

November 23, 1976

**United States Information Service, 'United States
Statement on UN Vote on South Africa'**

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Summary:

US statement to the UN General Assembly delivered by delegate Father Hupp. The statement explains the why the US voted no on a series of resolutions regarding South Africa. These included resolutions on an arms embargo, sporting boycott and other resolutions concerning Apartheid. It also voted no on a resolution condemning Israel for arms sales to South Africa.

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November 23, 1976

UNITED STATES STATEMENT ON U.N. VOTE ON SOUTH AFRICA

Following is the text of a statement in explanation of a United States vote in the General Assembly of the United Nations on November 9. The statement was delivered by Father Hupp, a member of the United States delegation:

"The United States was pleased to participate in the adoption without objection of draft resolution A/31/L6 on the "United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa" and A/31/L7 concerning "Solidarity With South African Political Prisoners."

We have voted against draft resolution A/31/L8 concerning the "Arms Embargo Against South Africa." We have done so since we are not convinced that the invocation of chapter VII of the charter of the United Nations against South Africa for its apartheid policies is appropriate at this time. We object strongly to those paragraphs which allege that the United States is sending weapons to South Africa. As the General Assembly well knows, the United States has continued to impose its own arms embargo against South Africa since 1962, and has urged other nations to impose voluntarily an embargo of military equipment. Recently, it was discovered that a United States company had illegally shipped arms to South Africa. The shipment was made as a result of misrepresentation by a company employee. That employee subsequently has been prosecuted, convicted, and sentenced to jail. Let me make this clear so that no one doubts the strength of our commitment. We have jailed an American citizen for facilitating an arms shipment to South Africa. The United States Department of Justice is continuing to investigate reports of illegal arms sales to South Africa involving American arms manufacturers.

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- 2 -

The United States has voted against draft resolution A/31/L9 concerning "Relations Between Israel and South Africa." We disagree with the decision to single out Israel for criticism of its relations with South Africa. While we do not condone Israel's military trade with South Africa, we are aware that other nations also are involved in such trade. The Apartheid Committee report and this unbalanced resolution stem from anti-Israel political motives, rather than from any decision to investigate impartially those countries which are trading in military material with South Africa.

On resolution A/31/L 10 concerning "Apartheid in Sports" the United States Government supports the olympic principle that no discrimination be allowed in sporting events, on the grounds of race, religion or political affiliation. We urge United States sports teams to respect the principle and to compete against teams which are selected on the principle of the olympic ideal. Because United States sports teams are organized privately, and have no official sponsorship or regulation, we are not able to support several of the recommendations contained in resolution. These recommendations would have the United States Government intervene in the affairs of private sports organizations, which we lawfully cannot do. The results of this resolution could, in fact, prove contrary to its sponsors' intentions and, instead of breaking down apartheid, could assist to consolidate it. This is borne out by the experience of the last four years, when open international competition has resulted in some breaking down of barriers in South Africa. For instance, Arthur Ashe broke the color barrier in the South African Open. He encouraged the South African tennis authorities to desegregate the audience for the Open. Black tennis players also were permitted to participate in other major tennis tournaments in the country.

The United States has abstained on draft resolution A/31/L 11, concerning the "Program Of Work Of The Special Committee Against Apartheid" for reasons which we have elaborated on elsewhere in this statement.

The United States has voted against resolution A/31/L 12, concerning "Economic Collaboration With South Africa." In our view, the decision to impose a type of economic sanctions against South Africa is a decision of utmost seriousness, and only should and can be taken by the Security Council. Moreover, we believe the facts do now warrant such a decision. We cannot accept the thesis of this resolution that economic relations with South Africa work to the disadvantage of the population or necessarily result in their exploitation. On the contrary, some United States corporations have been among the leading forces for equal rights and enlightened employment practices in South Africa. It is too simplistic to condemn in blanket fashion economic relations with South Africa.

TOP SECRET
OTHERS GEFHEIM

- 3 -

The United States has voted against draft resolution A/31/L 13, concerning the "Situation in South Africa". We cannot agree with a number of paragraphs in the resolution. Specifically, we do not believe that the situation in South Africa, however abhorrent the policies of the South African Government, constitutes a threat to international peace or security. It is also clear that this lengthy resolution is tantamount to a call for an uprising in South Africa which would, in effect, be a racial bloodbath. My Government cannot subscribe to the thesis that this is the best or only way to work for peace in South Africa.

The United States has voted "No" on draft resolution A/31/L 14, concerning the "Program Of Action Against Apartheid". The United States Government is not prepared to support a comprehensive regime of sanctions against South Africa, which this and other draft resolutions have called for, nor to provide assistance for a violent uprising in South Africa. We also have serious reservations on the financial implications of the program of action and the drawing of UN specialized agencies into this clearly political campaign. The United States already has discussed its position toward South Africa, as set forth by Secretary Kissinger in Philadelphia, August 31. We continue to believe that although time is running out, the opportunity still exists for South Africa to move away from the apartheid system peacefully, and to create a just society with freedom for all South Africans."

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