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SPECIAL REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

Recent developments concerning relations between
Israel and South Africa

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* 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-ninth Session, Supplement No. 22A (A/39/22/Add.1).

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

17 October 1984

Sir,

I have the honour to send you herewith a special report of the Special Committee against Apartheid on recent developments concerning relations between Israel and South Africa, adopted unanimously by the Special Committee against Apartheid on 17 October 1984.

This special report is submitted to the General Assembly and the Security Council in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 2671 (XXV) of 8 December 1970 and 38/39 F of 5 December 1983.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Joseph N. GARBA
Chairman of the Special Committee
against Apartheid

His Excellency
Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Special Committee continued to devote special attention in the past year to the menace emanating from the increasing collaboration between Israel and South Africa.
2. It may be recalled that, in its report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, the Special Committee had pointed out that "the alliance between Israel and South Africa has emerged during this Decade [for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination] and represents an inescapable challenge to the United Nations" (A/38/22/Add.1-S/16101/Add.1, para. 37).
3. The Special Committee notes that there has been increasing international awareness of the seriousness of the collaboration between the two régimes in Pretoria and Tel Aviv and their close links with the Government of the United States of America, which provides protection to both of them.
4. The Conference of Arab Solidarity with the Struggle for Liberation in Southern Africa, organized by the Special Committee in co-operation with the League of Arab States and held at Tunis from 7 to 9 August 1984, included in its agenda an item entitled "Threat that the alliance between Israel and South Africa constitutes for African and Arab countries" (A/AC.115/L.615).
5. In its Declaration, the Conference "strongly condemned the close alliance which has developed between the racist régimes in Pretoria and Tel Aviv in their common hostility to genuine freedom of African and Arab peoples. The growing collaboration between these régimes in the military, nuclear, economic and cultural fields represents a menace to the African and Arab States and people".
6. In spite of the unwillingness of certain Western States to consider the serious developments in the relations between Israel and South Africa and the threat to international peace and security resulting from such a relationship, public opinion in the West is becoming more aware of, and concerned over, the situation.
7. The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, as well as many intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations have condemned the alliance between Israel and South Africa.
8. It may be recalled that, by resolution 38/39 F of 5 December 1983 concerning relations between Israel and South Africa, the General Assembly:
 - "1. Again strongly condemns the continuing and increasing collaboration by Israel with the racist régime of South Africa, especially in the military and nuclear fields;
 - "2. Demands that Israel desist from and terminate forthwith all forms of collaboration with South Africa, particularly in the military and nuclear fields, and abide scrupulously by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council;

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"3. Calls upon all Governments and organizations to exert their influence to persuade Israel to desist from such collaboration and abide by the resolutions of the General Assembly;

"4. Requests the Special Committee against Apartheid to publicize, as widely as possible, information on the relations between Israel and South Africa and especially the Declaration of the International Conference on the Alliance between South Africa and Israel;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to render, through the Department of Public Information and the Centre against Apartheid of the Secretariat, all possible assistance to the Special Committee in disseminating information relating to the collaboration between Israel and South Africa;

"6. Further requests the Special Committee to keep the matter under constant review and to report to the General Assembly and the Security Council as appropriate."

9. The present report is prepared in pursuance of the above-mentioned resolution.

II. MILITARY AND NUCLEAR COLLABORATION

10. The main aspect of Israel's collaboration with South Africa is in the military and nuclear fields. In a recent study on relations between the two countries, Mr. James Adams stated that "South Africa's military strategy has been developed with the help of Israeli officers. Her armed forces are equipped by Israel and their counter-insurgency tactics have evolved almost entirely as a result of lessons learned by the Israelis in their fight against the Palestine Liberation Organization ... Israel has been used as a conduit to smuggle arms to South Africa, and relations between both Governments and their arms industries were very close ...". He added that "nearly all the recent developments of ARMSCOR (the Arms Corporation of South Africa) have been derivatives of Israeli products or improvements on vintage material supplied by Western countries before the arms embargo came into force". 1/

