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LETTER DATED 2 JULY 1970 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON THE POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SOUTH AFRICA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to operative paragraph 5 (b) of General Assembly resolution 1971 (XVII) of 6 November 1962 and of operative paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 1978 A (XVIII) of 16 December 1963 and to inform you that at its 139th meeting held today, the Special Committee on the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa has unanimously decided to bring to the attention of the Security Council the question of the arms embargo against South Africa. In this connexion the Special Committee wishes to transmit a note on "Military Forces and Equipment of the Republic of South Africa"^{1/} together with the texts of the statements made by the Chairman and the Rapporteur at the 138th meeting.^{2/} It is the hope of the Special Committee that the Council will give its urgent attention to this matter and also will take into account the remarks that are contained in this communication.

It may be recalled that following its last consideration of the question of race conflict in South Africa resulting from the policies of apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa, the Security Council adopted on 18 June 1964 resolution 191 (1964) in which it reaffirmed its previous call upon all States to cease forthwith the sale and shipment to South Africa of arms, ammunition of all types, military vehicles, and equipment and materials for the manufacture and maintenance of arms and ammunition in South Africa.

1/ A/AC.115/L.279.

2/ A/AC.115/L.277; A/AC.115/L.278.

In its reports submitted to the General Assembly and the Security Council since the adoption of that resolution, the Special Committee has pointed out that the Council's decision on the arms embargo had not been fully implemented by all States. While most States had faithfully implemented the arms embargo against South Africa, the South African Government had continued to receive aircraft, submarines and other equipment for military use from several others. The Special Committee has also noted that some States had continued to permit the export to South Africa of spare parts for military equipment and trucks for military use, and continued provision of training for South African military personnel, and that South Africa had been able to receive licences, technical assistance, and foreign capital for a great expansion of the manufacture of arms ammunition and military vehicles and equipment.

The Special Committee has repeatedly urged the Security Council to take firm measures to make the arms embargo fully effective, because South Africa was using its military power not only to impose its racial policies, but also to defy the decisions of the United Nations with regard to Namibia and Southern Rhodesia, and threaten independent African States.

Member States which have supplied arms and military equipment to South Africa despite the arms embargo have contended that they did not provide South Africa with weapons and equipment which would enable the South African Government to enforce its policies of apartheid or which could be used for purposes of repression. It should be noted in this connexion, that the national movement of the oppressed people of South Africa, whose struggle for liberation has been recognized as legitimate by the United Nations, have resorted to tactics of guerilla warfare and that the South African Government has responded by "anti-terrorist" operation requiring the use of military equipment supposedly provided for external defence.

Last year, the South African Minister of Defence, Mr. Botha stated that the South African Air Force was being geared to a new peak of readiness to combat "terrorists". He pointed out that South Africa's most recent orders for aircraft were those types which were designed to play an important role in unconventional or guerilla warfare. The South African police and security forces have been engaged in "anti-terrorist" activities not only along South African borders, but in Southern Rhodesia. Last year the Commissioner of Police, General J.P. Gous

stated that men taking part in these activities needed a thorough training and their work was quite different from ordinary police work. He added that as a result of the special training given to members of the police during recent years against "terrorist" activities, South African police now, at all times, had about 3,000 men ready, equipped and trained to perform duties on the country's borders. It follows that South Africa is determined to wage war against the liberation movement of its oppressed people and that it has been using weapons and equipment made available by its suppliers.

The Special Committee therefore rejects the distinction drawn by certain Governments between arms which can be used for imposing apartheid, namely small arms and guns and sophisticated weapons and equipment required for external defence. Since the South African Government is able to manufacture small arms locally, a ban limited to such arms would defeat the intentions of the Security Council resolutions on the matter. The Special Committee, therefore considers it essential that steps should be taken by the Security Council to ensure the implementation of a complete embargo on the supply of all weapons and military equipment to South Africa. It recommends that the Security Council should review and strengthen the implementation of its relevant resolutions and to this end call upon all States:

(a) to implement fully the arms embargo against South Africa, without reservations and restrictive interpretations;

(b) to withhold supply of all vehicles and equipment for use of the South African armed forces;

(c) cease supply of spare parts for military equipment used by the South African armed forces;

(d) revoke all licences granted to the South African Government or to South African companies for the manufacture of arms and ammunition and military vehicles;

(e) Prohibit investment in or technical assistance for the manufacture of arms and ammunition, aircraft, naval craft or other military vehicles; and

(f) cease provision of military training for members of the South African armed forces and all other forms of military co-operation with South Africa.

The strengthening of the arms embargo against South Africa is all the more urgent not only because of the repressive policy of the South African Government against the liberation movement but also and more particularly in view of its present actions namely, its illegal occupation of Namibia, the assistance given to the illegal racist minority régime in Southern Rhodesia and the threats it has made against independent African States for their assistance to opponents of apartheid.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) Abdulrahim A. FARAH
Chairman
Special Committee on the Policies of
Apartheid of the Government of the
Republic of South Africa
