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JAPAN ANTI-APARTHEID COMMITTEE;TOKYO Ebisu 4-5-23-306 Shibuya-Ku Tokyo JAPAN

Phone Tokyo 443-9775

20th April 1988

INVITATION

. Japan Anti-Apartheid Committee(JAAC) is organizing the first Anti-Apartheid Asia-Oceania Regional Workshop (AAAOW) with assistance from the United Nations' Special Committee against Apartheid from August 27 to 29, 1988 in Tokyo.

For the workshop's prospectus, please refer to the enclosed background papers. JAAC wish to invite one person from your office to the workshop as a speaker and advisor.

Please write to the above address with the name of the participant by 15th May, 1988. Even though the time is short, it is essential that we receive the name by mid-May in order to arrange the purchase and dispatch of the airline tickets.

After the workshop finishes, we intend to organize additional tours for the . participants, so that they may have an opportunity to discuss with the Japanese people about human rights and other related issues.

With your participation and help we hope to make this first meeting a success and to contribute towards the abolition of apartheid.

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Akira Kusahara Hiroo Saso

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 JAPAN ANTI-ARARTHEID COMMITTEE;TOKYO Ebisu 4-5-23-306 Shibuya-Ku Tokyo JAPAN  
 Phone Tokyo 443-9775  
 First Anti-A artheid Asia-Oceania Re ional Worksho AAAOW  
 (program outline)  
 H organized by the Japan Anti-Apartheid Committee (JAAC)  
 H supported by the United Nations' Special Committee against Apartheid  
 x from 27th August(Sat.) to 29th August(Mon.), 1988  
 t at WasedaeHoshien Seminar House, Tokyo  
 II: Participants from overseas who are invited by the JAAC will  
 receive their airline tickets and free accommodation in Japan.  
 ll persons from:  
 -Hon Kon , Taiwan, m, the Phili ines, Singapore,  
 Australia, New Zealand, m,  
 'Asian or Oceania offices of .African National Congress of South Africa  
 (ANC) and Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC),  
 - UN repreentative.  
 h Japanese perticipants.... JAAC members (from 10 city committees),  
 . and from: Trade Unions, Christian Councils, Minority Groups,  
 groups in solidarity with Asian countries, experts, etc.  
 li Arrival by night of 26th August; departure during afternoon of 29th August;  
 3! Workshop and Sessions to be held from morning of 27th to noon of 29th;  
 It After the close of the workshop, for those overseas participants who have  
 the time and interest, home-stays can be arranged in certain local cities  
 (Sapporo, Matsudo, Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka, Hiroshima and Kumamoto)  
 ?& Languages to be used: English and Japanese (with interpretation)  
 Japan Anti-Apartheid Committee,  
 Rm 306, 4-5-23, Ebisu, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Japan  
 Tel: 015-443-9775

## APARTHEID AND EAST ASIA

1: Background paper for the FIRST ANTI-APARTHEID ASIA-OCEANIA REGIONAL WORKSHOP (AAAOW), Tokyo, August 27 Sat.) - 29 \$Mon.) 1988

che Japan Anti-Apartheid Committee (JAAC)

JKikz-mpported by the United Nations' Special Committee against Apartheid . Japan Anti-Apartheid Committee,

Rm 306, 4-5-23, Ebisu, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Tel: 013-443-9775

Apartheid in South Africa is a political, economic and ideological system set up by the minority whites for the continuous exploitation of the 27 million black majority as well as the the coloureds and Asians. Differences in race, in ethnic group and in skin colour are used as a legalized tool to divide the people into those who oppress and those who are oppressed.

The'vUnited Nations recognizes apartheid to be a "crime against humanity", and it calls for comprehensive economic sanctions by all . governments in the world. Peace and liberty-loving people throughout the world have been engaged in the anti-apartheid movement; and they are ready to take action in response to the fight for freedom in South Africa.

The minority who hold power, however, can dominate through their wealth and privilege, while the oppressed black majority are detained and tortured, confined by banning orders, and exiled.

Three thousand people were killed after the black uprising in September 1984; and thirty thousand people have been arrested and brought under detention after the Declaration of a State of Emergency in June 1986. Between 30% and 40% of the thirty thousand detained are believed to be children under 18 years of age.

#### EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES BECOMING STRONG PARTNERS OF APARTHEID

Historically Asian countries have not had close relations with South Africa, although there has been a change in this trend during the last twenty years.