11. Israel, he said, had helped South Africa to modernize 150 centurion tanks as part of a steel-for-technology deal. 2/

12. According to Mr. Adams, Israel was also assisting South Africa in its nuclear programme by supplying it with both personnel and nuclear technology. While South Africa had developed its own nuclear capability, the work in connection with the 1979 explosion in the South Atlantic region was done with the help of Israeli scientists and Israeli technology. 3/

13. As a result of agreements concluded between Israel and South Africa during the visit of then Israeli Defence Minister, Ariel Sharon, to South Africa in 1981, South Africa was reported to be financing the Levi aircraft, the first prototype of which is expected to fly by 1985, with first production due in 1990. Mr. Adams reported that South Africa would share in the profit as well as receive a supply of this modern aircraft. 4/

14. Israel had also supplied South Africa with the Shafrir missile. 5/

15. It was reported that the Megal, a company, which belonged to the Israeli Aircraft Industry (IAI) and makes electronic warning systems and electronic fences, had been sold to a South African investor. The plant, which is situated near the township of Yehud and employs 60 people, exports most of its output. The South African investor had acquired the company in view of the use by South Africa of equipment of the kind made by Megal along the Namibian borders. The South African investor owns a chain of industrial firms making a variety of products and maintains an extensive international marketing network. He has bought up 75 per cent of the company's shares, estimated to be worth about \$5 million. "Megal" has not been affected by the economic crisis and is receiving a large number of orders, mostly from foreign countries. According to the terms of the contract, the company will continue to operate from its present plant inside Israel. 6/

16. Israel and South Africa were reported to have established an inter-ministerial committee to work out the terms of a long-term agreement under which South Africa would be supplied with technology for nuclear armaments. 7/

III. ECONOMIC COLLABORATION

17. The marketing officer at the South Africa Trade Mission at Tel Aviv stated that both South Africa's exports to and imports from Israel had risen in 1983 to approximately R 250 million. 8/

18. It was reported that South African exports to Israel rose from R 64.5 million in 1981 to R 153 million in 1982, an increase of 138 per cent, mainly because of a R 47 million growth in the export of base metals.

19. Imports remained stable at about R 72 million, giving a bilateral figure of R 225 million. Twelve years ago it was only R 10 million.

20. The provisional non-official figure for South African exports in 1983 was R 170 million, which includes insurance and freight. Israeli exports to South Africa are put at R 85 million, excluding freight and insurance.

21. Metal and metal products made up more than 50 per cent of South Africa's total exports to Israel in 1983.

22. According to Mr. David Ellman, Chairman of the South Africa-Israel Chamber of Commerce, "the exports of mineral products increased by more than 200 per cent - almost R 10 million - to attain the figure of R 14 million".

23. Shipments of coal to the new Israeli power station at Hadera contributed to the big increase in this category.

24. Other categories that showed considerable increases in 1982 were vegetable products, which rose by 585 per cent, from R 4 million to R 26 million, and food and beverages, which increased by 175 per cent to R 6.5 million.

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25. Mr. Ellman said that if diamonds, routed through London to Israel, had been included, the trade gap would have been considerably wider, as they represent about R 500 million a year in exports.

26. In 1982, machinery, electrical equipment and parts became South Africa's largest category of import from Israel. This category made up 35 per cent of total South African imports from Israel. 9/

