, including organizations and individuals. In addition, it had received pledges totalling \$47,740. Eighteen grants, totalling \$533,400, had been made from the Fund, and other requests are under active consideration.

The Committee of Trustees has stressed that the need for humanitarian assistance far exceeds the fund available, and has appealed for increased contributions.

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United Nations Educational and Training Programme

In 1964, the Security Council invited the Secretary-General to establish, in consultation with the specialized agencies, "an educational and training programme for the purpose of arranging for education and training abroad for South Africans". The Council was acting on a recommendation of an expert group that such a programme be established in order to "enable as many South Africans as possible to play a full part as quickly as possible in the political, economic and social advance of their country".

The expert group suggested that contributions be sought from Member States and others for "training abroad of a large number of South African lawyers, engineers, agronomists, public administrators, teachers at all levels and skilled workers, as well as training in such fields as labour education and business and industrial management".

The programme was established in 1965. In 1967, it was consolidated with other United Nations educational and training programmes for the inhabitants of Namibia (formerly South West Africa) and of the Territories under Portuguese administration.

In 1968, up to 30 September, a total of 574 applications for assistance had been received, from inhabitants of South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, Namibia and the Territories under Portuguese administration. During that period, 112 awards were granted and 201 extended, with 58 more to be made and 63 extended, if funds became available.

The General Assembly, noting the need for funds, has appealed to all States, organizations and individuals to contribute generously to the Programme.

As of 30 September 1968, southern Africans were studying under this Programme in universities and secondary schools in Austria, Botswana, Canada, Congo (Brazzaville), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria, Romania, Senegal, the Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States and Zambia.

Their studies ranged from agriculture to anthropology, from engineering to medicine, from accounting to computer programming, from chemistry to secretarial studies, from architecture to teacher training, as well as secondary education and mechanical training of various kinds.