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## Foreign Affairs, South Africa

The Mickey Leland Papers & Collection Addendum. (Texas Southern University, 2015)

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# News from Congressman Mickey Leland

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## Statement of Congressman Leland 2 April 1987

I understand that today's report released by the State Department identifies France, Italy and Israel as countries which ignored the international arms embargo against South Africa and sell arms to the Pretoria government -- the most racist and hateful government in the world. Furthermore, it cites companies in Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Switzerland which have violated the embargo without government permission.

The United Nations mandatory arms embargo has been in effect since November of 1977 and I am outraged to see it ignored, particularly by countries that are U.S. allies. The selling of arms and military technology to South Africa -- a nation that demonstrates racism and violence against its people and exports violence against its neighbors -- is absolutely unconscionable.

In the past few years, the European Community itself has adopted sanctions against South Africa, including a ban on the import and export of arms to South Africa and a call to end all military cooperation with Pretoria. I simply do not comprehend the idea that these nations would support a sanctions package as members of the European Community and then turn around ignore it in practice. These agreements are covenants created in a sense of international moral obligation. To ignore these covenants, as these nations have done, is an outrage, a moral outrage.

We call on these countries to honor both the United Nations embargo and the European Community sanctions -- and, once again, we call for an end to all sales of arms and military technology to South Africa.

Earlier this month, Israel announced that it would ban all new military sales contracts to South Africa. We in Congress welcome this announcement as a first, and let me emphasize first, step in cutting ties with South Africa. I encourage all nations at a very minimum, to follow Israel's lead.

The sale of arms to South Africa is the most morally repugnant form of cooperation with the government of South Africa, but it is by no means the total extent of the world's relationship with that nation. All countries in the world must cut their ties with South Africa -- it is only with this worldwide pressure that South Africa will end its racist and violent policies.

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