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FIRST 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-seventh Session, Supplement No. 22A (A/37/22/Add.1).

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

31 August 1982

Sir,

I have the honour, in accordance with resolution 36/172 M adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 1981, to transmit herewith a special 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) Alhaji Yusuff MAITAMA-SULE
Chairman of the
Special Committee against Apartheid

His Excellency
Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, N.Y.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. For almost a decade, the Special Committee against Apartheid has drawn the attention of the General Assembly to the increasing collaboration between Israel and South Africa in the military, nuclear, political, economic and other fields. The General Assembly has repeatedly called upon Israel to cease such collaboration, 1/ but the Government of Israel has defied all appeals. In fact, the collaboration assumed increasing scope, especially since the visit of the South African Prime Minister Mr. B. J. Vorster to Israel in 1976 and the signing of a series of agreements. Moreover, both countries developed closer relations with the authorities in Taiwan and with certain other régimes.

2. In resolution 36/172 M, adopted on 17 December 1981, the General Assembly again expressed grave concern about reports of continued collaboration between Israel and South Africa, in particular in the military and nuclear fields, and considered that such collaboration "is a serious hindrance to international action for the eradication of apartheid, an encouragement to the racist régime of South Africa to persist in its criminal policy of apartheid and a hostile act against the oppressed people of South Africa and the entire African continent, and constitutes a threat to international peace and security". It stated, in the operative part of the resolution:

"1. Strongly condemns the continuing and increasing collaboration of Israel with the racist régime of South Africa, especially in the military and nuclear fields;

2. Demands that Israel desist from and terminate all forms of collaboration with South Africa forthwith, particularly in the military and nuclear fields, and abide scrupulously by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council;

3. Requests the Special Committee against Apartheid to keep the matter under constant review and to report to the General Assembly and the Security Council as appropriate."

3. During the same month, however, the Minister of Defence of Israel was reported to have made a secret visit to the northern borders of Namibia, a territory under illegal South African occupation for which the United Nations has assumed responsibility. It was reported that Israel would supply South Africa with, or enable it to build, patrol boats with missiles, in flagrant violation of the mandatory arms embargo against South Africa.

4. The Special Committee has been gravely concerned at the attitude and actions of the Government of Israel. In his address to the extraordinary meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-aligned Movement, held in Kuwait in April 1982, the Chairman of the Special Committee recalled the growing collaboration between Israel and South Africa and stated:

"We face a grave situation today both in Southern Africa and in the Middle East, a situation that spells the danger of wider conflagrations ...

"But we are faced not only with parallel situations, but with the ever-increasing collaboration between the Pretoria régime and Israel in military, nuclear, political, economic and other fields. This collaboration has become so brazen that only a few weeks ago the Minister of Defence of

Israel visited the northern borders of Namibia, a territory for which the United Nations has special responsibility, to advise the illegal authorities in their criminal plans.

"South Africa and Israel have not only set up a diabolic axis or alliance, but are trying to forge a so-called sixth world alliance of outlaws and pariahs, which poses an enormous danger to international peace and security. The danger of these countries being enabled to engage in nuclear blackmail in this troubled world needs urgent attention of the international community.

"We have reason to be alarmed that the so-called strategic co-operation between the United States and Israel - and the emergence of a similar relationship between the United States and South Africa - will reinforce the military relationship between the régimes of Tel Aviv and Pretoria."

5. The present report, prepared in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 36/172, reviews developments since the previous report submitted in September 1981. 2/

II. MILITARY AND NUCLEAR COLLABORATION

6. It was reported in August 1981 that Israel was hoping to boost arms exports by more than \$2 billion from 1982 to 1985. Such a plan depended on the approval of the United States Government to allow Israel to export arms to Taiwan and South Africa, since many Israeli weapons have vital United States-made components. The Minister of Economy of Israel was reported to have appealed to the United States Government as follows: "Do not compete with us in Taiwan, do not compete with us in South Africa, do not compete with us in the Caribbean or in other countries where you could not directly do it." 3/

7. General Natan Nir, Chairman of the Association for the Welfare of Soldiers in Israel, visited South Africa for three weeks in September 1981 on a mission "to help give soldiers the feeling that they are needed and appreciated". He met several high-ranking South African military officers and praised the recent South African raid into Angola. 4/

8. Israel's Defence Minister Mr. Ariel Sharon visited the "operational areas" in Namibia in December 1981 during large-scale aggression by South Africa against Angola and was reported to have made a strong appeal for South Africa to be supplied with sophisticated arms. According to press reports, Mr. Sharon's views were shared by American and the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance's military analysts. 5/

