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SECOND SPECIAL REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
AGAINST APARTHEID

Recent developments concerning relations between
Israel and South Africa

* This is a mimeographed version of a special report of the Special Committee against Apartheid, which will be issued in printed form in Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 22A.

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

4 September 1980

Sir,

In accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 34/93 P adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 1979, I have the honour to transmit herewith a report of the Special Committee against Apartheid on recent developments concerning relations between Israel and South Africa.

The Special Committee requests that this report be issued as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) B. Akporode CLARK
Chairman
of the Special Committee against
Apartheid

His Excellency
Mr. Kurt Waldheim
Secretary-General of the
United Nations
New York

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Special Committee has expressed serious concern at the increasing collaboration between Israel and South Africa in political, military, nuclear, economic and cultural fields. The General Assembly, acting on the recommendations of the Special Committee, in resolution 34/93 P of 12 December 1979, strongly condemned Israel's continuing and increasing collaboration with the racist régime of South Africa and requested the Special Committee "to keep the matter under constant review and to report to the General Assembly and the Security Council as appropriate".
2. The present report has been prepared in pursuance of the above request to the Special Committee.

II. GENERAL

3. Prime Minister P. W. Botha of the racist régime of South Africa, in an interview with the editor of Zionist Record, published on 2 November 1979, called for closer ties with Israel and expressed satisfaction with the positive developments in the relations between the two countries. He favoured collaboration with all countries, especially with those having common aspirations with South Africa. 1/
4. Fifty South African families were reported to be helping the establishment of a new settlement called Efrat, near Jerusalem. The project was announced by Mr. Sally Sacks, Chairman of the Aliyah Committee of the South African Zionist Federation. 2/

III. MILITARY AND NUCLEAR COLLABORATION

5. There have been persistent reports about the military and nuclear collaboration between Israel and South Africa. The then Israeli Minister for Defence, Mr. Ezer Weizman, visited South Africa for four days during the second week of March 1980 and talked with South African leaders on security affairs. The visit was kept secret in Israel. Upon his return he reported to the Israeli Prime Minister. Only three Israeli cabinet ministers were reported to have been informed. Mr. Weizman's trip was one of a series of regular visits by ministers from the two countries. 3/

1/ Die Vaderland, Johannesburg, 2 November 1979.

2/ South African Digest, Pretoria, 11 July 1980.

3/ Jerusalem radio, Domestic Service in Hebrew, 1200 GMT, 19 March 1980; The Argus, Cape Town, 20 March 1980.

6. Major General Amos Horev, former chief scientist of the Israeli Defence Ministry, who later assumed the post of president of Technion, Israel's Institute of Technology, visited South Africa in November 1979. The purpose of the visit was to have meetings with technologists in major centres in South Africa and with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. He was reported to have stated: "I am still involved with Israel's nuclear research through the Technion's Department of Nuclear Energy".
7. The Times of Zambia reported on 14 November 1979, quoting Reuter and the Zambia News Agency, ZANA, that South Africa and Israel were closely co-operating in the development of nuclear arms. That was evidenced by the visit of Major General Horev to South Africa. Technion maintained direct contacts with the Israeli Defence Ministry in which General Horev was concerned until recently with the development of missile-nuclear weapons of mass destruction. It was reported from Johannesburg that the purpose of his visit was to learn about South Africa's latest achievements in the development and manufacture of arms, including nuclear ones. While in South Africa, General Horev's programme included a visit to the national atomic research centre in Pelindaba, the nuclear installation in Valindaba, the nuclear complex in Koeberg and the naval base in Simonstown. The Times of Zambia added that: "Political observers view this visit as marking the beginning of a more active stage of co-operation between Zionist Israel and the racist South African régime in the military field, especially in the development of nuclear weapons." 4/
8. General Haim Bar-Lev of Israel visited South Africa in May 1980 and met, among others, Foreign Minister R. F. Botha. 5/
9. Mr. Abdul S. Minty, director of the World Campaign against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa, while speaking on 5 March 1980, before the Security Council Committee Established by Resolution 421 (1977) Concerning the Question of South Africa, questioned the statements of Israel that it had ceased collaboration with South Africa, and said that the Government of Israel should provide the Committee with detailed replies on the relationship between the two Governments concerning the Gabriel missile deal, including the number of missiles provided, and whether South Africa was granted a licence to manufacture the Gabriel missiles. He also inquired about the number of fast patrol boats which had been supplied by Israel to South Africa and the arrangements under which these boats were now being built in South Africa. He also suggested that informal and official agreements between Israel and South Africa in the field of electronics might have an impact on South Africa's military industry. Mr. Minty also referred to the reports of the exchanges of visits between scientists in Israel and South Africa in reference to possible nuclear and military collaboration between them. 6/
10. Israel has been widely reported to be an active contributor to the development of South Africa's military industry. It was reported, for instance, that the recent additions to South Africa's military arsenal include a new infantry rifle, a copy of the Israeli Galil assault rifle, and a guided missile patrol boat with several new missile systems. 7/

4/ Rand Daily Mail, Johannesburg, 8 November 1979; Times of Zambia, Lusaka, 14 November 1979.

