

350.6 (1) - QJ/ap

Excellency,

On behalf of the Swiss Federal Council I address this last minute appeal to you, asking you to stay execution of the Six Sharpeville residents sentenced to death on 13 December 1985.

I have taken note of the evidence presented in Court and of the decision of the Supreme Court of your Country. The Swiss Government does not call in question the procedures applied in this case nor does it wish to interfere with the course of South African Justice.

I am nevertheless deeply concerned about the human implications of the sentences pronounced and the distress that will result from these executions. You are certainly aware of the deeply rooted humanitarian tradition of Switzerland. It is in this spirit and having in mind the long standing and close relations between our two countries which you certainly could witness when you met my predecessor in Berne in 1984, that I make this plea for clemency.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Berne, March 17, 1988

Otto Stich
President of the Swiss Confederation

H.E. Mr. P.W. Botha
State President of the
Republic of South Africa
Tuynhuys
C a p e T o w n