9. Reporting on the visit of the Israeli Defence Minister, the New York Times stated that "the military relationship between South Africa and Israel, never fully acknowledged by either country, has assumed new significance with the recent 10-day visit by Israel's Defence Minister, Mr. Ariel Sharon, to South African forces in Namibia along the border with Angola". It noted that Military Balance, the annual publication of the Institute for Strategic Studies in London, had reported that the South African Navy had seven Israeli-built fast-attack craft, armed with Israeli missiles and seven more were under order. 6/

10. The Chairman of the Special Committee, in a statement on 14 December 1981, said:

"The report in the New York Times today on the recent visit of Israel's Minister of Defence to Namibia should come as no surprise to those who have been following with consternation the collusion between the régimes in Pretoria and Tel Aviv, especially since 1976. The constant denials by the Israeli Government, repeated again by its representative in the General Assembly on 30 November 1981, have again proved to be utterly false.

"The visit of the Israeli Minister to Namibia, an international Territory for which the United Nations has special responsibility, at a time when South Africa was engaged in criminal aggression against the People's Republic of Angola, is a further brazen act of encouragement to the apartheid régime.

"It is a hostile act against the people of Namibia, South Africa and the front-line States, as well as the continent of Africa. It is an affront to the United Nations and a challenge to the international community.

"On behalf of the Special Committee, I must also express shock at the report that the Israeli Minister of Defence, 'in company with many American and NATO military analysts', called for the supply of more modern weapons to South Africa."

11. An article in Militaria, an official technical periodical of the South African Defence Force, reported in February 1982, that South Africa would possibly build or purchase six Israeli frigates, equipped with Gabriel missiles, torpedoes and a helicopter. 7/

12. Sunday Times, London, reported in May 1982 that, according to a book to be published in Israel by three Israeli authors, Israel and South Africa were developing a cruise missile with a range of 1,500 miles, a neutron bomb and various nuclear delivery systems. The three authors were said to be very well known established figures in Israel with excellent connexions in the military and Government. One of them, Mr. Amos Perlmutter, who worked for four years at the Israeli nuclear centre at Dimona, was then a professor at the American University. 8/

III. ECONOMIC COLLABORATION

13. Israel's trade with South Africa decreased in 1980 as a result of strict Israeli financial policies. Israeli imports from South Africa fell from \$153 million in 1979 to \$134.43 million in 1980 and Israeli exports to South Africa increased from \$48.2 million in 1979 to \$80.75 million in 1980. But this appears to be a temporary phenomenon.

14. The Director of the Israel Export Institute, Mr. Rami Gutt, wrote in the South Africa-Israel Economic and Trade Annual that the development of trade between Israel and South Africa was the natural development of their friendly political relations as well as their geographical proximity. He noted that the rate of advance of Israel's exports to South Africa was relatively greater than that of Israel's sales to other countries in the world: the rate of the growth of imports of South African goods to Israel was also greater than that from other sources.

15. Israel, he said, absorbed about 1 per cent of South Africa's exports, and provided the latter with about 0.5 per cent of its imports. (These figures do not include arms sales, oil, diamond and gold.) Mr. Gutt stated that there existed

significant possibilities for the development and further advancement of trade between the two countries including the establishment of an industrial plant that would utilize raw materials from South Africa to manufacture goods for export to the European Economic Community (EEC) to which Israel had tariff-free access without restriction on volume. 9/

16. The Israel-South African Chamber of Commerce (ISACC) held a symposium in Tel Aviv in January 1982 on the development of Israeli-South African trade. It was attended by more than 200 Israeli businessmen, all involved or interested in commercial and industrial ties with South Africa.

17. Dr. Piet J. Kieser, the managing director of the South African Foreign Trade Organization (SAFTO), was the guest speaker. He outlined various areas of possible co-operation between industrialists of both countries. These, he indicated, were largely due to the high levels of technology attained in complementary industries by both Israel and South Africa.

18. Papers delivered at the symposium included:

"The policy of investments from South Africa" by Mr. Raphael Benvenisti of the Israel Investment Authority;

"Economic agreements between Israel and South Africa" by Mr. Ephraim Raviv, former Counsellor for Economic and Commercial Affairs at the Israeli Embassy in South Africa;

"The experience of Israeli manufacturers of metal products in South Africa" by Mr. Steph Wertheimer, a leading industrialist who has several manufacturing interests in South Africa."

