

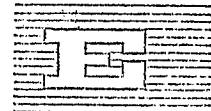
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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION  
AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID

Reports submitted by States parties under article VII of the Convention

Addendum

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS 1/

[7 January 1985]

The Soviet Union resolutely and consistently opposes the policy and practice of apartheid carried out by South Africa. The USSR strictly complies with the provisions of the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, and unswervingly supports and implements all the decisions and recommendations of international bodies aimed at putting an end to the provision of political, economic, military and other forms of assistance and support to the apartheid regime in South Africa and ultimately at the final elimination of the racist State in South Africa.

The international community is perfectly well aware, and this has been expressed in many decisions by various United Nations bodies; that without the all-round support and assistance of the imperialist countries the racists of Pretoria would not be able to continue with the criminal policy and practice of apartheid.

The South African authorities and the protection given them by the governments of the imperialist Powers are not alone responsible for the fact that racism is rampant in South Africa. According to the data of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, about 1,100 transnational corporations are currently operating in South Africa. Thus, it is quite clear that the investments of the

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1/ This document is a supplement to the fourth periodic report of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (E/CN.4/1984/36/Add.10), scheduled for consideration by the Group of Three at its 1985 session, and contains information submitted in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1984/7.

Western monopolies in the South African economy, which are continuing to grow contrary to the relevant decisions of the United Nations, provide the material foundations for preserving the apartheid regime in that country.

As was rightly pointed out in the 1981 Paris Declaration on Sanctions against South Africa, "the continuing political, economic and military collaboration of certain Western States and their transnational corporations with the racist regime of South Africa encourages its persistent intransigence and defiance of the international community and constitutes a major obstacle to the elimination of the inhuman and criminal system of apartheid in South Africa and the attainment of self-determination, freedom and national independence by the people of Namibia".

There is no doubt whatsoever that the countries in which the transnational corporations are based bear direct and immediate responsibility for their activities in support of the racist regime of South Africa. The international community knows very well which these countries are. Thus, in one of its resolutions (36/172), the United Nations General Assembly directly called on Great Britain, the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Israel to take urgent, effective measures to terminate all collaboration with South Africa "in the political, diplomatic, economic, trade, military, nuclear and other fields". It should be recalled in this connection that it was precisely the efforts of the United States, Great Britain and France which in 1981 prevented the Security Council from adopting a decision on the introduction of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa as envisaged in Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

There are no grounds for the allegations by these countries that they are unable to control the activities of their transnational corporations. The facts show that when it is politically necessary for them to do so, the headquarters countries of the transnational corporations can institute effective control over the activities of their corporations, without regard for the principle of "free enterprise", nor even for their own, still less foreign, legislation, nor for treaty or other international obligations. Suffice it to recall the measures to impose an embargo and the various "sanctions" adopted by the United States and some of its allies against a number of developing and socialist countries.

The Code of Conduct for transnational corporations should contribute to effective control over the activities of transnational corporations, including in South Africa, but the preparation of the Code in the United Nations is being blocked by the Western countries.

In justification of their co-operation with the South African regime, the official representatives of the Western States usually assert that this contributes to the "advancement" of the African population and the "democratization" of society. However, the facts show the opposite. The transnational corporations help South Africa to circumvent the embargo on arms supplies and give it material assistance in the creation of its own military industry, including in the development of nuclear energy, which represents a particular danger bearing in mind that the South African regime is successfully working on the development of its own nuclear weapons.

Thus, the economic, technological and military support provided by the international monopolies to the South African authorities strengthens the criminal regime of apartheid and helps to perpetuate the oppression of the African majority and to heighten the repression against those fighting for civil rights.

As is well known, the USSR is neither a country where transnational corporations are based nor a country which admits them. The Soviet Union does not entertain any kind of relations with South Africa in the diplomatic, economic, trade, military or any other field, and accordingly does not have any contractual or licensing agreements with Pretoria.

In their operations Soviet organizations strictly comply with Security Council resolution 418 (1977) of 4 November 1977 and 473 (1980) of 13 June 1980, as well as with other United Nations decisions concerning the boycott and embargo against the racist regime of South Africa.

The Soviet Union fully supports the just proposals by the African countries for the introduction by the Security Council of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.