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SHIPPING RESEARCH BUREAU  
ANNUAL REPORT 1 989  
Shipping Research Bureau  
P.O. Box 11898  
1001 GW Amsterdam  
the Netherlands  
Telephone: 131 20 251300/266073  
1-31 20 200066 (coal section)  
Telex: 10236 sanam nl  
Telefax: 4-31 20 220130

1989

#### TEN YEARS SHIPPING RESEARCH BUREAU

The year 1989 marks the expiry of the first decennium of the Shipping Research Bureau. Ten years ago in 1980 the Bureau was established because it became clear that a monitoring unit was an essential condition to develop an effective oil embargo. This was the main result of the 'International Sam'nam Oil Embargo) against South Africa', organised by the Holland Committee on Southern Africa and the World Council of Churches in cooperation with the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid, held in March 1980 in Amsterdam.

The founding organisations of the Shipping Research Bureau, the Holland Committee on Southern Africa and the Working Group Kairos (Christians against Apartheid) are two long-standing Dutch anti-apartheid organisations which have for many years now been actively engaged in actions against involvement by Western companies in oil supplies to South Africa. From 1973 onwards Kaitos has continuously been campaigning against the oil embargo issue, in particular against the major oil company SHELL. Since 1977, the Holland Committee on Southern Africa has joined in this campaign.

In the ten years of its existence the Bureau has focussed on in-depth research and publication of reports on the means whereby the oil embargo against South Africa was circumvented. Other objectives were to conduct research on legislative and other measures with regard to the oil embargo and to inform governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations on this particular matter, with the intent that these bodies would be able to make effective and optimum use of the research results.

Since 1980 the Shipping Research Bureau has published five main reports, presenting detailed information on oil deliveries to

South Africa, (:1 companies involved in this trade and m  
camtries or regions fmm where tankers sailed to South Africa.  
These reports cover the period 1979-mid 1987. Furthermore, the  
Shipping Research Bureau has released several special surveys on  
particular cmxpanies and other itens. Since 1985, the Bureau has  
published its quarterly Newsletter on the Oil Embargo against  
South Africa. This newsletter provides a regular flow of  
informatiön on the oil embargo issue to the media, to Governments  
and non-govemmental organisations as well as to individuals.

#### Financial support

The Bureau's activities have been made possible by financial  
support frcm several organisations in the field of internatialal  
development and co-opezatim, and by donations of church bodies  
intheNetherlandsandabxoad. Analgtheflmdingorganisatims  
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Federation of Trade Unions (LO), the International Confederatim  
of Free Trade Unions (ICE'IU), the World Council of Churches and  
the United Nations.

#### Coal research

SinceMarch1989theShippingResearchBureauhasalsobeen  
investigating shipments and export of coal fran South Africa to  
its main importers in Western Europe, the Far East (Japan, South  
Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan) Brazil, Turkey and Israel. The aim of  
this research is to ccntribute to the achievement of an  
international enbargo of coal originating frtm South Africa. In  
the quarterly Newsletter of the Shipping Research Bureau research  
findings cm the coal issue are published in the section 'Coal  
Monitor .

## THE OIL EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

Oil is without doubt South Africa's Achilles' heel as regards its dependence on the international community. Oil is the only strategic raw material not found in exploitable quantities, yet it is vital for the South African economy, its military force and police apparatus. South Africa has to import at least 75 per cent of its needs for liquid fuel, about 14 million tonnes of crude oil a year, from overseas by means of flag-geared oil tankers. The remaining 20-25 per cent is covered by production of three SASOL plants converting indigenous coal into liquid fuels. South Africa has spent large sums of money on oil exploration, mainly offshore, without striking economically viable oil finds. Oil is a strategic and essential commodity for the survival of the South African government. Without oil, the South African military could not maintain its army, air force and navy. Without oil, the military and the police could not invade and occupy the black townships inside South Africa and maintain the system of apartheid.

