

SPECIAL REPORT
OF THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
AGAINST *APARTHEID*

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

2 November 1979

Sir,

I have the honour, in accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 33/183 D adopted by the General Assembly on 24 January 1979, to transmit herewith a report by the Special Committee against Apartheid reviewing recent developments concerning the 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) B. Akporode CLARK
Chairman of the
Special Committee against Apartheid

His Excellency Mr. Kurt Waldheim
Secretary-General of the
United Nations
New York

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In resolution 33/183 D of 24 January 1979, the General Assembly again strongly condemned Israel's continuing increasing collaboration with the racist régime of South Africa; demanded that Israel desist from and terminate all forms of collaboration with South Africa and abide scrupulously by the relevant resolutions of the Assembly and the Security Council; and requested the Special Committee to keep the matter under constant review and report to the General Assembly and the Security Council as appropriate.
2. The present report has been prepared in pursuance of the above request to the Special Committee.

II. GENERAL

3. During the past year, the Organization of African Unity, the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and numerous other organizations condemned the collaboration between the Government of Israel and the racist régime of South Africa, and called upon Israel to cease such collaboration. But the Government of Israel continued and expanded such collaboration.
4. Mr. Itzhak Unna, then Ambassador of Israel to South Africa, was reported to have stated before the South African Zionist Conference in Johannesburg in September 1978 that Israel would continue to refuse to condemn South Africa. He again expressed appreciation for the moral support which South Africa extended to Israel during the October War of 1973. 1/
5. Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel received a delegation from the United Israel Appeal of South Africa on 11 February 1979 and told them that the free world was shrinking and that free men stand together to resist the onslaught. 2/
6. The Sun of Baltimore, in a despatch from Johannesburg on 16 February 1979, stated:

"The increasingly closer links between South Africa and Israel have removed one burden from the cultivated and prosperous community of 120,000 South African Jews. They no longer face the tensions of the last decade when Israel's support of the United Nations sanctions against the Pretoria government raised suspicions within the dominant Afrikaner society about their role in South Africa.

1/ South African Digest, Pretoria, 8 September 1978; The Star, Johannesburg, 16 September 1978.

2/ The Star, Johannesburg, 12 February 1979.

"With trade in steel, coal and diamonds increasing and with cloaked but military ties, South Africa and Israel have become unofficial allies."

Mr. Unna told a Pretoria Press Club luncheon at the beginning of July 1979:

"I believe it is in the national interest of Israel to see South Africa as a strong country, with not just military muscle, but a viable economic structure and society where people have an equal share in its survival." 3/

7. Mr. Unna told another luncheon in Johannesburg in July, before his departure from South Africa, that Israel had great affection for South Africa. He said that it was in the interests of South Africa and Israel to resist the Arab States with strong, stable Governments. The Chairman of the South African Zionist Federation, Mr. I. Kalmanowitz, paid tribute to Mr. Unna who, he said, had done a "tremendous amount to cement good relations between South Africa and Israel at all levels - cultural, social, economic and political". 4/

8. Mr. Unna said in an interview published in To The Point (Cape Town, 27 July 1979), a paper which has been the recipient of secret funds from the apartheid régime:

"I cannot stress sufficiently how we in Israel cherish relations with South Africa, which has been consistent in her friendship towards us. This has been especially so since the watershed of the Six Days' War in 1967 ... We carefully refrain from joining in the sterile symphony of blanket condemnation of South Africa that emanates from the United Nations - that complete lack of recognition of positive symptoms of change in South Africa ... South Africa must be seen as having special values for the free world - which is already being blackmailed and held to ransom by the Arabs in terms of oil and energy. On top of this to have the immense natural mineral wealth and other assets of South Africa fall into the hands of dictatorial radical or communist régimes, would be a frightening situation - one that would make any discussions about racial equality, or even improvements in the racial situation, completely irrelevant.

"It would be a disaster if South Africa were lost as a constructive and active member of the free community of nations."

9. The close relations between South Africa and Israel were reflected in the decision of the South African régime, in April 1979, to approve the issue of 20 million dollars worth of Israeli bonds on the South African market over the next three years. It was the first time that a foreign country had been allowed to borrow on the South African capital market. 5/

3/ South African Digest, Pretoria, 6 July 1979.

4/ Ibid., 20 July 1979.