27. One of the major South African firms in the development of trade with Israel is the Iron and Steel Corporation of South Africa (ISCOR), which was awarded the South Africa-Israel Chamber of Commerce Award for exports to Israel for 1983. The merits considered in making the award were export volume, perseverance, innovation and the potential for further exports. ISCOR established, in co-operation with the Israeli group of companies Koor Industries, Iskoor Steel Services Ltd., in Israel in 1973. The development of the programme took place in two phases. The first was the establishment of a warehouse in Israel to which Iskoor could transfer steel in standard stock sizes for marketing there. The second phase entailed the establishment of a steel service centre with processing facilities capable of supplying material exactly to customer requirements. This centre came into operation in 1978 and has since been extended to meet an ever increasing demand. Future strategy for the joint venture, according to ISCOR, is to become actively involved with Israeli companies manufacturing items such as steel pipes, furniture, hollow-ware, containers, household appliances, castings and forgings. 10/ It has been reported that South Africa, through its links with Israel, was able to export commodities to the markets of the European Economic Community (EEC) and the United States.

28. It was reported that South Africa, which was already experimenting with advanced Israeli methods of soil preparation, computerized livestock feeding and field crop equipment, sent 200 agricultural experts to Agritech 83, Israel's international agricultural fair, in August 1983. This fair is held every two years. 11/

29. In the last two years, South African investment in Israel reached \$15 million a year. The history of direct South African investment in Israel goes back to its early days even before its establishment, when a group of South African investors established Africa-Israel Investments. Today, with its subsidiary, Bank Leumi, the company still has South African minority shareholders. Its portfolio includes substantial property and construction interests, one of Israel's largest insurance companies (Migdal), and a tourist complex at Tiberias Hot Springs. DBIC International was formed in 1981 as a 50/50 venture between Cape Gate Holdings of South Africa and Discount Investment Corporation, a major Israeli investment house. Products manufactured or assembled in Israel qualify for preferential duty treatment when exported to members of EEC. It is possible for South African manufacturers to export half-finished goods to Israel, finish them in Israel and re-export them to Europe. In terms of various agreements between the South African and Israeli régimes, South African citizens may invest in certain projects. These now include industrial projects, tourism and hotels, industrial infrastructural developments, commercial centres and community services, film production and the buying of shares in existing Israeli companies for the purpose of financing approved

expansion of production capacity. Also permitted is investment in approved new office and commercial buildings, construction firms, residential apartment projects, oil exploration projects and agricultural projects.

30. Koor Industries, Israel's largest single industrial conglomerate, has a number of South African interests, including a share in Sentrachem's Abgro herbicide factory near East London. Other Israeli involvements in South Africa include Iscar Blades; a food and vegetable dehydration venture in which Langeberg of South Africa has joined with Israeli and other investors; and HLS, which produces edible oils. South Africa's Gerber Goldschmidt group and the Israeli Government-owned Agridev have set up a joint venture called Agricarmel to distribute Israel's considerable agricultural expertise in southern Africa. The company undertakes preliminary agricultural studies and then provides advisers and managers, usually Israeli, to carry out its recommendations. Agricarmel, which already has a number of clients in South Africa and various homelands, works in co-operation with local distributors of Israeli equipment for soil preparation and fieldrow equipment; Diamond Implements Carmel (owned by the Diamond and Isadof families) for mixer feeders; and a third company, Orchard Carmel, now being established to market packhouse, hedging and topping equipment. 12/

31. The Israeli Government presented an award to Mr. Tony Factor, a South African, for his role in promoting the State of Israel, particularly in tourism. The award is the first of its kind in Israel. Mr. Factor stated that he had been able to send 10,000 tourists to Israel. 13/

IV. SCIENTIFIC, SPORTING AND CULTURAL COLLABORATION

32. The collaboration between Israel and South Africa in the scientific field has increased with serious military and nuclear implications. South African researchers receive assistance from Israel and in particular the Technikon-Israel Institute of Technology and the Weizmann Institute of Science. The Chairman of South Africa's Technikon Institute expressed concern at the cuts in university budgets in Israel because of its impact on the technological exchange agreements between the two régimes. 14/

33. Eight senior science students from South African universities were invited by the Weizmann Institute in Israel to work there as vacation assistants. Since 1977, when the science exchange scheme started, 45 senior students from South Africa have studied at the Weizmann Institute. 15/