A mandatory oil embargo against South Africa, imposed by the United Nations Security Council, has not been implemented yet, because of opposition by two Permanent Members, the United States of America and the United Kingdom. However, there does exist a voluntary international oil embargo supported by an overwhelming majority in the UN General Assembly as well as on many occasions when the oil embargo was discussed as a separate issue. The resolution of November 22, 1989 (A/44/27H) on the oil embargo was adopted with the largest majority ever by 139 to 2 votes, with 14 abstentions. The United States of America and the United Kingdom persevered in voting against.

In particular, the oil embargo is endorsed by all main oil-exporting countries, including member states of the OPEC and OASPEC. An oil embargo has also been included in a package of restrictive measures against South Africa by the European Community and by the Commonwealth. Moreover, the call for an oil

anbargo is widely supported by many international organisations such as the Non-Aligned States, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the League of Arab States, the World Council of Churches (WCII), the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), the Workers' Group of the International Labour Office (ILO), international trade union bodies such as the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), Westexn seafarers' and dockers' unions represented by the group Maritime Unions against Apartheid, the Organisation of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU), the European Parliament, the International Parliamentarians Union (IPU), the Association of West European Parliamentarians for Action against Apartheid (AWEPAA), and the Socialist International.

#### WHY AN EMBARGO ON SOUTH AFRICAN COAL?

The South African economy is very vulnerable to an international embargo of its coal exports. Coal is South Africa's second export product in value terms. If this export were embargoed, the country's economy would be severely affected. Therefore, a coal embargo is an effective means to put pressure on the South African government.

Until 1989 only a few countries had adopted an embargo of South African coal. These countries are: France (1987), Ireland (1987), the Scandinavian countries (1987), Australia (1987), Canada (1986), New Zealand (1987) and the United States of America (1986). Already these limited sanctions have had a severe impact as the export of South African coal has not increased since 1987.

All the important international federations of trade unions, for instance the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), the World Confederation of Labour (WCL), the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), the Miners International Federation (MEF) and the International Transport Federation (ITF), have endorsed an embargo on South African coal.

South African organisations like the African National Congress (ANC), the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), the United Democratic Front, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), the National Union of Mine Workers (NUM) and the churches have repeatedly called for an embargo on South African coal.

## PUBLICATION OF THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

Main reports on the oil embargo

Every year the oil section of the Shipping Research Bureau

publishes a main report. In these reports research findings on oil shipments to South Africa over a certain period of time are compiled. In September 1990 the Bureau intends to release its sixth main report which will cover the years 1987, 1988 and part of 1989. The previous five reports were released in 1981, 1982, 1984, 1986 and in 1988 respectively, covering the years 1979 until 1987.

Research coal division

In the course of 1990 the coal section will release a report covering coal exports from South Africa to the Benelux over the years 1987 and 1988. Reports covering the previous years till 1986 have been released by the Working Group Kaims.

. Surveys

In addition to the main reports the oil section of the Bureau publishes surveys on shipping companies and oil-trading companies involved in the secret oil trade with South Africa.

Commissioned research

The Bureau has also been commissioned to do research by non-governmental and intergovernmental organisations.

## DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

### Shipping Research Bureau Newsletter

The Newsletter provides a regular flow of information on the issue of the oil embargo. It contains recent research findings of the Shipping Research Bureau and information on South Africa's oil situation from other sources. Also information is given on actions by Governments and international bodies and on campaigns by anti-apartheid organisations throughout the world. Since October 1989 the Newsletter has included the 'Coal monitor'. This section covers news on the import of South African coal by the various countries and the policies of Governments and non-governmental organisations with regard to coal imports from South Africa.

In the course of 1990 the Newsletter will change its name from Newsletter on the Oil Embargo against South Africa to Shipping Research Bureau Newsletter.

The quarterly Newsletter, published since 1985, is sent directly to some 2,200 subscribers all over the world. Another 800 copies are distributed through anti-apartheid organisations and other interested organisations in various countries. It is distributed free of charge. It is the Bureau's experience that the Newsletter is closely read by the media, representatives of companies and Governments and by non-governmental groups active on the issue of economic sanctions against South Africa.



