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Items 34, 35, 46 and 110 of the
preliminary list*

QUESTION OF NAMIBIA

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF SOUTH AFRICA

CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROLONGATION OF THE
ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ

ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND
OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION
ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO
COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN
NAMIBIA AND IN ALL OTHER TERRITORIES
UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND
EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM,
APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fortieth year

Letter dated 5 July 1985 from the Permanent Representative
of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

Pursuant to my letter of 3 July 1985 (A/40/455-S/17322), I have the honour to request that this letter and the attached article from the magazine "Africa Confidential" of 10 April 1985, reporting the military transaction between Iraq and South Africa (see annex), be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 34, 35, 46 and 110 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council, and brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1985 in connection with its discussion of the item entitled "Permanent sovereignty over natural resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories".

(Signed) Said RAJAIE-KHORASSANI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/40/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Article from the magazine "Africa Confidential"
of 10 April 1985

187: Africa Confidential (Br), 85 04 10

SOUTH AFRICA I: GUNS FOR SALE. We understand that the State-owned armaments company, Arm Scor, has sold 100 G-5 155 mm howitzers to the Iraqi Government. The shipment, possibly in more than one vessel, reportedly left South Africa three weeks ago. The Iraqi port of Basra in the Gulf, Iraq's only port, would be a high-risk destination for the shipment since Basra is within range of Iranian fighter-bombers. Transshipment from Turkey is a possibility, but more likely is delivery to the Jordanian port of Aqaba, from where the G-5s would be taken by land to Iraq - an arduous route but perhaps less risky than Basra.

The G-5 was developed in the 1970s in South Africa by Arm Scor and the American Space Research Corporation, which acted contrary to the arms embargo on South Africa. Though the South African Defence Force (SADF) appreciated the development of a heavy artillery piece which conceivably could be used in southern Africa, the G-5 and its mounted self-propelled 95-kilometre-per-hour version - the G-6 - were primarily aimed at the foreign market, or, as South African Defence Minister General Magnus Malan said in 1982, "to the arsenals of friendly countries". Both guns are fully compatible with most variations of 155 mm NATO munitions. But since the G-5 was commissioned in 1979 the only conflict suitable for its use has been the Iran-Iraq war.

Arm Scor has had to retrench a lot of its staff for lack of work. The Iraqi deal, which appears to be worth about a billion Rand, is a bonanza for the financially hard-pressed South African Government. Presumably the payment will be made at least partly in crude oil deliveries.
