

ANLC Statement  
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STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS  
(SA) AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AGAINST MILITARY PACTS  
AND BASES, FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION.

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The Delegation of the African National Congress conveys warm fraternal greetings to the delegations assembled to participate at this important International conference against military pacts and bases, for international security and co-operation. We convey our hearty congratulations to the AAPS0 Secretariat for the initiative to bring us together to consider and deliberate on this vital problem which is close to the hearts of millions of people not only in the Afro - Asian region but certainly to the whole of mankind.

The heroic island of Cyprus is the appropriate venue for this conference. The resistance of the people of this country against imperialist attempts to turn it into a veritable imperialist arsenal threatening the peace and security of the peoples living in the mediterranean region is legendary. Indeed, the heroic struggle of the valiant Cypriot people to defend the independence and sovereignty of Cyprus enjoys the support and admiration of upright people everywhere the fighters for peace and international security. This is so because the struggle of the Cypriot people is undoubtedly an important component of the struggle of the peoples everywhere for independence and social progress against imperialist dictatorial hegemony.

We must raise our voice loud and clear in support of the heroic struggle of the people of this island to demonstrate our abhorance of imperialist intrigues to permanently destabilise the political situation in Cyprus by fanning and feeding the flames of inter-communal hostility through divisions of its people. We in South Africa are only too well aware of these counter-revolutionary manoeuvres which our enemies are trying to perpetrate through the Bantustanisation policies. The aim here and in our country is to weaken the united resistance of our peoples so that they fall easy prey to the schemes of imperialist and racist reaction

Our conference is taking place in the background of important international developments, the most significant of which is the recent signing of the SALT II TREATY by the leaders of the USSR and the United States of America. The spontaneous positive assessment of this agreement as reflected in the statements and comments of leading political and public personalities of many countries is fully justified. Positive comments on the SALT II agreement have come from political leaders of the Socialist countries; from some leaders of the capitalist countries; from leaders of the young states of Asia Africa and Latin America including leaders of the National Liberation movements. Whilst this shows the growing concern for the strengthening of peace and international security, against the threat of thermo-nuclear destruction we should also bear in mind that had it not been for the persistent efforts of the international peace movement headed by the Soviet Union and the socialist community, such important advances would not have been possible.

Of course it is not surprising that the cold war-mongers, leaders of the various military-industrial complexes in the imperialist countries have together with the leadership of Peking, attempted to pour scorn on this important agreement. They seek to maintain a permanent state of international tension and insecurity so as to justify their plans for an ever-intensifying arms race from which they amass super-profits. On the other hand, the aggressive appetite of the Peking leadership feeds on international tension which enables them to pursue their hegemonistic plans as we witness today in South-East Asia. This is underlined by Peking's aggression against Vietnam and the ever-present ominous threat against the other countries in the region especially Laos and Kampuchea.

Comrade Chairman

Comrades Delegates and friends,

On the initiative of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization and in conjunction



with the United National Independence Party (UNIP) the ruling party in Zambia. an International Conference in support of the Liberation Movement in Southern Africa and in support of the Front Line states was held in Lusaka about 3 months ago, from the 10-13 April 1979. It is true to say that the impact of this Conference on the development of events in Southern Africa will be long lasting.

AAPSO which has been known throughout the period of its existence as a true and genuine friend of the oppressed masses of the peoples of Africa and Asia who during this period have already established very firm combat contacts with other revolutionary forces throughout the world had mobilised in Zambia, a Front Line African State, an array of delegates from national and international organisations representing millions of combat allies of the oppressed peoples of Southern Africa. What further proof was necessary to demonstrate that the national and social liberation struggles of Southern Africa enjoyed the active support and sympathy of various progressive and democratic forces throughout the world. It was in recognition of this fact that his Excellency Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, the President of the Republic of Zambia said in his opening address: "It is a great pleasure for us to have in our midst distinguished revolutionaries and internationalists who have done so much to establish on earth a common brotherhood of man".

During this Conference a searching analysis was made of developments in Southern Africa and quite naturally the role of international imperialism in support of the terror regimes in Southern Africa was exposed in no uncertain terms and for all to see. This was indeed of significant importance for the peoples in the region who were able once again to determine that the cause of their oppression lies not in the gods but in the worshippers of plunder and profit - the imperialists and the multi-national cooperations.

The African National Congress has consistently pointed out that in Southern Africa the imperialist powers are carrying out manoeuvres of all kinds so as to ensure that the fall of the racist regimes does not mean the final liquidation of their interests, their hegemony and their power in the region.