34. The South African Medical Research Council organized a colloquium in March 1984 for six Israeli medical researchers and South African researchers. The colloquium considered aspects of distribution and control of infectious diseases. 16/

35. Mrs. Ruth Dayan, widow of the former Israeli Minister for Defence, visited South Africa in October 1983 and presented advice on rural self-help programmes. She was the guest of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Information and advised not only officials of the South African régime but also business leaders and

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representatives of the bantustans on the creation of work opportunities and combating unemployment. Mr. R. F. Botha, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Information of South Africa, entertained Mr. Eliyahu Lankin, the Israeli Ambassador, and Mrs. Dayan in Pretoria.

36. The Register of Sports Contacts with South Africa, published by the Special Committee in March 1984, includes the names of the following Israeli athletes who engaged in sporting contacts with South Africa during the last six months of 1983: (a) gymnastics: Yehoda Bello (for men); and T. Sirak (for women); (b) tennis: Doron Hartal, Oded Jakob, M. Langman, Shahar Perkiss, S. Rosenberg and E. Sinai.

V. COLLABORATION WITH BANTUSTANS

A. Political

37. The Israeli régime is one of the few in the world which maintains contacts on all levels with the bantustans. Faced with world-wide criticism and condemnation for its collaboration with the racist régime of South Africa and the bantustans, the Israeli régime has issued statements from time to time denying such contacts.

38. The Government of Israel announced that it was restricting its contacts with bantustans. A spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry stated that both "President" Lucas Mangope of Bophuthatswana and "President" Lennox Sebe of Ciskei were travelling with South African passports. He claimed that South African passport holders were freely admitted with no check on them. However, an official of the so-called independent bantustan of Ciskei confirmed that Ciskeians were travelling with Ciskeian passports. 17/

39. Israel has also been involved in agricultural projects and the development of a television service in Bophuthatswana. Other Israeli involvement in the bantustans included an offer to build a \$27 million teachers' training college in the bantustan of KaNgwane, due to be declared "independent", and a visit to Israel earlier this year by the entire 34-member Venda Chamber of Commerce, arranged by the South African-Israel Chamber of Commerce at Johannesburg. 18/

40. A delegation led by "Prime Minister" Chief George Matanzima of the Transkei bantustan visited Israel in March 1984, accompanied by Mr. Ntutuzeli Lujabe, "Minister for Foreign Affairs"; Mr. S. A. Qaba, "Minister for Finance"; Mr. R. S. Madikizela, "Minister for Commerce, Industry and Tourism"; and Major-General Martin Ngceba, "Commissioner of the Transkei Civil Defence Force". Chief Matanzima said that, as a result of the visit, many Israeli industrialists had decided to invest large sums of money in the construction of industries in Transkei. 19/

B. Military

41. Collaboration with bantustans in military and police affairs is alarming because the racist régime of South Africa has utilized the bantustans as tools of oppression and suppression against the people of South Africa.

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42. It was reported that Brigadier-General Ran Ronen, former Israeli fighter pilot and Commander of the Israeli pilots' school, was in charge of the planning and establishment of a pilots' school in the bantustan of Bophuthatswana. This scheme resulted from the discussion of "President" Lucas Mangope of Bophuthatswana and his "Defence Minister" during their visit to Israel in 1983. 20/

43. Israel also concluded an agreement with the bantustan of Ciskei to provide assistance in the establishment of a Ciskeian intelligence network and air force. During the visit of Mr. Lennox Sebe, "President" of the so-called independent bantustan of Ciskei, to Israel in 1983, the discussion also included arms sales. 21/

44. The Israeli ambassador to Pretoria acknowledged that there were a number of Israeli firms operating in the bantustans. When asked about the training of 20 Ciskeian pilots and the appointment of official bantustan representatives in Israel, he replied that they were holders of South African passports and that the pilots had attended a private flying school to get their civilian licences. 22/

