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Declaration of the
International Workshop on Sanctions
Drobak, Norway 8-11 March, 1990

We the representatives of 18 national anti-apartheid organizations, gathered in Drobak, Norway, meet at a time of unprecedented victories in the struggle for a democratic South Africa.

We celebrate the unbanning of the African National Congress and other democratic organizations, the release of Nelson Mandela and other leaders of the people of South Africa, and the independence of Namibia.

These victories have been achieved as a result of increasing internal and international pressure. National anti-apartheid movements, through campaigns promoting sanctions, disinvestment, boycotts and embargos have helped push the apartheid regime towards negotiations.

However, despite these developments, apartheid continues and the South African regime refuses to accede to the demand of the people for one person one vote on a common voters roll in a united non-fragmented country.

In order to eradicate apartheid, there is an urgent need to strengthen sanctions. In line with the call of the democratic movement, sanctions must be maintained until the people of South Africa have agreed to a democratic constitution.

Therefore we condemn British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for unilaterally lifting sanctions. We pledge to act in concert against any state which by lifting sanctions compromises progress towards a democratic South Africa.

We therefore:

EXPRESS our support for the African National Congress and the Mass Democratic Movement, including COSATU;

UNDERTAKE to assist the African National Congress in its new tasks following its unbanning;

CALL on all governments to isolate apartheid South Africa;

PLEDGE to further develop national campaigns aimed at ending all economic ties between our countries and South Africa and to increase our efforts at coordination between the anti-apartheid movements of our countries.

On the basis of above the following concrete action was considered at the International Workshop, as important for the national anti-apartheid organizations in the immediate future.

1. DISINVESTMENT

Disinvestment campaigns should be strengthened, for example companies should cut all economic and technological links to South Africa.

Campaigns should be continued to encourage institutional investors i.e. churches, pension funds, trade unions etc. to sell all their stocks of the companies operating in South Africa.

The increasing export of South African capital has a number of crucial and dangerous economic and political consequences. It should be a focus of sanction campaigns.

Information on companies operating in South Africa should be sent by the national anti-apartheid movements to the American Committee on Africa for sharing internationally. Companies should be exposed to investors, local governments and others concerned with apartheid.

2. FINANCIAL SANCTIONS

Increase the pressure on Swiss and German banks that continue to support South Africa financially. Particularly there should not be any roll over of debt now maturing.

There should be increased sharing of information on banks, loans and other financial resources affecting South Africa.

Material should be sent to ELTSA which can be published in ICABA.

Governments and banks should be pressed to end trade credits, insurances and other trade incentives for companies dealing with South Africa.

Anti-apartheid organizations should assist and encourage church, labour, community and other organizations willing to take on concerted financial sanctions.

All Anti-apartheid groups should continue to keep alive the issue of loans and financial sanctions. For example, letters could be sent to the banks in each country, checking on their position on financial relations with South Africa.

The international trade in gold and platinum should be monitored and where possible Anti-apartheid groups should aim to reduce South Africa's income from these minerals.

3. TRADE SANCTIONS

a) OIL IMPORTS

We should lobby European governments to ban the export and shipping of crude oil and refined oil products to South Africa.

Anti-apartheid organisations can take actions against exporters, transporters and their governments i.e. picketing embassies, blockading harbours against ships owned by companies involved, lobbying governments and other actions relevant to individual countries. SRB and working group Kairos will produce basic material and the report of the SRB in fall 1990 will be useful in mounting action. Actions should especially be taken to stop the transport of oil products on Norwegian ships.

Anti-apartheid forces in Hong Kong and Greece should be contacted and cooperation established for action against shipowners shipping oil to South Africa.

A list of the companies which are involved in Mossel Bay project should be circulated for use by Anti-apartheid groups in their ongoing campaigns.

b) COAL EXPORTS

Cooperation between the anti-apartheid forces in coal importing countries should be increased. Special attention should be paid to coal trade with FRG, UK, Portugal, Netherlands, Belgium, Spain and Italy in Europe.

Potential Anti-apartheid forces in Far Eastern countries such as Taiwan, South Korea and Hong Kong should be encouraged to take actions against coal importers.

C) SHELL BOYCOTT

We should keep in mind the importance of the SHELL-boycott and therefore maintain the momentum against SHELL. It is an important disinvestment campaign. For example, the mass media should be used more aggressively against SHELL. Especially information from inside South Africa should be used widely. Shell sponsored research work done in universities should be given special attention. Generally SHELL sponsor-contracts are good targets for action.

Special days for SHELL actions are 28th of April, picketing day, and 17th of May, day of the Annual General Meeting.

d) ARMS EMBARGO

Whereas the arms embargo was effective in ending the war in Angola, it is important for anti-apartheid groups to maintain support for the arms embargo.

4. ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC ACTION THET GROUPS MAY TAKE ON INCLUDE;
Support for the ANC in its task to re-establish the
organisation inside South Africa.

Condemn the attitude of Prime minister Thatcher and the UK
government in lifting sanctions and hampering the process of
dismantling apartheid.

Groups should write to Eastern European embassies to ask for
details of policy concerning South Africa. Contacts with
people on networks in touch with Eastern European countries
(churches, trades unions) should also be made, to offer
support to Anti-apartheid committees and ascertain the level
of activity.

5. NEXT WORKSHOP

Based on the usefulness of this workshop, we decided to have
another workshop on sanctions in 1991. Location for this event
could be Finland.

Participating organizations

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We the delegates to the International Workshop on Sanctions,
meeting on a fjord somewhere in Norway:

DEPLORING the CIA sabotage of the shower facilities;

RECOGNIZING the numerous numbers of coffee cups used in the
last four days;

EXPRESSING our amazement at the food, which surpasses that
served at any previous anti-apartheid conference;

Therefore:

THANK the Norwegian Council for Southern Africa for organizing
this important meeting;

EXPRESS our appreciation to all those whose efforts made this
meeting possible;

URGE the Norwegian Council for Southern Africa to invite us
back as soon as possible.