

UNITED NATIONS



GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



SECURITY  
COUNCIL

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/33/22/Add.1\*  
S/12858/Add.1\*  
22 September 1978

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Thirty-third session  
Agenda item 32

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-third year

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Special report of the Special Committee against Apartheid  
on oil sanctions against South Africa

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\* 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-third Session, Supplement No. 22A.

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

21 September 1978

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the attention of the General Assembly and the Security Council, a special report by the Special Committee against Apartheid on oil sanctions against South Africa.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Leslie O. HARRIMAN  
Chairman  
of the Special Committee against Apartheid

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Special report on oil sanctions against South Africa

1. Since its inception in 1963, the Special Committee has constantly stressed the importance and effectiveness of an oil embargo against South Africa among measures which may be taken by the international community for the eradication of apartheid in South Africa.
2. In its report to the General Assembly in 1963, it recommended a study of means to ensure an effective embargo on the supply of petroleum to South Africa. 1/
3. The General Assembly, in resolution 1899 (XVIII) of 13 November 1963, on the question of Namibia, urged all States to refrain from supplying in any manner or form any petroleum or petroleum products to South Africa.
4. Subsequently, in 1965, the Expert Committee established in pursuance of Security Council resolution 191 (1964) emphasized, in its report, the importance of an embargo on petroleum and petroleum products among measures which could, as appropriate, be taken under the Charter of the United Nations against the Republic of South Africa. 2/ The Security Council, however, took no action on this report because of the opposition from a few States.
5. Investments in the petroleum industry in South Africa greatly increased since 1965 - especially from the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France and Iran - and the South African régime began to stockpile petroleum at great expense.
6. Meanwhile, however, the proposal for an oil embargo, strongly supported by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Conference of Non-Aligned States, received increasing support from the Member States. Following the decision of the Summit Conference of Arab States in Algiers, in November 1973, to impose a complete oil embargo on South Africa, OAU and the Special Committee redoubled efforts towards an embargo by all States.
7. The Programme of Action against Apartheid, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 31/6 J of 9 November 1976, called upon all Governments "to refrain from supplying petroleum, petroleum products or other strategic materials to South Africa". In resolution 32/105 G of 14 December 1977, the Assembly again requested all States "to impose an embargo on the supply of petroleum and petroleum products to South Africa and on investment in the petroleum industry in South Africa".
8. In order to facilitate such action, the Special Committee arranged for an

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 30, document A/5497, para. 515.

2/ Official Records of the Security Council, Twentieth Year, Special Supplement No. 2 (S/6210), para. 13.

expert study on "Oil Sanctions against South Africa". <sup>3/</sup> The study shows clearly that an oil embargo is feasible and would be effective if imposed by a mandatory decision of the Security Council.

9. The Special Committee, therefore, recommends that the Security Council consider the matter urgently and take a mandatory decision, under Chapter VII of the Charter, for an embargo on the supply of petroleum and petroleum products to South Africa. It recommends that all States be urged to enact legislation to prohibit:

(a) The sale or supply of petroleum or petroleum products to any person or body in South Africa, or to any other person or body for the purpose of eventual supply to South Africa;

(b) Any activities by their nationals or in their territories which promote or are calculated to promote the sale or supply of petroleum or petroleum products to South Africa;

(c) The shipment in vessels or aircraft of their registration, or under charter to their nationals, of any petroleum or petroleum products to South Africa;

(d) The supply of any services (technical advice, spare parts, capital, etc.) to the oil companies in South Africa.

10. In this connexion, the Special Committee draws the attention of the General Assembly and the Security Council to the provisions of resolution CM/Res. 634 (XXXI), adopted by the thirty-first ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (see A/33/235, annex I).

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<sup>3/</sup> Martin Bailey and Bernard Rivers, "Oil Sanctions against South Africa", United Nations, Centre against Apartheid, Notes and Documents No. 12/78, June 1978.