## PUBLICATIONS IN 1989

WorldWideShippingGroupAngKaxgoilshippermmtoSouth  
Africa's rule. Amsterdam, April 1989

The paper deals with the involvement of the Hong Kong-based World Wide Shipping Group in transporting oil to South Africa. The company is emerging as the major oil shipper to South Africa, apparently filling the gap created by the Norwegian law of July 1987 which forbids Norwegian owned, flagged and managed tankers to transport crude oil to South Africa.

WAGABOilSupplierstoSouthAfrica.Amsterdam,  
updateFebruary1989

This survey was first published in October 1985. The completely updated survey deals with Marimpex' involvement in the oil trade to South Africa since 1980.

No Fuel forApartheid. Amsterdam, July1989

A draft report written in commission for the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU). The report gives a complete overview of the oil embargo against South Africa. It specifically focusses on the stances and activities of trade unions on the issue of the oil embargo. Furthermore, it provides recommendations for trade union activities with regard to the embargo.

NewsletteronOilEmbargoagainstSouthAfrica

In 1989 four issues of the Newsletter were published. (No. 14-17). Number 15/16 was published in July1989 as a double issue.

#### OTHER ACTIVITIES IN 1989

The Shipping Research Bureau contributed actively to international conferences, workshops and other meetings in which the oil embargo and coal sanctions against South Africa were discussed. Besides, the Bureau conducted commissioned research and assisted researchers and journalists with regard to oil and coal sanctions.

##### International meetings

Organised by the United Nations Intergovernmental Group to monitor the Shipping and Supply of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa and the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid. New York, April 12-13, 1989.

The Shipping Research Bureau was one of the thirteen witnesses which testified before a seven-person strong panel at the Hearings. In its testimony the Bureau gave an overview of the state of affairs of the oil embargo: the costs for the South African Government; companies involved in selling and transporting oil to South Africa; the countries from which the tankers sail to South Africa; loopholes in existing legislation and recommendations to tighten the oil embargo.

##### Verdrinking van strategien van de Shell boycot campagne

Organised by the Programme to Combat Racism of the World Council of Churches. May 9-10, 1989, Amsterdam (the Netherlands).

Public ban on the sale of transnational  
corporations in South Africa and Namibia

Organised by the United Nations Centre on Transnational  
Corporations. September 4-6, 1989, Geneva (Switzerland).

The Shipping Research Bureau testified before an 11-person strong  
panel of eminent persons. The Bureau issued two statements: one  
focussing on the issue of the oil embargo, the other giving an  
overview of coal exports from South Africa.

The testimony focussing on the oil embargo elaborated on the  
involvement of transnational companies in the procurement of oil  
and oil products from: South Africa, the contribution of the  
transnational oil companies to the maintenance of the system of  
apartheid and the technological and material assistance of  
foreign companies in the development of the synthetic fuel  
projects in South Africa.

The testimony focussing on coal exports dilated upon the  
imports of South African coal by other countries and present  
measures and actions taken by some Governments and  
non-governmental organisations to stop those coal imports.

Commissioned research

The oil section of the Shipping Research Bureau contributed to  
the 'Independent Expert Study on the Evaluation of the  
Application and Impact of Sanctions' commissioned by the  
Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa.  
This 150-page report was presented at the Meeting of Commonwealth  
Committee of Foreign Ministers, held in Canberra (Australia) in  
August 1989. The report has been published by the Penguin Group  
in association with James Currey entitled 'South Africa: The  
Sanctions Report'.

In 1989 the coal division of the Shipping Research Bureau  
contributed to an investigation of an embargo of South African  
coal, commissioned by the city councils of Amsterdam and  
Rotterdam. The research was conducted by the Dutch Centre for  
Research on Multinational Corporations (sum). The report,  
entitled 'Broken Chains? Boycott of South African Coal in  
North-West Europe' was published in May 1989. It was published  
both in English and in Dutch.