5/ Ibid., 20 April 1979.

10. Equally indicative was the report in Yediot Aharonot, an Israeli paper, on 18 June 1979, that South Africa had decided soon to transfer its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

III. MILITARY AND NUCLEAR COLLABORATION

11. Continued reports concerning the close collaboration by Israel and South Africa in the nuclear field have caused grave anxiety. 6/

12. The International Seminar on Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa, held in London on 23 and 24 February 1979 under the sponsorship of the Special Committee against Apartheid, pointed to the collaboration between Israel and South Africa in the nuclear field (S/13157). Miss Barbara Rogers told the Seminar that Israel was one of the few countries most directly involved in the military aspects of South Africa's nuclear programme, and was participating directly in the construction of military nuclear facilities in South Africa. Israel was furthering its own nuclear ambitions through collaboration with South Africa.

13. Mr. Wolf Geisler, leader of the Anti-Apartheid Movement in the Federal Republic of Germany, drew the attention of the Seminar to a report in Afrika Post, the publication of the German-South Africa Society, that the Swiss Secret Service had stated in June 1976, when Prime Minister Vorster was meeting the United States Secretary of State Kissinger in West Germany, that Israel was helping South Africa to build nuclear weapons from enriched uranium. Moreover, he said, there was a South African branch of the Weizmann Institute of Science, an Israeli institute engaged in nuclear physics, which had sponsored a nuclear conference. Seven Israeli nuclear scientists were working at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa.

14. Professor Ronald Walters of Howard University, Washington, D.C., stated on 5 July 1979 before the Security Council Committee established by resolution 421 (1977) concerning the question of South Africa that "the deliberations at London Seminar had illustrated the substantial role played by the United States of America, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Israel in the development of military and nuclear weapons capability (of South Africa)" (S/AC.20/SR.15).

6/ Available evidence of such collaboration was reviewed in 1978 by Zdenek Cervenka and Barbara Rogers in The Nuclear Axis (London: Julian Friedman, 1978). They quoted reports that United States intelligence analysts were convinced that the nuclear device which South Africa intended to explode in August 1977 had been produced by Israel. Major Gerald J. Keller wrote in the Naval War College Review (Newport, Rhode Island, Spring 1978) that Israel's desire to expand its contacts with South Africa was related to the acquisition of materials necessary for the manufacture of nuclear weapons, while Israeli help would accelerate South Africa's ability to produce such weapons.

15. There has also been evidence of the type mentioned in the following paragraphs of continued military collaboration between Israel and South Africa, despite declarations by Israel concerning implementation of Security Council resolution 418 (1977).

16. In February 1979, the leader of an Israeli delegation to South Africa predicted close co-operation between the two countries, particularly in military technology. He said the way was now open for the two countries to tackle common projects in fields such as electronics, energy and biochemistry. 7/

17. Of particular significance was the decision of the Ministry of Defence of Israel in June 1979 giving provisional approval to eight South African companies, including Roberts Construction, to tender for construction contracts in the 5,000 million rand military complex in the Negev Desert. 8/

18. In his statement before the Security Council Committee established by resolution 421 (1977) concerning the question of South Africa, on 3 April 1979, Mr. Abdul S. Minty, Honorary Secretary of the British Anti-Apartheid Movement, referred to the commitments entered into by the Government of Israel regarding the supply of weapons to South Africa. He stated that "clear information was needed as to the status of Gabrielle deal and the arrangement for the local production of Gabrielle missiles and for subsequent supplies from Israel. It was also important to ascertain the truth about fast patrol boats supplied to South Africa and whether the licenses for production in South Africa has been effectively revoked so that production could cease." He added that "the British Anti-Apartheid Movement had information of disturbing nature which suggested that co-operation in the field of electronics between Israel and South Africa was increasing and that joint ventures were being established in South Africa and in Israel in order to develop close liaison between the two countries" (S/AC.20/SR.9).