To achieve this result imperialism has embarked on an ambitious integrated and brutal offensive designed to produce a solution in Southern Africa and in the Middle East which will guarantee the permanence of its hegemony in these regions. What are the principal moments of this offensive?

a. The racist regimes and their allies aim physically to liquidate the liberation movements in Southern Africa, both within their respective countries and in their areas of sanctuary in the Front Line States.

b. Simultaneously they aim to compel the neighbouring independent States to turn against the liberation movements. For this purpose as we all know, they have resorted to regular military raids deep into the Front Line States, annihilating hundreds of people and destroying property.



c. They are also busy creating such forces among the Black oppressed as would replace the white minority regimes as the guarantors of the permanence of imperialist hegemony in Southern Africa in exchange for high sounding titles and a life of luxury for a handful of black traitors;

d. Imperialism is at the same time continuing to pour military and economic support into South Africa and Rhodesia to ensure that the racist regimes in these countries remain continuously the principal factor determining the content and pace of any process of decolonisation. In other words, even though the options contained in Henry Kissinger's memorandum (39) have become outdated and overtaken by events especially since the destruction of Portuguese colonialism by the revolutionary forces and peoples of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, Sao Thome and Principe, some backward forces in the imperialist countries still hope that by waving a magic wand the clock of national and social liberation in Southern Africa will be turned back.

e. On a global scale, imperialism has stepped up its intervention within the world democratic movement, to turn this movement away from its anti-imperialist positions and step by step to detach from it important contingents and use them in its global offensive against the forces of national liberation social progress and peace.

Fellow Delegates, what has happened in the last 3 months in Southern Africa has further proved the validity of the positions set out by the African National Congress above: The main highlights are:-  
- The Muzorewa puppet regime has been installed in power after the farce of what were termed "elections" was gone through. The so called elections were so blatantly false and unreal that even some of the stooges such as Ndabaningi Sithole have been forced to speak out against them. Even though it might be argued that they were motivated by loss of power, the truth of the matter is that they have confirmed what the rest of democratic mankind is saying about them.

To prove that there has been no change whatsoever from the aggressive nature of the previous regime of Ian Smith, Muzorewa puppet administration has carried out its punitive raids against neighbouring African countries such as Zambia and Mozambique. During one such raid carried out on the 26th June 1979, on the outskirts of Lusaka, the capital of Zambia they tried to justify their actions and attempted to mobilize the people of Zambia against the Zapu Wing of the Patriotic Front through a leaflet which was distributed from the fascist regime's helicopter.

These crude manoeuvres have not succeeded. UNIP, the government and the people of Zambia are still as determined as ever to discharge their Internationalist duty by continuing to support the liberation forces in the whole Southern African region.

Margaret Thatcher has come into power in Britain. As is well known before the elections she had spoken of her intentions to recognise the circus in Salisbury the minute she was returned to power. She has since been forced by a dilemma because she has now to reckon with the realities of international political life which is no longer moving at the pace determined by the British bourgeoisie;



circles. However as a most backward representative of this group she is doing everything in her power to fulfil her promise to them. Envoys of her government have been touring various African countries obviously with the intention to divide African public opinion on the Rhodesian issue.

As the OAU session is now meeting in Monrovia she is sitting back and hoping that her feminine charms will have succeeded in seducing some African leaders to accept her position over the so-called Zimbabwe-Rhodesia. She is obviously due for a rude shock. Already the President of Liberia when opening the current session of the OAU Council of Ministers has called for the total rejection of the Muzorewa puppet administration. This session was preceded by a meeting of the OAU Liberation Committee which adopted a similar position and instead pledged to increase support to the Patriotic Front.

In Namibia, the fascist regime of Botha has almost reached the position of forcing its puppets to declare unilateral independence. A little while ago the puppet administration of the so-called Democratic Turnhalle Alliance was sung into power with great pomp and heraldry. The propaganda media of the racist regime tried to foist the lie that the people of Namibia have at last got the administration of their own choice which supposedly is going to work in their interests.

This puppet administration has already come up against insurmountable obstacles in its attempt to appear to be determined to solve some of the pressing problems of the people. Their attempts to push through the puppet parliament legislation outlawing racial discrimination in Namibia has come up against the stern opposition of the rabid racists of the country whose political party is an extension of the ruling Afrikaner Nationalist Party in South Africa. These forces have vowed that they would rather go to war than accept the destruction of apartheid and racial discrimination in Namibia.

On the other hand the regime of martial law is intensifying in Namibia as SWAPO is successfully mounting its armed struggle. This has resulted in the continuous arrest and detention of the SWAPO leadership and activists in an attempt to paralyse the activities of this organisation. They are vainly hoping that the people of Namibia will eventually turn their backs on their vanguard political organisation and accept the South African inspired puppet forces.

However the masses of the people both in Zimbabwe and Rhodesia are seeing through the schemes of the racist regimes supported by their international backers. As Bishop Abel Muzorewa shuttles between Pretoria and Salisbury and as his administration intensifies the repression inside Zimbabwe and its aggressions against the neighbouring Front-Line States, they are becoming more and more convinced that nothing has changed. They notice that even some of the closest allies of the puppet Muzorewa regime are beginning to vacate the sinking ship. A similar situation is confronting the so-called solutions imposed on the people of Namibia by the racist regime of Pet Botha.