Contributions to the media

Furthermore, the Bureau assisted a great number of researchers  
and journalists with regard to oil embargo and coal sanctions  
matters. Also, the Bureau was interviewed frequently by the  
national and international radio and television press.

## IMPACT

Partly as a result of the Bureau's monitoring activities and owing to more publicity, pressure by anti-apartheid organisations and parliamentary actions, several Governments introduced stricter measures over the past few years in order to stop companies supplying oil to South Africa.

### Singapore

Singapore is the most recent case of a Government severing oil links with South Africa. On 15 September 1989 the Government announced that it had decided to prohibit the export of crude oil and petroleum products on Singapore registered tankers to South Africa. The Singapore ban is a major step forward in the tightening of the oil embargo against South Africa. However, the embargo is not comprehensive, as it does not prohibit ships owned by foreign companies which are based in Singapore to export crude oil to South Africa. Also the ban does not apply to ships owned by a Singapore company sailing under a foreign flag.

### Norway

In Norway the Government is being pressured by representatives of Trade Unions and anti-apartheid organisations to extend the existing ban on the transport of crude oil to South Africa with a ban on the transport of oil products as well. Since July 1987, by law, Norwegian ships have been prohibited to export and transport crude oil to South Africa. Apparently, an increasing number of Norwegian ships is filling the existing gap in the 1987 ban, which does not include a prohibition on the transport of oil products. V

Also at the level of international organisations developments occurred with regard to a severing of the oil embargo.

The United Nations

In April 1989 the United Nations' Intergovernmental Group to unite the supply and shipping of oil and petroleum products to South Africa, in co-operation with the UN Special Committee against Apartheid, organised the 'Ban on the Oil Embargo against South Africa' in New York. At the hearings a panel of nine persons heard testimonies from witnesses covering the various aspects of the oil embargo. In its conclusions and recommendations the panel explicitly called for a tightening of the oil embargo.

In October 1989 the Intergovernmental Group released its third report, which was adopted by the General Assembly in November 1989. In this report violations of the UN oil embargo during the past few years are mentioned. Furthermore, it provides recommendations with regard to a further tightening of the oil embargo.

On 22 November 1989 the General Assembly voted on the issue of the oil embargo. The resolution was adopted by an overwhelming majority of 139 votes against two, and fourteen abstentions. The United Kingdom and the United States of America persevered in voting against.

Fourteen countries which abstained

Belgium

Botswana

Canada

France

Federal Republic of Germany

Greece

Israel

Lesotho

Luxembourg

Malawi

the Netherlands

Portugal

Swaziland

In December 1989 the General Assembly convened in a special session to discuss 'Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa'. At this special session the United Nations Declaration on South Africa was adopted by consensus. This declaration is based on the Harare declaration which is the outline of the African National Congress (ANC) for a peaceful solution in South Africa.

#### Commonwealth

The meeting of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers, which was held in Canberra (Australia) in August 1989, urged for a tightening of sanctions against South Africa. The 'Independent Expert Study of the Evaluation of the Application and Impact of Sanctions', which was released at the meeting, explicitly recommended a further tightening of the existing sanctions against South Africa, including the oil embargo.

At its bi-annual Heads of Government meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in October 1989, the member states maintained their sanctions policy, as adopted at the Heads of Government meeting in Nassau (the Bahamas) in 1985. The United Kingdom dissented from the Commonwealth stance on sanctions against South Africa.

#### European Community

The stance of the European Community sanctions against South Africa, which was adopted in 1986 and which also includes a limited oil embargo, has not altered.

#### PRESENT ACTIVITIES

Promising changes are presently occurring in South Africa which will hopefully lead to the total dismantling of the apartheid system and the creation of a free and democratic South Africa for all.

The activities of the Shipping Research Bureau must be seen in the light of these developments. At present the Bureau feels it is imperative to keep up economic and financial pressure on the South African government as was suggested by Nt. Nelsa's release in February 1990. It is this combined pressure from within and outside the country which is urgently needed to keep up the process of change and reform. As the main governmental organisation with an ongoing programme of research and publication of comprehensive data on oil supplies to South Africa and on coal exports from South Africa, the Bureau will continue to focus on the monitoring of these issues.