5/ South African Digest, Pretoria, 30 May 1980.

6/ S/AC.20/SR.25 of 10 March 1980, p. 15.

7/ Washington Star, Washington, D.C., 2 May 1980.

11. It was reported that Israel was involved in what seemed to be a nuclear explosion which occurred on 22 September 1979 in an area of the Indian Ocean and South Atlantic including portions of the Antarctic continent and the southern part of Africa. The American television network CBS reported on 22 February 1980 that "Israel exploded a nuclear bomb last September in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of South Africa ... which was conducted with help and co-operation of the South African Government". 8/ CBS revealed that it had obtained "major contents" of a book to be published in Hebrew by two Israeli journalists, Eli Teicher and Ami Dor-On, which alleged that Israel had been making nuclear weapons for a long time and that South Africa had offered Israel a chance to test an atomic bomb on its soil. 9/

12. The Middle East, London, stated that Israel and South Africa agreed, during the visit of the then Prime Minister B. J. Vorster to Israel in 1976, to swap South African uranium for Israeli technical aid. It also suggested, after examining the available data, that there was a nuclear blast. 10/ The Daily Telegraph of London reported that representatives of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had suggested to a United States Congressional Committee that the explosion on 22 September was a nuclear bomb tested by Israel above a South African naval task force. 11/ The CIA also informed Congressional Committees that on the night of 22 September 1979 a task force of South African warships was conducting a secret naval exercise at a location at roughly the same latitude and longitude where the explosion appeared to take place in the atmosphere. 12/

13. The Sunday Telegraph, London, reported that volunteers from Britain, Israel and Chile were serving with South African troops against freedom fighters in Namibia. The foreign soldiers were believed to total at least 500. The paper stated that "South Africa has strengthened its links with Israel and Chile in recent years. There have been reports of co-operation with Israel on nuclear research." 13/

8/ Washington Post, 22 February 1980.

9/ Ibid.

10/ The Middle East, London, June 1980.

11/ Daily Telegraph, London, 3 February 1980.

12/ The Washington Post, 30 January 1980.

The Government of the United States established an ad hoc panel of non-government scientists which was convened by Mr. Frank Press, science adviser to President Carter, to look into all evidence concerning the incident. The panel, after several meetings, could not reach a conclusive decision concerning the mysterious flash. It was alleged that the Government of the United States was very embarrassed by the event and was hesitant to uncover all the details because of internal and external political factors. (The Christian Science Monitor, Boston, 25 February 1980; The Middle East, op. cit.)

13/ The Sunday Telegraph, London, 15 June 1980.

IV. ECONOMIC COLLABORATION

14. Israel has been South Africa's fastest-growing trading partner in recent years. South Africa's exports to Israel rose from \$8,100,000 in 1971 to \$79,900,000 in 1979; imports from Israel rose from \$9,400,000 in 1971 to \$37,700,000 in 1979. 14/

15. South Africa's Minister of Finance, Owen Horwood, while speaking before the South Africa-Israel Chamber of Economic Relations, said in September 1979: "There have been reports that Israel's withdrawal from Sinai in terms of the peace treaty concluded with Egypt will make it necessary to Israel to incur heavy expenditures in relocating certain of its installations and economic activities. Presumably South African concerns could be of assistance." 15/

16. It was reported that negotiations were held between Intergold (South Africa) and Israeli banks with a view to establishing an official distributor of the Krugerrand coin in Israel. There had been great interest in the coin from Israeli investors and deals involving substantial quantities of coins had been concluded. 16/

17. The chairman of the Israel-South Africa Chamber of Commerce, M. Jacques Baranes, stated that the lifting of the quota for imports from Israel to South Africa was a clear sign that Israeli exporters should take advantage of the South African market. 17/