19. During a luncheon hosted by a leading Israeli bank, the Director-General of the Israel Export Institute, Mr. Avraham Rami Gutt, concluded the symposium by reiterating the high priority his organization placed on developing the South African market. He mentioned various exhibitions of Israeli goods which were held in South Africa during the past two years and expressed appreciation of the way in which they were received in the Republic. 10/

20. A seminar on the advancement of trade between Israel and South Africa was organized by the Israel-South Africa Chamber of Commerce in Haifa in July and was attended by 80 businessmen from that area. 11/ During the same month, the Chamber arranged a luncheon meeting in Tel Aviv, attended by 70 prominent businessmen, on trade opportunities in South Africa. 12/

21. The Special Committee referred in its last report to collaboration between Israel and South Africa in the diamond industry and to efforts by the Israeli Government to help the South African industry. 13/ It has been reported that the Israeli Government set up a \$100 million fund in co-operation with banks and the Israeli diamond industry as an inducement to that industry. 14/

22. The president of the Israeli Zim Eilat Services, Mr. Ben Tal, visited South Africa in February 1982 and stated that the South African-Israeli shipping trade would be built up and the service improved through good understanding and mutual co-operation. 15/

23. It was reported in March 1982 that a Cape Town company, Huguenot, had entered into a licensing arrangement for the manufacture of its "Redwood Jeans" in Israel. Manufacture in Israel would facilitate export to EEC countries. 16/

24. Israel has also increased economic involvement in Namibia, contrary to United Nations resolutions. Windhoek Advertiser reported on 22 January 1982 that a new large-scale fishing company, Makorob Fishing, had been registered in Windhoek. Enok, an Israeli company, would own 49 per cent of Makorob Fishing which had an initial capital of R1.1 million. It added:

"The Israelis had also been attracted by the cheap labour available in South West Africa as compared to Israel, as well as the close proximity of Lüderitz to the fishing grounds which would be trawled. The Israelis would be providing the 507-ton refrigerated stern trawler Yam Suf - which has been fishing along the west coast for a considerable period in the past. A portion of Yam Suf's catches would be processed into final products for export at Lüderitz, while the remainder would be sold to Mukorob's sister company in South Africa, South Atlantic Fisheries, which is an affiliate of Israel's Atlantic Fisheries, Ltd. Mr. Mynhardt went on to say that a South Atlantic Ltd-owned refrigerated reefer would call at Lüderitz on its way from Cape Town at regular intervals, to load a wide range of processed fish products for shipment to Israel or alternative overseas markets. 'South Atlantic Fisheries are no strangers in these waters and have been fishing off South Africa for the past 20 years or so. They have a good track record', said Mr. Mynhardt."

IV. CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND SPORTING CONTACTS

25. A joint medical conference of Israel and South Africa on pediatrics was organized by the South African Medical Research Council (MRC) at its headquarters in Parow in March 1982. Collaboration with Israel in the field of medical research had been initiated by MRC as early as 1978. 17/

26. It was reported that three senior South African science students were spending two months at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel after having been awarded travel grants by the South African Society of the Weizmann Institute. 18/

27. The start of construction of Israel's first public squash centre was celebrated at Herzlia in May 1982. South Africans Mr. Simon Malone of Squash Promotions, Mr. Mendel Kaplan and Mr. Robert Kaplan of Cape Gate Holdings and the Barrow brothers financed the project, which was designed by Louis Karol, a Cape Town architect. 19/

28. It was reported that concern was growing at the Israeli Embassy in Pretoria over the number of Israelis leaving their country to settle in South Africa. The Jewish Board of Deputies launched a study to establish the exact size of the Israeli community in South Africa which was estimated by some officials to be as high as 30,000. 20/

29. The Register of Sports Contacts with South Africa, published in February 1982 by the Special Committee, contained the following Israeli athletes and teams who maintained sporting contacts with South Africa: 21/

Shlomo Glickstein
J. Shenish
O. Jacob
A. Green
T. Friescher
Limor Friedman
Petah Tikva soccer team
Alpha-Benton volleyball team

V. RELATIONS WITH BANTUSTANS

30. A significant development has been the increasing collaboration by Israel with the so-called "independent" bantustans in defiance of resolutions of the United Nations.