Oil section

The Bureau plans to release its biennial report in September 1990.

Furthermore, the Bureau will continue to contribute to the work of the United Nations Inter-governmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa.

With regard to the international campaign against Shell, the Bureau will prolong its assistance in research matters. Also in 1989, the support for the campaign from trade unions, church organisations, anti-apartheid groups and other organisations mounted.

The Bureau will continue to assist the media on the issue of the oil embargo. It will attend and contribute to meetings and conferences dealing with sanctions against South Africa.

## Coal section

The International Labour Organisation has commissioned the coal section to research the flow of South African coal exports. This research will also cover the existing restrictive measures with regard to coal imports from South Africa and the loopholes in, the evasion of and the monitoring of these measures. The research will be completed in May 1990. The findings will be published in a report.

On behalf of the Association of West European Parliamentarians for Action Against Apartheid (AWEPA) the South African coal imports per member state of the European Community will be analysed. Furthermore, suggestions will be made with regard to alternative suppliers.

Furthermore, the coal section will monitor the South African coal exports in 1989. The main focus will be the coal exports from

South Africa to the Benelux. Subsequently, exports to other member states of the European Community will be watched. The EC accounts for almost half of South Africa's coal exports. Finally, exports to the other main importers of South African coal like Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Israel and Turkey will be monitored.

The coal section will continue to gather statistical information on coal exports and imports worldwide. A database will be

compiled of coal contracts between South African suppliers and international companies. A data base will also be constructed on the political progress made by governments with regard to establishing and/or implementing an embargo on South African coal.

The coal section will continue to assist journalists. It will also attend international meetings and conferences on sanctions, starting with a workshop in Oslo in March 1990.



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Shipping Reporter

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Coal sanctions may

become more extensive

THE SHIPPING RESEARCH BUREAU

which monitors the effectiveness of the oil embargo against SA has switched its attention to SA coal exports and has added a coal monitor to its operations.

The monitor records that despite embargoes and sanctions, SA increased the monetary value of its coal exports in 1988 to R2 700-million from R2 300-million and that the SA coal industry as a whole increased its earnings from R4 800-million to R5 700-million. Exports, however, are still below the 1986 figure of R3 200-million.

The bureau's coal monitor suggests that a start has been made with an investigation of how further coal sanctions can be applied to SA by north-western European countries without detriment to their own requirements. This implies that the industry's ability to circumvent coal sanctions may become more limited in the future.

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Bush": International

South Africa Alert 9c tober 1989

Dutch Group to Monitor Coal Embargoes

The Shipping Research Bureau (SRB) of the Netherlands, which monitors the international oil embargo on South Africa, has been expanded to include a coal section. An SRB executive, Natascha Verham, announced the change as she was giving evidence last month to the UN's public hearings in Geneva on activities of transnational corporations in South Africa. She said the coal section has been set up with the aim of contributing to "the achievement of an international boycott of coal originating from South Africa." Its hours of activity

were the monitoring of shipping movements from South Africa to western Europe and identifying the companies involved in the petroleum, trade, shipping and use of coal. After gold, Verham claimed, coal was South Africa's second export product in value terms.

Further, the economy, it even mentions diamonds in 1987. The export of coal

accounted for 8% of South African export income. The South African economy would be hard hit by a coal boycott, therefore, it is vulnerable to a coal boycott.

So far, Verham said, only a few countries had adopted explicit coal sanctions—France, Ireland, the Scandinavian countries, some Commonwealth countries and the US. Her boycott had stopped the growth of South African coal exports, she claimed. As a result, mining companies had halted investment in coal mines and plan to increase the capacity of the country's coal exports.

She said that presently, more than 80% of the export of South African coal was shipped to two

regions—Europe and the Far East. In the coal-importing region, she said, South African coal is not needed. The US and, in the medium to long term, Australia, are capable of satisfying the

need of 43 million tons of exports.

