## INSTITUUT VIR EIETYDSE GESKIEDENIS

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## ISRAEL ECONOMIC M -LK OF SANCTIONS

By Suzanne Belling 2 Ell

LEADING South African Jews have spoken out strongly against sanctions - an attitude underlined last week of a top-level delegation from the Israel Ministry of Finance by the coincidental arrival and the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Counsellor to the Israel Embassy, Mr Meir Padan, speaking from Pretoria told the Herald Times that Israel's official policy was to oppose sanctions.

"Israel does not like the concept of sanctions, we do not believe they are useful. We do not want sanctions and we don't want sanctions for anybody else.'

However, he stressed that the Israeli delegation's visit had nothing to do with the sanctions issue in South Africa.

"For the last 10 years there have been blennial meetings of top people in the economic field - held alternately in Israel and South Africa - to review economic relations between the two countries and to plan for the future. This year's meeting was overdue because of the change of the Finance Minister in Israel. Now people are jumping to conclusions that the is here delegation because of sanctions.

"If you want to do business with anybody you don't come to dis-

cuss sanctions." Obviously, though, the subject would be raised, he said.

The delegation comprised Dr E Sharon, director-general of the Ministry of Finance in Israel, another delegate from the Finance Ministry and two from Ministry of Trade and industry.

"They are meeting with their counterparts in South Africa," said Mr Padan, who has also joined in the talks together with the Israeli Ambassador, Dr David Ariel and Mr Daniel Golan, director of the State of Israel Trade

Centre. Mr Padan said that Israci was looking to export more goods to the Republic but added that "the whole volume of trade between Israel and South Africa has been blown up out of all proportion."

In Johannesburg Mr A E Abrahamson, a for-mer Rhodesian Cabinet Minister who opposed UDI and the sanctions that arose from it, said that experience had shown that "except for a few inter-

mediaries, sanctions do nobody any good.

"Buying expensive and selling cheap can only accelerate poverty and this is what sanctions are all about. Furthermore the emotive effects tend to hinder rather than encourage the necessary process of

real and positive change."

Mrs Helen Suzman,
MP (PFP) for Houghton, said:

"I'm against sanctions and have gone on record as saying so over many years. But my opposition to sanctions has a mirror image - for in South Africa I strongly oppose Govern ment policy that leads to sanctions." She said that sanctions were "self-defeating wrecking the economy and do not assist anybody irrespective of гасе".

The real economic rauscle black people could acquire through the trade un-ions would have the desired effect in a thriving economy although this would work only in the long term. "I fully realise the strong tide of resistance among young blacks where demands are for

hiberation now. Mr Harry Schwarz, MP (PFP for Yeoville), said he was opposed to sanctions as they were counter-productive.

"I believe that if we're going to jet change in South Africa, we actually need investment, we need to have job creation." It was easy to impose punitive measures on South Africa "sitting a long way away from here and not having the responsibility of what was to happen in and South Africa without taking into account the hardship that would be caused and individuals who would be affected.

"In my view if we are going to look at the South Africa of the future, we've got to look at not merely the abolition of apartheidwhich is the first prerequisite - but we've got to look at what follows apartheid."

That, in Mr Schwarz's opinion, was the most important issue at this time. 'Are we going to have a democratic society in South Africa which will be part of the free world or TREFWOORD

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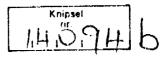
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which there will not be human rights - and which. in fact, will align itself with the Eastern bloc?

"If we are going to have greater unemployment, if we are going to have more unrest, the chances of a negotiated settlement will less and in a be revolutionary situation the chances of a truly free democratic society emerging are reduced."

Professor Michael Katz, chairman of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, was also of the opinion that the imposition of sanctions greatly undermined the achievement of a peaceful solution to South Africa's problems.

"The economic austeriwhich must naturally follow sanctions results in a diminished economic pie and more people will compete for the reduced pie. This must inevitably result in friction which impairs the attainment of a peaceful solution to the problems which face us.

Mr Issy Pinshaw, NP member of the Fresident's Council, told The Herald that economic Times sanctions were inevitable but would not cripple South Africa's economy because of its size, diversity and sophistication. South Africa was already among the top 20 trading nations of the world.

"South Africa should recognise the inevitability of sanctions and accept that they could lead to significant economic damage and have a deleterious effect on our already unacceptably high unemploy-

will we have a society in ment situation. Total trade sanctions agaist us could put hundreds of thousands of South Africans out of work, with adverse socioeconomic and political consequences.

> Mr Pinshaw said that "whilst not minimising their effect, sanctions would present us with new challenges and opportunities in containing and defeating them.

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