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NOTE VERBALE DATED 30 JUNE 1987 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO  
THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and with reference to his Note SCPC/2/86/3(1-2) of 21 May 1987 has the honour to state the following.

It has been the policy of successive United Kingdom Governments wholeheartedly to support and enforce the provisions of Security Council resolution 418 (1977) concerning the export of arms and related material to South Africa. For this reason the United Kingdom Government joined in the adoption by consensus of resolution 591 (1986) on the basis set out by Sir J. Thomson in his statement to the Security Council on 28 November 1986 (S/PV.2723).

Resolution 418 (1977) is implemented in the United Kingdom by means of the Export of Goods (Control) Order (for equipment), and the South Africa (United Nations Arms Embargo) (Prohibited Transaction) Order 1978 (for licensing of patents, designs and industrial information or techniques). The United Kingdom Government is satisfied that these legislative instruments remain sufficient to ensure full compliance with its obligations.

Following the adoption of resolution 591 (1986) the United Kingdom Government took action to remind British companies of their obligations and responsibilities in respect of the United Nations arms embargo.

Alleged breaches of United Kingdom legislation implementing the United Nations arms embargo against South Africa are thoroughly investigated and where appropriate, prosecutions follow. Details of legal proceedings, which in some cases have resulted in prison sentences, have been passed from time to time to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 421 (1977) concerning the question of South Africa. For example, three individuals were convicted in 1982 for offences involving the illegal export of arms to South Africa. One received nine months' imprisonment with six months concurrent and a £500 fine, the others six and three months' imprisonment respectively. In 1985 the "Coventry case" resulted in the prosecution and conviction of five

S/18957

English

Page 2

individuals. All were fined and received prison sentences. In April 1987 two individuals were each sentenced to six months' imprisonment for illegally exporting long range aerial photographic reconnaissance equipment to South Africa. A number of other cases have been dealt with under powers exercised by HM Customs and Excise.

This record of successful legal action against offenders demonstrates the British Government's determination to ensure strict compliance with the United Kingdom's obligations under Security Council resolution 418 (1977) and 591 (1986) and accordingly to enforce the British legislation which governs exports to South Africa.

The Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland requests that this Note be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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