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South African (St), a 12 on (ahr)

South African coal

SOUTH AFRICA IS PLANNING TO

export coal via Israel as part

of its sanctions-busting

strategy, according to the

Shipping Research Bureau.

The Amsterdam-based

Montenap group said in a

new publication Coal Monitor.

It said that South Africa is currently

negotiating to set up

coal storage facilities at the

Israeli ports of Ashdod and

Eilat.

From there, the coal could

be transhtpped to countries  
which have  
banned South African coal  
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oal Monitor said the  
scheme is ap arentl the  
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Minister, Ariel Sharon, but  
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bought about two million  
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L ' Afrique du Sud en Direct

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No. 17 Newsletter October 1939  
on the tssn 0169-3956  
OIL EMBARGO against SOUTH AFRICA  
This Newsletter contains a compilation of reports on the international oil embargo against South Africa.  
The Newsletter is published quarterly by the Shipping Ruunh Bunau. E.O. Box 111198, 1001 CW Amsterdam. The Netherlands. Phone 420 266073/251300 Telex 10236 nntm nl Telfax .20 120130  
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Newsletter on the Oil Embargo against South Africa, No. 17. October 1999

BP South Africa disposes of coal division

COAL MONITOR

No. 1 OCTOBER 1989

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Why adopt a boycott at South Alrlcan coal?

In 1988 coal was the largest contllbutot to lovelgn

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successlul ln postponing a coal ban. At the meeliv

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declared that they would lollow the policy ol tr

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The United Statu banned coal ln october 1986 who

the Comprehensive Antl-Apanheid Act w:

adopted. The Scandinavian counlvies Denmmml

Nanny, Sweden and Finland ptohibited the impn

of South Attican coal in 1987 (in Januaty. March. Ju!

and October, respectively). Iceland lollowed l

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electricity companies Stadtwevko Bremen ar

Stadtwerke Saarbrücken boycott SA. coal. n  
um. applies to the British Central Electricity  
Generating Board and the South of Scotland  
Electricity Board and to the Dutch company GKI  
which purchases the coal for the Dutch electricity  
company. -

It is interesting to know that at present almost ;  
only South African coal is shipped to the  
regions: the European Community and the Far East  
These regions each import approximately half of the  
quantity of the coal. China new importer of South African  
postponed. In 1988 however, exports  
slightly to 42.6 million tons.

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International political overview

End 1985 France was the last country to introduce a  
partial coal boycott. It declared not to renew the  
contact: between South Africa and the French

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Japan. Taiwan, Hong Kong and South Korea. Other  
known importer: Australia and Turkey.

All the European Community decided to adopt a coal  
boycott, it would imply that Taiwan, South Korea,  
Israel and Turkey would remain the big importers.  
In that case South Africa would substantially enlarge  
her coal sales to those countries.

Coal Monitor. No. 1. October 1989

The Singapore Government 1: unequivocally opposed to apartheid and the racist policies of the South African Government. It has consistently supported United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution: condemning the repressive policies and practices of the Pretoria regime.

2 In compliance with UNGA resolution calling for the complete cessation of the supply of petroleum products to South Africa, and with the Commonwealth Accord on Southern Africa calling for an oil embargo against South Africa, the Singapore Government is banning the carriage of oil to South Africa by Singapore-Flagged ships with effect from 15 January 1989. '3' Ships owned by the Singapore Government will include "and-ur" .claus and other condition: in their charter agreements to allow .aampinnoo with w- embargo. , Singapore-registered ships violating this ban are liable to have their registrations cancelled. An administrative ban on the export of oil and petroleum products to South Africa will also come into effect on 15 September 1989. The Trade Development Board has issued a circular (copy attached) informing companies trading in petroleum and petroleum products in Singapore of this administrative ban.

3 All imports from South Africa are hereby banned  
unclear to , - # w- M- M

1.23: The Singapore Government firmly discourages contact of any kind, including political, economic, military, cultural and sports, with South Africa. It is ready to cooperate in any collective international effort that will effectively prevent oil trade with South Africa and isolate the Pretoria regime.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

15 January 1989

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