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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION
AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID

Views and information submitted by States parties in accordance
with Commission resolution 1986/7

Note by the Secretary-General

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM STATES PARTIES

Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic

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Apartheid is the most blatant, cynical, and cruel form of racism, which has been elevated into a constitutional principle and policy by the racist régime in South Africa. Condemned by the United Nations as a crime against humanity, apartheid is a danger to the freedom and independence of African peoples and a threat to international peace.

The United Nations and the world community, guided by democratic and humane principles, consider the elimination of the policy of apartheid to be one of their priority goals.

The Byelorussian SSR consistently and resolutely condemns the policy and practice of apartheid pursued by the racist régime in South Africa. In 1986 alone it stated this same position at the World Conference on Sanctions against Racist South Africa, the International Conference for the Immediate Independence of Namibia, the special session of the General Assembly on the question of Namibia, the forty-first session of the General Assembly, the forty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights and meetings of other bodies of the United Nations system.

The continued existence of the apartheid régime, the illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa and the aggression against neighbouring African States proceeds in defiance of numerous United Nations decisions and the demands of the world community. This state of affairs is to be explained by the direct support given to the Pretoria régime by the most reactionary imperialist circles in the Western countries, particularly the United States. These circles are blocking the application by the Security Council of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the Pretoria racists under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

The Western Powers are using various means, including the transnational corporations which they control, not only to support but even to strengthen the South African apartheid régime in the political, economic, diplomatic and military, including nuclear, fields. As was noted at the Twenty-seventh Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the American transnational super monopolies are, in general only too willing to act as the instruments of State hegemonism and minister to the lust for empire of the ruling forces in that country.

According to information provided by the United Nations, some 1,100 transnational corporations and their subsidiaries - mainly American, British and West German, but also companies based in Switzerland, Australia, Canada, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Belgium and other Western countries - are operating in South Africa. Total Western investment in South Africa is estimated at 35 billion dollars. Capital investment by the western countries helps the apartheid régime to survive economically, despite its growing balance-of-payments deficits. This investment accounts for roughly one third of South Africa's economic growth and for its unprecedented military spending. The Security Council arms embargo against South Africa is being

circumvented by the Western countries. Indeed, with assistance from the West, South Africa has itself become a major arms exporter and intends to increase its exports by 50 per cent over the next five years.

A serious threat to independent Africa and to universal peace is created by the way the Western Powers and Israel, and their monopolies, collaborate with South Africa in the nuclear field and assist the Pretoria régime in building up its nuclear capability.

The transnational corporations operate in virtually all branches of industry in South Africa and play a leading part in areas such as mining, electronics, chemicals and oil. No less than three quarters of South Africa's fuel needs are supplied from abroad by the protectors and accomplices of the apartheid régime in the West. The EEC, for example, imposes no ban on the supply of refined petroleum products to South Africa. The EEC's "restrictive measures" in no way prevent oil traders from doing business with South Africa.

There have recently been reports of the "withdrawal" of transnational corporations of some Western Powers, including the United States, from South Africa. Of course, the mounting struggle against apartheid in the country, on the one hand, and the economic instability of the Pretoria authorities, made worse by its military adventures against neighbouring African States and an essentially punitive war in Namibia, on the other, are causing anxiety in the West about the fate of its investments and the chances of making high profits. Nevertheless, even these corporations intend to maintain very close relations with their former enterprises in South Africa. Billions of dollars, particularly from the United States, still remain tied up in industrial investments and various loans. In practice, what this comes down to is the far from novel approach of a "tactical withdrawal". The United States' policy of "constructive engagement" with racist South Africa serves in its way as a guarantee for imperialist interests.

Certain Western Powers are ignoring the repeated appeals made directly to these States by the General Assembly to take immediate and effective steps to terminate any collaboration with the South African racist régime in the political, diplomatic, economic, commercial, military or nuclear fields and to refrain from establishing such collaboration with the régime in defiance of the relevant decisions of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.

The Governments of these Powers have still not taken effective legislative, administrative and other steps against their citizens or against corporate bodies under their jurisdiction that own or operate enterprises, particularly in South Africa, contrary to the interests of the indigenous African population, so as to terminate the activities of such enterprises and prevent further investment against the interests of the indigenous population. Moreover, these Governments are failing to comply with the United Nations decisions on disinvestment in South Africa and on the adoption of effective measures against the oil companies concerned, so as to terminate the supply of oil and petroleum products to the racist régime in South Africa.

At its forty-first session the General Assembly, in resolutions which were co-sponsored by the Byelorussian SSR, in particular resolution 41/35, directly condemned the policy of "constructive engagement" and "linkage" followed by the United States Administration; and it called upon the

United States and the United Kingdom to reassess their position and facilitate the application of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against racist South Africa by the Security Council. The General Assembly expressed grave concern at the continued violation of the mandatory arms embargo adopted by the Security Council in its resolution 418 (1977) as well as the nuclear collaboration by certain Western States and Israel with the racist régime of South Africa. The General Assembly called upon all organizations within the United Nations system to ensure the total isolation of South Africa and of transnational corporations, banks and financial and other institutions collaborating with South Africa.

Numerous other United Nations decisions condemn the continued collaboration by the Governments of certain Western countries and Israel, as well as by their transnational corporations, banks and other financial institutions, with the racist Pretoria régime in various fields and reaffirm that the activities of foreign economic, financial and other interests operating in southern Africa in particular are a major obstacle to the achievement of political independence and racial equality, and to the utilization by the indigenous population of their own natural resources.

The Byelorussian SSR considers that the international community should ensure compliance with the United Nations decisions on the termination by all Member States of any collaboration with the racist régime in South Africa. It fully supports the just proposals by African and other States for the Security Council to apply comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter.

The Byelorussian SSR has no political, diplomatic, economic, commercial, military or other relations with South Africa and, accordingly, has entered into no contractual, licensing or other arrangements with the racist régime in Pretoria. The Byelorussian SSR is neither a home country nor a host country of transnational corporations.

The enterprises and organizations of the Byelorussian SSR strictly comply in practice with the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly regarding the boycott and embargo of the racist régime of South Africa.