In South Africa, developments have shown that the regime of racist terror is sinking deeper into a morass. Since the Lusaka AAPSO Conference, the Muldergate scandal which has conclusively proved the political and moral degeneration of the ruling group, has claimed one



of its most notable victims. Vorster has been forced to resign his position of State President in shame. Vorster has in the past decade of his premiership been virtually a demigod in the eyes of his followers. It must be a rude shock to realise that their demigod is no different from all the corrupt of the world.

One of the bitterest blows which the regime will hardly recover from is the break of relations between the fascist regime and the new Republic of Iran. This has securely plugged the flow of 90% of its oil supplies. In its desperation the racist regime has been intensifying its search for oil inside South Africa to no avail. They are hoping to expand their oil from coal project but even this will not meet the fuel needs of the country. At the moment the position is so desperate that the regime is prepared to pay and is paying up to 4 times the normal price for oil on the international market. In the process, both in the search for oil inside the country and its acquisition from outside sources huge financial resources are going down the drain.

This is naturally deepening the economic crisis facing the country. Unemployment is reaching alarming proportions estimated at almost two million black unemployed. Even the poorer sections of the white population and the bottom of-the-rung white workers are beginning to be affected by the crisis as the prices of essential commodities and services are constantly rising. Thus, part of the social base of the Apartheid regime will become more and more disillusioned as the crisis lingers on and deepens. Of course the most seriously affected are the Black oppressed and this serves to deepen their anger against the regime of terror. As a consequence the strike action of the super-exploited Black working class are continuing to affect the most vital sectors of the economy e.g., the Mining industry.

Faced with the rising tide of resistance from virtually all sections of the oppressed population the regime has intensified its resort to the two-pronged onslaught against the people. Repression is intensifying with more and more reliance on the armed forces to put down the people's resistance. On the days prior to June 16 and up to June 26, all army leave was cancelled and the entire army mobilised and put on full alert. Hundreds of people were arrested and detained. Of course the main victims of this repression were the youth whose militant struggles of 1976 rocked the regime.

On the other hand the regime has continued its attempts to provide the racist structure with a new look. Isolated by the international community, ostracised by sportsmen and artists everywhere, threatened with economic sanctions and rejected by the African Continent, the ruling class is desperately attempting to hide its despotism behind a conciliatory mask of pseudo-reforms. The latest such reforms are contained in the Rieckert and Wiehahn Commissions on manpower requirements and labour legislation.

These attempts serve many purposes. One is to divert attention from the scandals of corruption and fraudulent mismanagement of funds in the uppermost circles of government which as we mentioned earlier has already swept the racist State President from power. Another is to give the trading partners of the regime, the industrialists, bankers, and multi-national corporations of Western Europe, United States and Japan, a plausible pretext for resisting the growing pressure of boycotts



and sanctions against the Apartheid State. Thirdly, the regime hopes that promises of reform will cool the anger of the exploited and suffering workers whose maturing class and national consciousness is rapidly reaching boiling point. A fourth dimension is provided by the stagnant economy, mass unemployment, persistent inflation, an acute shortage of skilled workers, a low rate of economic growth, a decline in the living standards of Black workers and rural masses and the reduced profitability of important sectors of industry and commerce. Fifthly, there is unrest and deep discontent not only among working people but also in business circles which urgently need a free labour market, access to markets in Africa and large inputs of capital and technology from western countries.

The regimes attempt to impose the Wieckahn Commission's recommendations on the workers in South Africa has failed. Internationally as well the friends of the struggle of the people of South Africa have rejected them for the fraud that they are. This was clearly underlined at the recent ILO meeting in Geneva.

In the meantime the armed actions of the military wing of our organisation are becoming numerous and the enemy is being hit both in the rural backyards of our country and in the urban complexes. These actions have greatly raised the morale of our people especially the youth who are joining our revolutionary movement and its military wing - Umkonto Wesizwe in increasing numbers. We are determined to intensify our armed actions against the regime and at the same time make them more generalised.

The message of the representatives of the oppressed peoples of Southern Africa to the people of the world is more assistance and more assistance. We must aim to tighten the oil squeeze around the neck of the fascist regime of South Africa; we must consistently reject the imperialist creations in Namibia and Zimbabwe and the Bantustans in South Africa.

Dear friends, the African National Congress is looking forward to a successful assembly of the leaders of the non-aligned movement in Havana in September. We are convinced that this will provide a forum for the strengthening of the anti-imperialist actions of the vast masses of the people in the region of the Third World, as views will be exchanged on the vital questions affecting the peoples of this region of our world and of mankind in general. It will at the same time present us with an opportunity to extend our circle of friends in the South American sub-continent which is receiving the sharp focus of attention by the fascist regime of South Africa. We reiterate our support and solidarity with the heroic peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea; we support the peoples of Chile, Nicaragua and elsewhere in Latin America where struggles for a better life are raging; We support the Arab people of Palestine under the Leadership of the PLO; the people of the Sahara under the leadership of the Polisario Front; we support our comrades at arms of the Patriotic Front and SWAPO and the Front Line African States in their efforts to consolidate their independence.

VICTORY IS CERTAIN; AMANDLA!