18. The South African Secretary of Commerce, Mr. T. F. van der Walt, while opening the Israel industrial exhibition at Johannesburg on 18 March 1980, stated that the fact that Israel and South Africa had much in common had led to close economic links between the two countries. He also stated that regular meetings were being held at ministerial level to discuss ways and means of expanding economic co-operation and trade between them. More than 40 South African producers of advanced industrial products and electronics and electrical supplies participated in the exhibition. Zimcorn Lines, a subsidiary of Zim Israel Navigation, the Government of Israel Investment Authority and Bank Leumi were also among the participants in the exhibition. 18/

19. More than 150 Israeli diamond industry leaders received invitations to attend an international diamond meeting held in May 1980 in South Africa. The president of the Israel Diamond Exchange, Mr. Moshe Schnitzer, stated that the production and sale of polished diamonds was Israel's largest export trade, and that both Israel and South Africa shared a common national economic interest in its development. 19/

14/ Rand Daily Mail, Johannesburg, 19 March 1980.

15/ The Star, Johannesburg, 7 September 1979.

16/ Ibid., 19 September 1979.

17/ Rand Daily Mail, Johannesburg, 1 February 1980.

18/ Ibid., 19 and 20 March 1980; Jerusalem Post, 18 March 1980.

19/ The Star, Airmail weekly edition, Johannesburg, 19 April 1980.

20. A South African company, SRE Real Estate, established a tie-up with an Israeli undertaking, Corex, a Tel Aviv based property management and investment company. The agreement envisaged South African investment in industrial property in Israel, while Corex would channel Israeli money for South Africa through SRE. Mr. Isaac Bloch, managing director of Corex, visited Cape Town and stated that the new economic policy of Israel would give an added impetus to South Africa's interest in Israel. 20/

21. The South Africa Oil and Gas Corporation (SASOL) sent a recruiting team to Israel to interview 120 Israeli applicants who applied for jobs as engineers and other experts in Sasol III, the oil-from-coal plant. 21/

22. Israeli importers contracted to buy 500 South African prefabricated wooden houses at a cost of 13 million rand. 22/

V. CULTURAL COLLABORATION AND TOURISM

23. Tourism has been rapidly expanding between Israel and South Africa. South Africa's Minister for Tourism, Mr. Andries Treunicht, visited Israel in October 1979 on the occasion of the opening of a new South African tourist office in Tel Aviv. He stated that 7,000 Israelis had visited South Africa in 1978: that was 22 per cent more than the previous year and he expected the number to increase further. 23/

24. South Africa participated with 15 other countries in an international flower show which was held in Haifa, Israel, in March 1980. 24/

25. The University of Pretoria was reported to be embarking on a scientific research programme in co-operation with the Ben Gurion University in Israel. The comprehensive programme would concentrate on fields of mutual interest which could be of benefit to both countries including desert research, veterinary study and the use and efficiency of solar energy. 25/

26. Mr. Emanuel Rackman, president of an Israeli university, visited the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, in September 1979, to discuss co-operation between their institutions which would include student exchange programmes, joint seminars, facilities for post-graduate students and invitations to visiting academics. 26/

20/ The Star, Johannesburg, 14 April 1980; Rand Daily Mail, Johannesburg, 23 April 1980.

21/ The Argus, Cape Town, 30 June 1980.

22/ South African Digest, Pretoria, 11 July 1980.

23/ South African Digest, Pretoria, 26 October 1979.

24/ Ibid., 14 March 1980.

25/ The Star, Johannesburg, 27 September 1979.

26/ The Citizen, Johannesburg, 16 October 1979.

27. Mr. Arie Harell, an expert on glandular disease and president of a major Israeli first aid service organization called Magen David Adom, visited South Africa in February 1980. He addressed workers and supporters of the branch of the organization in South Africa. 27/

28. A mission of various heads of educational offices in South Africa visited Israel in March 1980. The tour was organized jointly by the Israel Tourism Office and El-Al Airlines. The mission was scheduled to study defence programmes prescribed for emergency situations arising in Israel and to hold talks with educational authorities and members of the Education and Cultural Departments. 28/

29. A team of three Israeli specialists in physics, chemistry and mathematics from the department of science teaching at the Weizmann Institute toured South Africa's main scientific centres during the month of April 1980. 29/

30. The directors of the South African Board of Jewish Education were honoured by the President of Israel at a special ceremony in Jerusalem in May 1980. 30/

27/ Rand Daily Mail, Johannesburg, 1 February 1980.

28/ South African Digest, Pretoria, 7 March 1980.

29/ Sunday Times, Johannesburg, 4 May 1980.

30/ Ibid., 18 May 1980.