19. The Canadian Forum (Toronto, 10 April 1979) stated that the Space Research Corporation, involved in secret arms shipments to South Africa, had connexions with Israel. The United States Government, it stated, had presented evidence to a grand jury in Vermont showing that the Corporation had violated customs law in regard to military shipments to Israel. According to one source, Space Research products had been transferred from Israel to South Africa. The paper added that in exchange for hardened steels Israel had agreed to modernize 150 Centurion tanks for South Africa. It quoted the Institute for Strategic Studies in London as naming Israel as one of the main suppliers of arms to South Africa. Moreover, according to Africa Confidential, Israel had sent advisors to train the South Africans in anti-guerrilla warfare; it had sold them radar and electronic systems; it had made on-the-spot military assessments in Namibia and Rhodesia, and it had exchanged intelligence information with South Africa. Perhaps most disturbingly of all, "Israel has supplied South Africa with technology - especially information on its laser enrichment process - in return for uranium".

20. An Israeli expert on stress, who was a consultant to the Israeli Air Force, Israeli Ministry of Defence and the United States Army Research Institute, visited South Africa in April 1979. The visit was mainly for lecturing and establishing contacts with South Africa in the field of facing stress resulting from military and political problems. 9/

7/ Johannesburg Radio, 9 February 1979.

8/ South African Digest, Pretoria, 30 March 1979; The Star, weekly airmail edition, Johannesburg, 16 June 1979.

9/ Rand Daily Mail, Johannesburg, 30 April 1979.

21. The representative of the Anti-Apartheid Movement of the Netherlands stated, on 22 August 1979 before the Security Council Committee established by resolution 421 (1977) on the question of South Africa, that Israeli companies such as Tadiran were significant exporters of military electronic equipment to South Africa. Moreover, the Israeli electronic companies were increasing their military exports to South Africa. Israel was building very advanced missile craft of the "Reshef" class for South Africa (S/AC.20/SR.17).

22. Reference may also be made to reports that the 11 United States-made helicopters that surfaced in Southern Rhodesia were apparently shipped from Haifa in Israel with Singapore as the reported destination. However, these helicopters were sent to South Africa and from there to Southern Rhodesia. 10/

IV. ECONOMIC COLLABORATION

23. Economic relations between Israel and South Africa have expanded considerably during the period under review. Israel on its part has never denied such close relationship.

Trade

24. The South African ambassador to Israel, Mr. Dennis Franklin, told the annual meeting of South African-Israeli Chamber of Commerce in Jerusalem in March 1979 that bilateral trade between Israel and South Africa exceeded \$100 million for the first time in 1978. 11/

25. Financial Mail, Johannesburg, reported on 4 May 1979 that Israel was South Africa's second fastest growing market after Switzerland. Known exports to Israel had increased by 95 per cent in 1978 to 58.1 million rand. It was also estimated that 650 million rand worth of South African diamonds go to Israeli cutters annually, but these do not appear in trade statistics. Israel's exports to South Africa grew by 57.5 per cent in 1978 to 24.1 million rand. They include high technology articles such as computers. 12/

10/ Ibid., 8 January 1979.

11/ The Star, weekly airmail edition, Johannesburg, 3 March 1978. The Deputy Minister of Finance of Israel, who addressed the meeting, said that previous Israeli Governments had been somewhat ashamed of their relationship with South Africa. He added:

"I am proud to say this Government takes a different view. There is nothing to be ashamed of, but a lot to be proud of." (ibid.)

12/ According to the Israel supplement of Financial Mail, Johannesburg, of 14 September 1979:

"If uncut diamonds (supplied via London) and undisclosed defence force purchases are taken into account, Israel is already one of South Africa's biggest trading partners."

26. An important new development was the agreement, in principle, reached in January 1979, for the supply by the Transvaal Coal Owners Association of 750,000 to one million tons of coal annually, at a cost of \$23 million, to the Israeli Electric Corporation. 13/

27. It was reported in January 1979 that the newly-formed Commercial Company of the Israeli Hotel Association was looking to South Africa as a most promising source of supplies. 14/ Subsequently, South Africa began to supply Kosher beef to Israel, with a first consignment of 1,000 tons worth 2 million rand. 15/

28. The increasing trade relations have been accompanied by exchanges of trade missions. A mission from the Manufacturers' Association of Israel visited South Africa in October 1978. 16/ The Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut (AHI) was reported to have sent a trade mission to Israel in November 1978. 17/

Joint projects and South African investments in Israel

29. Sunday Times, Johannesburg, reported on 8 October 1978 that millions of rand were being invested by prominent South African businessmen in industrial ventures in Israel, with the approval of the South African Reserve Bank in accordance with arrangements between the two Governments.