In the 1960s, as economic ties expanded, Japanese were given the status of "honourary whites" by the white regime. In 1985, because of the rapid increase in South Africa's trading connections with Taiwan and Hong Kong, Chinese received the same status. Koreans are expected to be given this status for similar reasons in the near future. Nonetheless under the classification used by the whites in South Africa, all Asians, including Japanese, Chinese and Koreans, belong to the "non-Europeans" or "Asian" groups, which are among the oppressed majority.

It is indeed dishonourable that some Asians are -- under the name of "honourary whites" -- enjoying privileges which are not given to the rest of the various "non-white" people in South Africa. There is no way in which this distinction can be justified, especially when the position of the blacks, coloureds and Asians in South Africa is considered.

And the anti-apartheid movements in Asian countries are still too small to prevent companies from East Asian countries setting up business in South Africa to replace the Western corporations who have withdrawn because of the pressure of civic anti-apartheid movements.

The people in Asian countries are struggling over such issues as poverty, human rights, democratization, unification, discrimination, etc. Therefore for a total and genuine people's liberation in Asia, an understanding of and engagement in the anti-apartheid movement is inevitable.

Therein lies the purpose of the "First Anti-Apartheid Asia and Oceania Regional Workshop". The following paper provides the basic data on the relationship between South Africa and Asian countries. The relevant data, however, is not available to the public in quite a number of the countries in Asia.

## JAPAN

The relationship between South Africa and Japan ceased after World War II. Then in 1961, just after the Sharpsville massacre, economic ties were reestablished under a treaty of commerce. Although Japan has restricted political ties to the consular level in accordance with its foreign policy, economic ties between the two countries have rapidly expanded and have aroused the criticism of the international community. Japan has become South Africa's biggest trading partner with total exports and imports amounting to US\$ 4.2 billion in 1987. Part of the expansion is due to the withdrawal of many American firms (more than 200 big firms) and to the appreciation of the yen against the dollar. Only a few big Japanese corporations have withdrawn or shown their intention of withdrawing from South Africa.

Japan has been importing coal, gold, platinum, other rare metals and various foodstuffs from South Africa. The Japanese government says that South African rare metals are essential for the high-technology industries in Japan. The items exported to South Africa are mainly automobiles, spare parts and general machinery.

The Japanese government has imposed the following sanctions:

- a) a ban on direct investment in South Africa (1974);
- b) restrictions on sports and cultural exchanges between Japan and South Africa (1974);
- c) a ban on exporting computers for military and police use, and restrictions on imports of Kruggerand coins (Oct 1985);
- d) a ban on imports of pig iron and steel, stoppage of granting tourist visas to South Africans, confirmation of a ban on SA Airways landing in Japan, and a ban on boarding SA Airways by Japanese national public service officials (Sept. 1986)

Since 1964, on the other hand, there has been an anti-apartheid movement, which has been organized mainly by the Japan Anti-Apartheid Committee (JAAC). JAAC unites anti-apartheid groups in the cities of Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Nagoya, Shizuoka, Hiroshima, Kumamoto, Matsudo and Sapporo. JAAC has been building up good relations with Christian societies, trade unions, oppressed minority groups, Amnesty International and progressive parties. In cooperation with these organizations, JAAC invited Dr. Allan Boesak to Japan in 1987. Japan is uncommon among the Asian countries in the way that Japanese do enjoy the freedom to engage in the anti-apartheid movement. JAAC members recognize that their freedom is well supported by Japan's economic exploitation of the Third World, especially other Asian countries. Trade with South Africa accounts for only 0.4% and 1.8% respectively of Japan's total exports and imports. In the case of South Africa's total exports and imports, Japan's trade share is 7.9% and 10.2% respectively. (1985 figures).

## TAIWAN

Taiwan is the only one among the East Asian countries which has entered into official diplomatic relations and exchanging ambassadors with South Africa. SA Airways has also extended its network to Ghong-Gheng International Airport in Taiwan. Diplomatic relations were established in 1976, with an embassy set up in Pretoria and consulates in Johannesburg and Capetown.

There are 75 factories managed by Taiwanese industrialists in South Africa, and a further 20 factories are now under negotiation. In May 1986, the two countries established reciprocal preferential tax agreements in order to promote investment.

In September, 1986, the Eighth Sino-South African Economic and Technical Cooperation Conference was held in Taipei. Both countries engaged in cooperative agreements in many fields which include trade, investment, fishing, transportation, agriculture, technological research and medical services.

The atomic power plants in Taiwan depend upon uranium from South Africa, which is first processed into yellow cakes in the United States, and is then transpbtrted to Taiwan. (Japan and Korea are not exempt from this trade.)

There are some ten thousand Chinese living in South Africa, the majority of whom are the descendants of Chinese labourers brought to the gold mines of South Africa at the end of the 19th century.

