



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/33/180
17 July 1978

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-third session
Item 32 of the preliminary list*

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Note verbale dated 28 June 1978 from the Permanent Representative of
the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General and, with reference to General Assembly document A/AC.115/L.491 of 22 May 1978 entitled "Relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and South Africa", has the honour to enclose herewith a statement by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany with the request that this note and its annex be distributed as an official document of the General Assembly under item 32 of the preliminary list.

* A/33/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Statement by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany
concerning relations between the Federal Republic of Germany
and South Africa

The report on relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and South Africa a/ does not contain any new elements but, unfortunately, reiterates charges which the Federal Government has refuted on several earlier occasions. However, in order to prevent misunderstandings regarding its policy towards South Africa, the basic features of that policy are outlined below.

The Federal Republic of Germany is committed to the principle of renunciation of force in the realization of political aims world-wide. In conformity with this principle it supports a peaceful, non-violent settlement of conflicts also in southern Africa.

At the same time, the Federal Government advocates respect for and the effective implementation of human rights throughout the world. It rejects racism and colonialism of any kind, above all the discriminating policy of apartheid. It has voiced its strong opposition to apartheid in international forums as well as in bilateral contacts with the South African Government through critical comments on subjects of every domain, social, cultural and economic as well as military.

Of all the industrialized countries in the world, the Federal Republic of Germany observes by far the greatest restraint in its policy of arms supplies (which from 1965 to 1975 accounted for an average of 0.29 per cent of total exports). As early as 1961, the Federal Government imposed an arms embargo in relation to South Africa which has been strictly observed. It has advocated this policy internationally since 1963 when the United Nations adopted two resolutions to ensure the complete cessation by all States of the supply of arms to South Africa. As a member of the Security Council, the Federal Republic of Germany co-sponsored the resolution of 4 November 1977 b/ imposing a mandatory embargo on arms supplies to South Africa. The Federal Republic of Germany does not produce or dispose of any nuclear weapons. It is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons c/ and will therefore never pass on to third parties the scientific-technological know-how required for the production of nuclear weapons. On the contrary, the Federal Government has strongly appealed to the South African Government to accede to the non-proliferation treaty. The Federal Government regrets all the more that it should be accused time and again of nuclear and military co-operation with the Republic of South Africa.

a/ A/AC.115/L.491.

b/ Security Council resolution 418 (1977).

c/ General Assembly resolution 2373 (XXII), annex.

As a market economy country heavily dependent on exports, the Federal Republic of Germany maintains trade relations with all countries in the world, irrespective of the political orientation of their governments. This is true also with regard to South Africa.

On the other hand, the Federal Government adheres to its policy of not promoting investments in South Africa, and it has reduced credit guarantees for exports to South Africa. In addition, the Federal Government exerts all efforts to utilize its contacts to improve the situation of the victims of the apartheid policy in the economic and social fields. This is also the aim of the Code of Conduct adopted by the European Community.

The Federal Government believes that improvements in the social and economic spheres as well as better education for the black sections of the population will make it easier to arrive at political settlements of the apartheid issues. In its critical approach to the South African Government, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has clearly stated on many occasions that the ultimate aim of all reforms must be to attain the total elimination of the apartheid system through gradual improvements.

The Federal Government is confident that this can be accomplished without the use of force, through active co-operation between those of good will. The principle of non-violence has always been a key element in the struggle for freedom and equal rights. The Federal Republic of Germany stands by this principle and is firmly committed therefore to a policy of respect for human rights and renunciation of force world-wide.

The Federal Republic of Germany is thus obliged strongly to reject any suspicion regarding its anti-apartheid policy. It has the impression that such suspicions are being cast deliberately by circles interested in driving a wedge between the Federal Republic of Germany and its friends, especially in Africa.

It is not least for this reason that the Federal Government has considered it necessary to set out its policy towards South Africa in order to counter misunderstandings which may be caused by misinterpretation. What has been said above may serve at the same time to anticipate any false inferences from the report of the Special Committee against Apartheid entitled "Review of developments in economic collaboration with South Africa since September 1977" (A/AC.115/L.490 of 31 March 1978) and the summary records of the 382nd and 383rd meetings of the Special Committee against Apartheid (A/AC.115/SR.382 and 383 of 1 and 5 June 1978).