30. Financial Mail, Johannesburg, reported on 4 May 1979:

"Joint ventures are probably the most significant development in South African-Israeli links in recent years and account for much of the increase in South African exports. One of the first off the mark was Iscor, which partners the Israeli industrial giant Koor in a large steel fabrication project. The free trade agreement signed in 1977 between Israel and the European Economic Community, abolishing custom tariffs on Israeli-made products, has given an extra boost to these undertakings.

"Moreover, the South African Government has given its blessing to such ventures by providing a 12 million rand foreign exchange allocation for companies investing in Israel. Pretoria and Tel Aviv last year signed a double taxation agreement.

"One of the largest South African ventures in Israel is that under construction by Hendler and Hendler. The firm is building a plant to manufacture kitchenware. Total investment is 6 million rand, with Hendlers putting in 2 million rand.

13/ AFP, 14 January 1979; South African Digest, Pretoria, 19 January 1979.

14/ Financial Gazette, Johannesburg, 19 January 1979.

15/ To the Point, Cape Town, 4 May 1979.

16/ South African Digest, Pretoria, 27 October 1978.

17/ Ibid., 1 December 1978.

"South Africa will earn 3 to 4 million rand a year as a result of exports of raw materials for the factory. According to joint managing director Archie Hendler, "the main reason for going into Israel is to gain access to the Common Market".

"Chemical manufacturer Chemtra has signed an agreement with the Israeli company Polichrom to produce calcium carbonate and barytes (used as filler in the plastics, paint and paper industries). However, Toekie Rudaizky, a Chemtra director, asserts that his firm is still awaiting clarification on a number of issues before going ahead with the project. The investment will be worth 2 million rand and Chemtra will have a 50 per cent stake.

"According to Rudaizky, the company decided to invest in Israel because of the 'excellent incentives that the Israeli Government offers'. These include cash grants, low-interest loans and tax concessions. He adds that 'in the long term we are interested in establishing a marketing office which will be used as a springboard to get South African products into Europe'.

"Some South African firms, however, are only interested in the small Israeli home market. For example, tycoon Eric Ellering, in partnership with Israelis and Belgians, is establishing several plants to manufacture ready-mix cement for industrial buildings. Ellering has invested 500,000 rand in this venture and the first plant will come into operation in July. Three or four more will follow later. Most of the cement for this project will be imported from South Africa.

"Textile wholesaler Greenstein and Rosen has invested over 450,000 rand in a textile factory. Real estate agent J. H. Isaacs is involved in the construction of a 5 million rand marineland complex in Tel Aviv.

"Mendel Kaplan, managing director of Cape Gate, has, in his private capacity, set up a plant in Israel to manufacture reinforcing mesh. Another South African company has a stake in a mattress manufacturing operation. Finally, it is rumoured that several local firms have an interest in the production in Israel of strategic goods which are exported to South Africa." 18/

18/ The Israel supplement to Financial Mail, Johannesburg, 14 September 1979, stated:

"... as a growing number of local industrialists realize, Israel is ideal for joint manufacturing ventures and selective industrial investment, because it is an EEC associate member which also exports a large variety of goods to the United States duty-free."

V. SPORTS EXCHANGES

31. Sports bodies in Israel have continued their contacts with South Africa with strong encouragement by the Government of Israel.
32. On 21 January, the presidium of the Olympic Committee in Israel decided unanimously to break off all sporting relations with South Africa. Mr. Yitzhaq Ofeq, Chairman of the Committee, told the press that the decision had been taken so as not to jeopardize Israel's entry for the Moscow Olympics in July 1980. Instructions had been given to the gymnastic body of Israel to cancel the planned trip to South Africa. Groups outside the Olympic Committee, such as student sports bodies and local bowls, cricket and rugby associations which maintained particularly close ties with South Africa, were being asked to fall in line with the ban. 19/
33. On 23 January, however, the plenary meeting of the Israel Olympic Committee reversed the decision of the presidium. Mr. Hayim Wein, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and Chairman of the last three Maccabiah Games, said that the plenary had decided to continue relations with South Africa as before, acting only within the rules laid down by the international sports federations regarding competition with South Africa.
34. Mr. Yariv Oren, director of the government sports authority, attended the meeting. 20/
35. The leaders of the Olympic Committee and the representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education reported the decision to the Knesset Education Committee on 30 January, and stated that the Olympic Committee would, in future, be scrupulous about advance co-ordination. The representative of the Foreign Ministry said that the decision of 21 January, which had been made without co-ordination, had damaged relations with South Africa. 21/
36. The national bridge team of Israel visited South Africa during December 1978 and participated in a number of matches in different cities in South Africa. 22/
37. The South African Amateur Gymnastic Union announced in January 1979 that Israeli gymnasts had accepted invitations to participate in the Sanlam event in Cape Town early in 1979. 23/

