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Regional Seminar on

East AsianActinn

AgainstA/Ialtlzeid

Tokyo, Japan. 23-25 January 1990

Organized by the United Nations Special Committee against 406mm

Background Paper 2

APARTHEID AND EAST ASIA

An outline of South Africa's economic relations

with Taiwan Province of China,

Hong Kong and the Republic of Korea

by

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Japan Anti-Agartheid Committee

IThe views expressed in this paper are those of the author J

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I. 'Taiwan Province of China

II. -Hong Kong

III. The Republic of Korea

IV. Malaysia and the Philippines

V. Japan

Annex I South African trade with Taiwan,

Province of mine, Hong Kong,

the Republic of Korea and Japan

Table 1 Between Taiwan, various

of China and South Africa

Table 2 Between Hong Kong and

South Africa

Table 3 Between Republic of Korea

and South Africa

Table 4 Between Japan and

South Africa

Annex II Excerpts from Newspapers indicating

Japanese involvement with

South Africa

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mid, the institutionalized basis for oppressing

the people of South Africa and crime against humanity,

isofdeepoornemtopeoplethmngmttthemrldwho

treasure freedom, equality and peace. Within South

Africa, support for the anti-apartheid struggle is

gaining in strength every year. On the international

level also both private and governmental activities to

WWC sanctions against the apartheid regime

Despite the widespread anti-apartheid campaign and

increased isolation of South Africa, the leaders of East

Asia are, moreover, expanding their economic involvement

with South Africa as a means of important trade partners

of the white regime. By improving its relations with

these nations and Israel, South Africa is trying to

maximize to the gnawing international

anti-apartheid activity-

Each Asian nation has its own historical experience

of struggle with oppression and discrimination and the

fight for unity and independence, yet the voice against

W in Asia is still faint.

Hoping to initiate change, the African National

Congress of South Africa (ANC) opened an office at Tokyo

in May 1988. In August of the same year, supported by

the Special Committee against Apartheid, the Japan

Anti-Apartheid Committee held the first M-W

Asia-Oceania Regional Workshop at Tokyo. A special report

on the proceedings of that workshop has published in July

1989 both in English and Japanese.

The following pages trace briefly the recent trends in

the economic relations between East Asian nations and the

major regional-

Table 3 . . . .A. . ' . L. 32. - I9

(Millions of US dollars)

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1982 47 116 163

.1983 57 158 215

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Table 4- WWW

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ANNEXII

EXCHIP'I'S mm mm INDICATES JAPANESE MW

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Wm 1 Augst 1988

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ByStefanWagstylin'mkyo

JAPAN is muting inports of South Afriam gold and

platinum worth mm of millions of dollars

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large trade with South Africa.

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allowing trade with South Atria: to grow while other  
industrialised mics have been inposing sanctions in  
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An official at one of the trading houses which dominate Japan's commodity trade said South Africa's value of its imports depends on price and exchange rates, but taking average levels for the half year, Japan's gold imports of 142 tonnes were worth about \$52.11m and its 37.6 tonnes of platinum \$630m. Therefore precious metals imported directly from South Africa totalled about \$220m over the six months - or about 20 per cent of all imports from South Africa, which were valued at a total of \$31m.

If the proportion of precious metals imports from South Africa had remained at last year's levels, the direct figure could have been about \$450m higher. This decline wiped out a 10 per cent fall in the value of imports from South Africa that was highlighted by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs last month as evidence of its policy.

It is significant that Japan has widened its trade figures by manipulating flows in precious metal. Meanwhile, the government in the trade surplus with the US threatened to go to the World Trade Organisation to challenge Japan's routing of gold shipments through Amsterdam.

-13- 1/

W. 7 May 1989 (leader)

MO (AP) - Japanese companies are using third countries as a way to circumvent the ban on direct trade with South Africa and avert criticism that Japan's trade supports the apartheid system, trade experts and anti-apartheid activists say.

"Japanese imports from South Africa fell only because it (Japan) imported South African gold and platinum directly through third countries such as the United States, Britain and France", said Jerry Hantsla, a spokesman of the African National Congress, a group seeking to overthrow the Pretoria government.

Foreign Ministry officials have emphasized the government's opposition to the system of racial segregation and said it is illegal to use third countries as a conduit for South African products.

In 1987, Japan was Pretoria's No. 1 trading partner surpassing the United States and West Germany. As a result the Japanese came under heavy criticism for giving economic support to W.

In June last year, Japan was singled out by the United Nations resolution criticizing its increased trade with South Africa.

The government in early 1988 asked trading companies to practice self-restraint in trade with South Africa and to limit sales of dual-use figures and technology.

Now Japan was no longer South Africa's biggest trading partner, having fallen behind West Germany.

Japan's trade with South Africa in 1988 declined 3.5 per cent from 1987 to \$3.98 billion.

But detailed official statistics show the drop in overall trade was largely due to a drastic decline in imports of precious metals from South Africa.

Imports of precious metals from South Africa

in 1988 from the previous years, imports from South Africa fell 14.5 per cent due to a 40.7 per cent decline in the dollar value of platinum imports and an 84.3 per cent drop in the dollar value of gold imports.

Critics and scholars closely following the controversy say that Japan only shifted its source of platinum and gold from South Africa to third countries, many of which import these precious metals from South Africa.

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Oestcms clearance statistics show Japan's imports of gold and platinum from Britain, Switzerland, France, West Germany and the United States jumped drastically. By weight gold imports from Britain in 1988 jumped 80 per cent from the previous year while gold from Switzerland increased by 15.8 per cent. Platinum imports from Britain more than doubled. Those from Switzerland rose 100 per cent, and those from France rose 100 per cent in the previous year.

"It is common knowledge that neither Britain nor Switzerland produces gold or platinum", said Yoko Kitazawa, an author who has also researched Japanese uranium mines from South Africa. "It is obvious that Japan is charging labels of South African gold and platinum to those of Britain and Switzerland when those precious metals go to exchange markets and are registering them as British and Swiss gold and platinum." Foreign Ministry officials said Japanese firms may have used third countries to produce lower figures for imports from South Africa. "They won't really prove" most of the imports from third countries are South African products, said Yasuyumi We, who works on one of the desks.

"I am not sure if we can simply blame them for switching the source of imports," he said. "Legally: there is not really any way to prevent Japanese companies from using South African products from third countries."

Kotake stressed that Japan is doing what she can do. "I am not sure if we can simply blame them for switching the source of imports," he said.

But Katsila, the African Nationalist, said

maintaining, damaged the reputation of Japan is doing

hiding the origin of its imports. But it is 9m; out of South Africa in 1988 was considerably more than that of 1987 if you include those indirectly imported metals".

Government statisticians said Japan's trade with South Africa in 1988 including gold and platinum actually increased by 10 per cent from the previous year.

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Must Japanese firms involved in gold and platinum trading declined to say. But one official of World Precious Metal Co., Japan's largest platinum supplier said, "we have been only using non-South African platinum since the war. We are not prepared to discuss the matter right now".

An expert in the precious metals market questioned; anonymity said, "Japan has grown into the world's largest platinum market because of its growing demand for jewelry and as a result of its use for industrial use. Only South African platinum can fulfil Japan's large demand".

Statistics from Japan imported about 70 per cent of the world's total platinum in 1988, while South Africa produced about 80 per cent of the total world. The Soviet Union and Canada produced the remaining 10 per cent.

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