31. It was reported in December 1981 that the Israeli Government had reached an agreement to participate in the agricultural development in the Bantustan of Bophuthatswana. The negotiations included a poultry scheme costing between R2 to R3 million and the development of the dairy industry in Bophuthatswana by one of the largest Israeli farming concerns involving up to R50 million. Discussions on utilizing Israel expertise and capital in projects in Bophuthatswana were conducted with government leaders, private concerns and financial institutions in Israel. 22/ The Bophuthatswana delegation was led by Mr. Hendrik Van Zyl who was accompanied by Mr. Glen Seape, Secretary for Agriculture and Mr. David Bestor, a farming expert. 23/

32. Israel and Bophuthatswana have developed close links since 1980 when Mr. Shabbatai Kalmanowitz, an adviser to the former Prime Minister Mrs. Golda Meir of Israel, was appointed its commercial representative in Israel and when "President" Lucas Mangope visited Israel.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

33. Dr. Yosef Burg, Israel's Minister of the Interior, Police and Religious Affairs visited South Africa in May 1982 at the invitation of the South African Zionist Federation. While in South Africa, Dr. Burg received a plaque and a proclamation scroll, naming a square in Johannesburg, "Jerusalem Square", from Johannesburg Deputy Mayor. 24/

34. Professor Amos Shapiro, Dean of the Law School of the Tel Aviv University, visited South Africa in April 1981 under the auspices of the South African Department of Foreign Affairs and Information. Addressing the South Africa-Israel Chamber of Commerce on the question of security legislation, he said that South Africa and Israel both faced "existential problems". 25/

Notes

1/ Resolution 3324 E (XXIX), para. 5, 16 December 1974; resolution 3411 G (XXX), para. 4, 10 December 1975; resolution 31/6 E, 9 November 1976; resolution 32/105 D, 14 December 1977; resolution 33/183 D, 24 January 1979; resolution 34/93 P, 12 December 1979; resolution 35/206 H, 16 December 1980; resolution 36/172 M, 17 December 1981.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 22A (A/36/22/Add.1 and 2), document A/36/22/Add.1.

3/ United Press International (Jerusalem), 17 August 1981.

4/ Rand Daily Mail (Johannesburg), 9 September 1981.

5/ The Star (Johannesburg), 15 December 1981; BBC, London, 16 December 1981.

6/ New York Times, 14 December 1981.

7/ Quoted in Die Burger (Cape Town), 26 February 1982.

8/ Sunday Times (London), 16 May 1982.

9/ The Citizen (Johannesburg), 8 December 1981.

10/ The Star (Johannesburg), 22 January 1982; South African Digest, Pretoria, 12 February 1982.

11/ South African Digest (Pretoria), 16 July 1982.

12/ Ibid., 23 July 1982.

13/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session Supplement No. 22A (A/36/22/Add.1 and 2), document A/36/22/Add.1, para. 26.

14/ Rand Daily Mail (Johannesburg), 1 December 1981.

15/ South African Digest (Pretoria), 5 February 1982.

16/ Sunday Times (Johannesburg), 7 March 1982.

17/ South African Digest (Pretoria), 5 March 1982.

18/ Rand Daily Mail (Johannesburg), 12 January 1982.

19/ South African Digest (Pretoria), 28 May 1982.

20/ Sunday Times (Johannesburg), 16 May 1982.

21/ Centre against Apartheid, Notes and Documents, 7/82, February 1982.

22/ Rand Daily Mail (Johannesburg), 15 December 1981.

23/ Sunday Times (Johannesburg), 20 December 1981.

24/ South African Digest (Pretoria), 30 April 1982; The Citizen (Johannesburg) 22 May 1982.

25/ South African Digest (Pretoria), 23 April 1982. Professor Shapiro was then visiting senior fellow at the Law School of Yale University and a visiting professor at the Georgetown Law Centre in the United States.

ANNEX I

Reports of the Special Committee on Relations
between Israel and South Africa

- 1982 A/36/22/Add.1-S/14689/Add.1
Official Records of the General Assembly,
Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 22A
- 1981 A/35/22/Add.2-S/14156
Official Records of the General Assembly,
Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 22A
- 1980 A/34/22/Add.2-S/13596/Add.1
Official Records of the General Assembly,
Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 22A
- 1979 A/33/22/Add.2-S/13596/Add.1
Official Records of the General Assembly,
Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 22A
- 1978 A/32/22/Add.3-S/12363/Add.3
Official Records of the General Assembly,
Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 22A
- 1977 A/31/22/Add.2-S/12150/Add.2
Official Records of the General Assembly,
Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 22A

ANNEX II

Publications of the Centre Against Apartheid of the Secretariat
on Relations between Israel and South Africa

- July 1981 Israel and South Africa - An Unlikely Alliance,
Rosalynde Ainslee (Notes and Documents, No. 20/81)
- February 1977 Relations between Israel and South Africa -
Report of the United Nations Special Committee against
Apartheid (Notes and Documents, No. 5/77)