



# STOP THE APARTHEID BOMB!

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AGAINST MILITARY AND NUCLEAR  
COLLABORATION WITH  
SOUTH AFRICA

## **'SOUTH AFRICANS NOW ABLE TO PRODUCE A BOMB'**

*The Times*, London, 30 April 1981

### **Does South Africa have the bomb?**

Yes.

It has the scientific capability—the technology, 'know-how' and personnel. It has the resources—it mines large quantities of uranium in Namibia and South Africa, and has a secret enrichment plant. And it persistently refuses to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Most experts believe South Africa already has a small arsenal of nuclear weapons.

### **Can South Africa deliver the bomb?**

Yes.

It has advanced military aircraft and missiles. It is also developing an artillery system for firing low-yield nuclear shells.

### **What is the evidence?**

In August 1977, US and USSR satellites detected a nuclear test site in the Kalahari desert. Western leaders appealed to South Africa not to explode its nuclear device: no explosion was reported then. Later, in September 1979, a US satellite detected a double flash off the South African coast—the unmistakable scientific evidence of a nuclear explosion. The CIA also reported a South African naval operation in that area at the same time.

### **Is there a real danger of a nuclear holocaust?**

Yes.

The South African Deputy Defence Minister himself stated in September 1980 that 'it would be very stupid not to use it if nuclear weapons were needed as the last resort to defend oneself'.

The apartheid system by its nature does not respect black lives—it has been designated a crime against humanity. South Africa is already involved in a series of 'secret wars' against neighbouring African states—and has 100,000 troops illegally occupying the international territory of Namibia.

Daily, as the resistance of the South African and Namibian people grows, the Pretoria regime becomes more desperate and increases its reliance on the use of force in order to threaten and terrorise all opponents of apartheid. Many leaders of the ruling Nationalist Party were interned during the war for pro-Nazi activities and the apartheid regime has repeatedly warned independent African states that continued resistance to apartheid will create a 'catastrophe too ghastly to contemplate'.

The regime is determined to uphold apartheid even if it involves the use of a nuclear bomb; it is not too far-fetched to believe that it would, in desperation and 'as the last resort', unleash a nuclear holocaust.

## WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP STOP A NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST IN SOUTHERN AFRICA?

The apartheid system presents one of the greatest threats to international peace and security. It is armed to the teeth with advanced weapons to maintain the system of racist domination. Now armed with an apartheid bomb, there can be few other concerns so vital for the future of the human race.

### WHAT WE CAN DO

#### **INFORM:**

A worldwide campaign is required to alert international public opinion to the dangers of South Africa's nuclear capability.

#### **MOBILISE:**

International action is even more important. Though South Africa has nuclear weapons capability, it has a long way to go before it completes its nuclear weapons programme. We can hinder and undermine its nuclear ambitions by organising major public campaigns.

### WHAT MUST BE DONE

- ***End all forms of nuclear collaboration with South Africa:*** governments throughout the world must be required to ban all relations in the nuclear field with South Africa.
- ***Secure a mandatory UN ban:*** the UN Security Council must impose a mandatory ban on all forms of nuclear collaboration. So far such resolutions, when proposed by the African states, have been vetoed by the three Western permanent members, the USA, UK and France.
- ***Campaign to end all agreements and arrangements on nuclear cooperation between your country and South Africa.***
- ***Work to halt the recruitment or training of nuclear scientists and engineers in your country for South Africa.***
- ***Campaign to stop the importing of Namibian and South African uranium.***
- ***Expose the role of transnational corporations involved in nuclear collaboration with South Africa and campaign for an end to such collaboration.***

World public opinion needs to be alerted about the dangers of external nuclear collaboration with South Africa: the apartheid bomb presents an enormous danger not only to the peace of Africa but to the whole world.

Immediate priorities for action include:

- action to ensure that the US maintains its ban on the supply of enriched uranium to South Africa. (The new US administration is actively considering lifting the ban imposed by the Carter administration because, under US law, enriched uranium should only be supplied to signatories of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.)
- action to stop the delivery of the two nuclear reactors which France is building for South Africa. (The first, Koeberg 1, is due to begin operating in March 1982.)

Finally, make sure you and others are fully informed. The study, *South Africa's Nuclear Capability*, provides the most detailed and comprehensive information about the apartheid bomb. It is available in English (50p); French (12FF); Dutch (f4); and Finnish (7mk). A Japanese edition will be available soon. All are obtainable from your national Anti-Apartheid organisation or via the World Campaign against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa.



ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT

89, CHARLOTTE STREET, LONDON, W.1

TEL: 580 5311