NUCLEAR CAPABILITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

Investigation of recent reports that collaboration between Israel and South Africa has resulted in the development by South Africa of a nuclear-tipped missile

Preliminary report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. On 15 December 1989, the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/113 B, entitled "Nuclear capability of South Africa", of which operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"4. Takes note with great concern of recent reports that collaboration between Israel and South Africa has resulted in the development by South Africa of a nuclear-tipped missile;

"5. Calls upon the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of qualified experts, to investigate those reports, bearing in mind their implications for the implementation of the policy of denuclearization of Africa and for the security of African States and, in particular, the front-line and other neighbouring States:"
"6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a preliminary report on his investigation to the Disarmament Commission at its substantive session of 1990 and a final report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session;"

"..."

2. Pursuant to paragraph 6 of the resolution, the Secretary-General hereby submits to the Disarmament Commission a preliminary report on the question.

II. Action taken by the Secretary-General

3. As requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 5 of resolution 44/113 B, the Secretary-General has appointed three experts in their personal capacity to assist him in carrying out the mandate contained therein.

4. The experts held their first session in Vienna and Geneva, from 15 to 20 April 1990. During that period, the experts discussed and agreed upon a plan of work and an outline for the report. In the course of that session, the experts also held consultations with officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and relevant member delegations of the IAEA, including the representatives of the three Depository Governments of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the IAEA and the Chairman and other interested delegations from the African regional group, as well as with interested member delegations of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and representatives of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

5. Prior to finalizing its report, the Group will hold a second session in July 1990 when it will conduct further consultations with officials of the OAU at that Organization's headquarters and with representatives of the front-line States and other interested Governments.

6. Furthermore, bearing in mind that the Security Council Committee established by resolution 421 (1977) concerning the question of South Africa has been seized of a specific case of nuclear collaboration with South Africa since July 1979, the Group will also seek consultations with that Committee for any available information on the matter.