

**May 18, 1983**

**Letter from South African Defence Minister Magnus  
Malan to Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens**

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**Summary:**

South African Defence Minister Magnus Malan writes to Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens regarding the imbalance of military trade between Israel and South Africa.

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J.A.L. STEINMANN  
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18 May 1983

The Honourable Moshe Arens  
Minister of Defence  
TEL AVIV

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of 7 April 1983.

You are, no doubt, by now fully settled in the portfolio of Defence and well versed in the problems that faces your country from a defence point of view. I therefore wish you wisdom, courage and strength for your term of office.

I have noted with appreciation from your letter, that you fully recognise the importance of pursuing reciprocal purchases with respect to mutual programmes in the military related fields, and that you actively support all efforts undertaken to this end.

The imbalance of purchases between our two countries in the military field, is perhaps one of the biggest problems for the continuation of co-operation. During the past decade we have supported you in this field to the extend of more than 1 billion dollars, while your support to us has been for less than 10 million dollars. This imbalance reflects very seriously in the overall trade pattern between our two countries, and is of such a proportion that my Government must of needs consider alternatives.

The South African military industry has developed considerably during the past decade, and if the availability of strategic raw materials and military metals are added to the product range, I am confident that your support in this field could achieve the reciprocal balance to which you refer.

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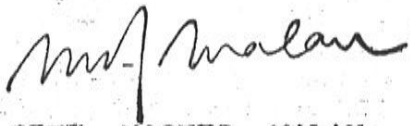
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After numerous inspections and representations during the past few years, I trust that your staff is by now fully acquainted with the total product range.

The final negotiations for the [REDACTED] is pending the final outcome of the negotiations regarding the electronic telephone exchange. As mentioned the overall imbalance figure between our two countries caused by the defence related contracts is of such a serious nature, that my government has come to the point where it has little option but to consider alternatives.

It would be my pleasure to make your acquaintance, and I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Yours sincerely



GENE MAGNUS MALAN  
MINISTER OF DEFENCE

/MC

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