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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached letter dated 26 May 1971 from the Permanent Observer of the Federal Republic of Germany was addressed to the President of the Security Council with reference to the letter dated 7 May 1971 from the Chairman of the Special Committee on Apartheid (S/10190).

LETTER DATED 26 MAY 1971 FROM THE PERMANENT OBSERVER OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 7 May 1971 addressed to you by the Chairman of the Special Committee on Apartheid (S/10190). The letter contains a statement that "the Federal Republic of Germany and Israel's involvement (i.e. in the arms trade with South Africa) are becoming more apparent".

I wish to repeat what has been officially stated by my Government on several occasions, i.e. that the Federal Republic of Germany has strictly and consistently observed the arms embargo against South Africa in compliance with the decisions of the Security Council.

My Government is, therefore, surprised at the Special Committee's above-mentioned conclusion. Neither the Committee's main report of 16 March 1971 on the development of arms trade with South Africa since 23 July 1970 (A/AC.115/L.285) nor the addenda of 19 April and 6 May 1971 (A/AC.115/L.285/Add.1 and Add.2) contain any facts that would justify such an inference. In the main report allegations previously raised against the Federal Republic of Germany figure together with my Government's official denials. The assertion contained in addendum 2 (assistance in the development of a South African rocket) is not only entirely unfounded but has never been brought to my Government's attention for comment.

On instructions from my Government, I therefore wish to protest against the Special Committee's conclusion pertaining to the Federal Republic of Germany, which is unfounded and in no way consistent with the facts presented in the Committee's report.

I likewise wish to protest against the statement in the letter that, in the case of the Federal Republic of Germany, information with regard to arms trade with South Africa has been restricted. In view of the fact that my Government has always given complete and correct information to all United Nations bodies - a fact that has never been disputed - this statement is totally unwarranted.

In exercising my Government's right of reply, I should be grateful if you could have this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Walter GEHLHOFF
