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Dear ABPR Book Reviewer,

I enclose a clipping of your review, which appeared in ABPR vol.XIII, no. 1, 1987, p. 17.

Thank you for contributing to ABPR.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Jay  
Assistant Editor

N. O. E. el Mahmud-Okereke  
Israel and Black Africa: Time to Normalise.  
211 pp. $14.95 pap.

The book is a collection of reprinted newspaper articles penned by the author in support of normalization of ties between black Africa and Israel. Special tribute is paid to those African countries re-establishing links with Israel (e.g. Zaire), while alarmist rhetoric is reserved for perceived communist and Muslim domination of the Organization of African Unity and penetration of black Africa. The author argues that the signing of the Camp David Accord has removed the original reason for maintaining a black African boycott of Israel - the continuation of which is due to "radical" Muslim states and "expansionist" communist powers desiring to subjugate black Africa. The author asserts: "It is thus a gratuitous insult to our collective Black African intelligence for any ethnic foreigners, in the name of mutual OAU-membership, to purport to choose friends or make undue enemies on our behalf; especially those whose forbears had the dubious distinction in history of being the first to enslave, kidnap and re-locate the Black man". What could and should be a carefully and logically reasoned viewpoint among many concerning the future of black African-Israeli relations sadly falls prey to "sensationalist" accounts and "derogatory" name calling, such as titling Jaafar El-Numeiry "Sudan's Butcher-President". The book therefore is recommended only to specialists concerned with African-Israeli relations.

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