45. Mr. V. G. Ntshinga, "Deputy Defence Minister of Ciskei", said in September 1983 that the Ciskei was buying "about six" new aircraft from Israel. He said Israeli instructors were coming to run "phase one" of the training programme in which selected pilots would be sent to Israel as well. He also said that the aircraft were new Mooney light planes manufactured in the United States, which would supplement the present British-built Islander aircraft, two Skyvans and an executive jet and military helicopter. Ntshinga's announcement was another official confirmation of Israeli involvement with the defence forces in the bantustans. Ciskei was also reported to be negotiating with Israel for doctors and military staff. It was also announced that a contract has been signed with an Israeli company for the construction of a hospital in the Hewu district. 23/

C. Economic

46. During the visit of "President" Mangope to Israel, a contract for the construction of housing was signed. Mangope's visit emphasized the increasing links between Israel and the bantustans. There had been earlier ties, including the opening of a Ciskei trade mission at Tel Aviv at the end of 1982 and the sale of an Israeli helicopter and a personal jet for "President" Sebe. During a visit to Israel in 1982, Lt. Gen. Charles Sebe, the brother of "President" Sebe, addressed a seminar of security experts and was photographed with Major Saad Haddad.

47. It was reported that Israeli industrialists had applied for permission to join countrymen like former Finance Minister Yoram Aridor in running factories in Ciskei.

48. Israeli interests in Ciskei are reported to include the following:

(a) Construction of two hospitals at a combined cost of more than R 32 million;

(b) Aviation contracts which appear to include supplying aircraft and training pilots at a total cost of R 6 million;

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- (c) Construction of factories for five approved industries;
- (d) Provision of agricultural training and expertise;
- (e) Supply of computer systems, worth about R 1 million, for educational purposes.

One of the deals concerns an offer of six "unsuitable" aircraft to Ciskei and another the sale of an executive Westwind 23 jet to Ciskei, for about R 2 million in 1983. The jet was used a few times from East London, as there was no place for it to land in Ciskei, and it was eventually sold. Ciskei maintains that the aircraft was bought for only R 800,000. Arrangements have also been made for training 15 Ciskei pilots at a commercial firm in Israel at a cost of R 5 million. The Ciskei People's Development Bank, which handles industrial development, refused to disclose Israeli investments. It has been established, however, that five Israeli factories were approved for Ciskei: a R 3 million car factory; a textile factory; a factory for the manufacture of T-shirts; a toy factory; and a factory for the production of vaccine. 24/

49. Many Israeli businessmen, reportedly including prominent Likud members of Parliament and the former Minister for Finance, are trying hard to make money out of the bantustans, especially the Ciskei. Israel's Ambassador in Pretoria, Eliyahu Lankin, was quoted in an Israeli paper as describing the business activities of former Finance Minister Yoram Aridor in Ciskei as "a massive scandal". Mr. Aridor was reported to have invested some R 3 million in a factory in Ciskei and to have visited Ciskei in the beginning of 1984. Dozens of other Israeli businessmen have travelled the same route recently. It was not just a matter of selling Israeli products but of large-scale Israeli investments in Ciskei and the other bantustans. Mattie Lipshitz, an Israeli building contractor, received a contract to build an international airport in Ciskei and Israeli corporations are heavily involved in building roads and earth-moving projects. Some of those deeply involved in business with Ciskei, other bantustans and with South Africa itself appear to be former military officers or government officials who made their initial contacts while in uniform or in public service. Mr. David Kimche was quoted as saying that Brigadier-General Ephram Poran, former military adviser to the Prime Minister, and another former officer of the Israel Defence Force were now living in South Africa. Former Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben Meir told a newsman that one of the Israeli "lobbyists" for the bantustans tried to manoeuvre him into "bumping into" a visiting Ciskeian dignitary in a Tel Aviv hotel. Ben Meir said he refused. Ciskei "President" Sebe attended a tourism event organized by Israel under the aegis of Tel Aviv municipality and received an official welcome. Sebe was also feted by the Ministry of Tourism and had his picture taken with another Israeli minister. 25/

