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STATEMENT BY ANTI-APARTHEID COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ON WITHDRAWAL
OF POLAROID CORPORATION FROM SOUTH AFRICA

The following statement was issued today by Leslie O. Harriman (Nigeria), Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid:

On behalf of the Special Committee, I wish to express satisfaction that the Polaroid Corporation has decided to withdraw from South Africa.

I may recall that in 1970 a workers' committee at Polaroid headquarters, in Boston, demanded termination of operations in South Africa. The Special Committee supported the demand. The Polaroid Corporation, however, decided against withdrawal. It announced an "experiment" to improve the condition of black workers and to stop the supply of its products to the Government for use in implementing the hated pass laws.

After receiving evidence from the American Committee on Africa that its agent in South Africa, Frank and Hirsch, has continued secretly to supply Polaroid equipment to the South African military headquarters and the "Bantu Reference Bureau", the Polaroid Corporation has now cut off all shipments to South Africa from 21 November.

I hope that all other transnational corporations concerned will follow the example of the Polaroid Corporation. I would also hope that Polaroid will now reinstate the workers it had fired for their campaign against involvement in South Africa.

I note that the evidence was supplied to the American Committee on Africa by Mr. Indres Naidoo, a former employee of Frank and Hirsch in South Africa.

Mr. Naidoo is the grandson of the adopted son of Mahatma Gandhi and comes from a family which has made great sacrifices in the struggle against apartheid. He was sentenced in 1963 to 10 years' imprisonment for "sabotage" as member of the military wing of the African National Congress of South Africa. After release in 1973, he was restricted under "banning orders" and escaped from South Africa at the beginning of this year. His wife and child still live in South Africa.

I must express my admiration to Mr. Naidoo for his courageous act in the cause of liberation of South Africa.

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