

Mandela Will Orient Himself According to Keynes

Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 November 1991

ANC President Nelson Mandela defended himself against the campaign of the white minority government and the media to portray his liberation movement in SA as advocating a policy of pure nationalization (see also last Saturday's FR). The ANC, said Mandela, is for an economic policy in accordance with the ideas of John Maynard Keynes (who died in 1946 and was the most famous British economist; according to his theories, one of the tasks of state economic policy is to guarantee full employment). Under the current circumstances, both the state and the market must play a role in the distribution of wealth and the promotion of economic growth. Although the ANC views nationalization as only one of many options, big industry and the minority government have reacted "hysterically". Thus they have tried to conceal the fact that there is no free market economy in South Africa; rather, a few conglomerates control, with state help, two-thirds of the economy. This monopoly constitutes the greatest danger to democracy and justice, he said.

Mandela pointed to Germany and the USA, where anti-cartel laws function well. He said that future state intervention must serve to guarantee "equal opportunities" for the groups in SA that have until now been disadvantaged, and to promote small enterprises. Mandela expects savings from the fact that in a new SA many institutions such as schools and hospitals, which have previously existed in multiples for the different races, would be unified.