50. The special adviser for Bophuthatswana, an Israeli named Ilan Sharon, said that many Israeli architects had signed long-term contracts for large building projects in Bophuthatswana. Israel Godowitz, an Israeli architect, was constructing a stadium involving an \$18 million investment, Sharon said, while another Israeli architect was involved in a \$4 million project for two cultural centres. A large Israeli company was reported to have finalized a deal to build a factory for sports shoes. 26/

D. Cultural

51. Ciskei also participated in the International Tourism Exhibition held at Tel Aviv in November 1983. It was reported that Ciskei had the largest representation in the exhibition. More than 40 dancers and officials from the "independent" bantustan of Ciskei participated in the event.

VI. ISRAELI ASSISTANCE TO THE APARTHEID REGIME IN ITS CONTROL OVER NAMIBIA

52. Israel is also assisting the apartheid régime in its control over Namibia. Mr. Eliyahu Lankin, the Israeli Ambassador to South Africa, suggested that "South-West Africa" should send a team of experts to his country to investigate in which areas Israel could be of help to the territory. The necessary aid could then be negotiated. Mr. Lankin was interviewed at Windhoek at the end of a visit to the territory at the request of the Jewish community there.

VII. CONCLUSION

53. Despite the denials of the Government of Israel, it continues to collaborate with the racist régime of South Africa as well as the bantustans, particularly in the military and nuclear fields. The Special Committee has drawn the attention of the international community to the serious consequence of such collaboration to peace and security in southern Africa and to international peace and security.

54. The Special Committee expresses its serious regret at the unwillingness of certain Western States to recognize the dangers of the collusion between Israel and South Africa and the encouragement they extend to Israel to continue in its defiance of the United Nations. The Special Committee urges the international community to act in order to persuade Israel to disengage from its collaboration with the racist régime in South Africa.

55. The Special Committee recommends that the United Nations should intensify efforts to publicize the collaboration between Israel and South Africa, and take all appropriate action under the Charter of the United Nations to end such collaboration.

Notes

- 1/ Adams, James, Unnatural Alliance (London, Quarter Books, 1984), pp. 29-71.
- 2/ Ibid., p. 111.
- 3/ Ibid., p. 195.
- 4/ Ibid., p. 120.

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Notes (continued)

- 5/ Strategy and Defence (Dublin), June-July 1984.
- 6/ Ha'aretz (Tel Aviv), 8 January 1984.
- 7/ United Press International, in a dispatch from Moscow dated 4 April 1984.
- 8/ The Argus (Cape Town), 7 March 1984.
- 9/ The Star (Johannesburg), 30 March 1984.
- 10/ The Citizen (Johannesburg), 25 January 1984.
- 11/ South African Digest (Pretoria), 2 September 1983.
- 12/ Financial Mail (Johannesburg), 11 May 1984.
- 13/ The Citizen (Johannesburg), 18 February 1984.
- 14/ Rand Daily Mail (Johannesburg), 1 November 1983.
- 15/ Ibid., 19 November 1983.
- 16/ The Citizen (Johannesburg), 17 March 1984.
- 17/ Rand Daily Mail (Johannesburg), 17 November 1983.
- 18/ African News (Washington), 21 November 1983.
- 19/ The Citizen (Johannesburg), 7 April 1984.
- 20/ Die Burger (Cape Town), 28 November 1983.
- 21/ Financial Mail (Johannesburg), 11 May 1984.
- 22/ Ibid., 16 December 1983.
- 23/ African News (Washington), 21 November 1983.
- 24/ The Argus (Cape Town), 7 July 1984.
- 25/ Daily News (Johannesburg), 22 June 1984.
- 26/ Sowetan (Johannesburg), 22 June 1984.