Total trade between Taiwan and South Africa reached a record high level of US\$ 549 million in 1986. And in 1987, trade rose even further by 66% to reach US\$ 910 million. A Taiwanese diplomat predicts that the total trade between the two countries will be US\$ 1.34 to 1.35 billion this year. Taiwan exports machines, electronic equipment, textiles, etc., and imports coal, uranium, foodstuffs, military equipment, etc.

Some of the Taiwanese factories are operating in the notorious "homelands", for example, MustekElectronics in Bophutatsuwana-Homeland.

The South African share in Taiwanis total exports and imports is 0.5% and 1.34% respectively; and this trade will certainly grow significantly in the near future.

In April 1987, the Taiwanese government refused to grant a visa to Dr. Allan Boesak, who had been invited by the Gikong Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. The visa refusal occurred just before the splendid "South Africa Week in Taiwan".

## HONG KONG

In 1986, Hong Kong's trade with South Africa amounted to US\$ 423 million, which brought it into third place in East Asia after Japan and Taiwan. The South African share in the same year was 0.81% of Hong Kong's total exports and 0.96% of its imports.

On 1st November 1986, the Hong Kong government imposed new sanctions against Pretoria by prohibiting all imports of South African iron and steel. A voluntary ban on new investment, bank loans and tourism was also recommended. SA Airways can be boarded for arrival in and departure from Hong Kong.

The main imports from South Africa are steel (US\$ 100 million in 1985) and coal (US\$ 910 million), both of which are transported to China (the PRC). The Financial Times (Britain) of November 5, 1985, stated that in 1985 Hong Kong was importing 850 thousand tons of steel, (including 300 thousand tons from South Africa), half of which was being transported to China. Hong Kong has become an important transit port for coal from South Africa to Korea and China. In 1986, the multinational enterprise, "Total Coal International" contacted the Hong Kong trading company "Hutchison Whampoa (HW)" and arranged for three corporations to supply coal from South Africa to East Asian countries.

When the South African Foreign Minister, Pik Botha, visited Hong Kong in September, 1986, many students, youths and workers held a demonstration around the consulate of South Africa.

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## KOREA

When the Korean War broke out, South Africa sent a contingent of troops to the United Nations Forces, who fought on behalf of South Korea.

"....But postwar political realities have made relations with Pretoria an unrealistic option for Seoul in its competition with Pyongyang for friends in Black Africa who can deliver votes in the UN on issues related to the unresolved Korean issues."

(Far Eastern Economic Review, Aug.7,1986)

Under these circumstances, the Korean authorities have never made statistics concerning trade with South Africa public.

In the 1970s, the office of the Korean Traders Association in South Africa was closed. Assistant Foreign Minister Park Soo Gil said that there would be no official contact with South Africa and that the government condemned the apartheid system. IMF statistics, however, show that the total sum of Korean trade with South Africa in 1984 amounted to US\$ 350 million. Moreover the authors of the Sanctions Handbook (by J. Hanlon and R. Omond, Penguin, 1987) have disclosed that in 1985 the value of exports from South Africa to Korea was US\$ 128 million and South Africa imported from Korea imports worth the same amount of US\$ 128 million.

There are two ways in which the Koreans are extending their economic relations with South Africa: 1) sending Korean technical experts, and 2) investment by Korean manufacturers of electronic appliances or machinery. From the late 1970s to the early 1980s, more than a thousand Korean experts -- welders, for example, went to South Africa to make up for the deficiency in skilled labour.

Mr. Edward Kim of the Korean electronic company, Lucky Goldstar, in South Africa:

"...believes that South Africa is a good market for his products. He says he is not concerned with disinvestment pressure. "I am not a politician," he said, "but a businessman who believes all people of South Africa can benefit from increased investment by companies such as ours." (Citizen, South Africa, Feb.4, 1987)

The National Council of Churches in Korea also tried to invite Dr. Boesak in April, 1987, but he had scarcely arrived at the Gimpo International Airport in Korea, when he had to leave, because the authorities would not give permission for his entry.

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#### OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES

SINGAPORE: The government of Singapore has imposed a ban on direct imports from South Africa since as early as 1965. The data on direct trade, however, does not appear in the official statistics. It has been said that in 1985 50 thousand tons of cargo for South Africa was handled at Singapore's port.

The PHILIPPINES: In April 1987, Dr. Boesak was invited to Manila by Christian groups, such as the National Council of Churches in the Philippines. The NCCP produced a Philippines Ecumenical Solidarity Statement in line with the 16th June 1986 commemoration of the Soweto Uprising in South Africa.