19/ Jerusalem Post, 23 January 1979. The paper stated that the ban would bring to an end the frequent exchanges between Israel and South Africa which have existed for many years in more than a score of sports, on both the team and individual level.

20/ Jerusalem Post, 24 January 1979.

21/ Jerusalem Radio, 30 January 1979. During the debate, a member of the Knesset, Mr. Josi Sarid, said that Israel's sports relations with South Africa were based on bribery and should be stopped.

22/ The Rand Daily Mail, Johannesburg, 5 December 1978.

23/ The Citizen, Johannesburg, 27 January 1979.

VI. TOURISM, CULTURAL AND OTHER RELATIONS

38. Tourism between Israel and South Africa reached a record during the period under review. According to a spokesman of the Tourist Office of the Government of Israel, more than 17,000 South Africans visited Israel in 1978. At the same time, there had been an increase of about 200 tourists a month visiting South Africa from Israel. 24/
39. The Johannesburg Star reported in July 1979 that applications by Israelis for tourist visas to South Africa had increased by 38 per cent during the year. About 3,000 workers in the diamond industry had inquired about possibilities of employment in South Africa and many had taken out tourist visas. 25/
40. It was reported in May 1979 that the South African régime had decided to open a tourist office in Israel in view of the large increase in tourism between the two countries. South Africa would be the first country to open such an office in Israel. A decision to that effect had been adopted during the visit of the South African deputy minister of tourism, Mr. Theo Burns, to Israel. 26/
41. South African Airways and El-Al, the Israeli airline, reached agreement in November 1978 on air services between South Africa and Israel. The agreement allowed South African Airways to introduce a second service to Tel Aviv at any time to match the existing El-Al passenger capacity. Another El-Al service might be introduced in the future. 27/
42. Production of a joint Israeli-South African film, budgeted at 2.5 million rand, started in Johannesburg in November 1978. The film, based on a story entitled "Return of the generals", written by Bruch Dienar, an Israeli producer-director, would be shot mostly in South Africa. 28/
43. The South African Digest, Pretoria, reported on 29 September 1978 that a company of 110 singers based in Israel would soon visit South Africa. It reported on 3 March 1979 that six South African medical researchers led by Professor A. J. Brink, Chairman of the Medical Research Council of South Africa, would visit Israel for the first of a series of conferences, as part of an exchange programme agreement between the Medical Research Council of South Africa and the Israeli National Council for Research and Development.
44. The President of the District Court of Jerusalem, Mr. Justice Felix Landau, visited South Africa in May 1979 for the seventy-fifth anniversary celebrations of a South African organization with branches abroad, including Israel. 29/

24/ South African Digest, Pretoria, 15 December 1978.

25/ Quoted in South African Digest, Pretoria, 20 July 1979.

26/ Tel Aviv Radio, 14 May 1979.

27/ Rand Daily Mail, Johannesburg, 23 November 1978.

28/ South African Digest, Pretoria, 24 November 1978.

29/ The Star, Johannesburg, 17 May 1979.

45. The Israeli harbour city of Akko and the South African harbour city of Simonstown were "twinned" to bring the total of "twinned" cities in South Africa and Israel to three. (The other sister cities are Haifa and Cape Town and Eilat and Durban.) Both Akko and Simonstown are naval bases of historical importance. Mr. Gordon Wilson, Mayor of Simonstown, said that the "twinning" was a friendship and goodwill pact to promote co-operation between Israel and South Africa in various spheres. 30/

46. It was reported that Dr. Bernard Cherrick, Vice-President of the Hebrew University in Israel, visited South Africa in August 1979 on a lecture tour. 31/

30/ South African Digest, Pretoria, 27 July 1979.

31/ Rand Daily Mail, Johannesburg, 10 August 1979.

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