

NMO/011/0024/19

THE CITIZEN, Jo'burg, 20 June 1991

AAM pleased with EC 'concern'

LONDON. — The European Anti-Apartheid Movement yesterday heaved a sigh of relief at EC Foreign Ministers' statement of concern in Luxembourg, confirming their assessment there were still obstacles delaying real negotiations on a new constitution in South Africa despite State President De Klerk's final abolition of apartheid laws.

"It's a breakthrough for us... it's the first public sign of real dissatisfaction at the pace and direction of events in South Africa since February 2 last year," Mr Mike Terry, executive secretary of the British AAM said in London in response to the European Community Ministers' statement.

In their communique, the EC Ministers welcomed the repeal of the remaining apartheid laws,

saying the measures marked the beginning of a new era in South Africa.

"The way is now open for national reconciliation and the establishment of a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa.

"The Community... pays tribute to all those who have devoted themselves, inside and outside the country, to the abolition of the apartheid system."

In a rider the EC Ministers noted "that a number of obstacles still delay the opening of substantive negotiations aimed at drawing up a new constitution".

"(The Community's members) have repeatedly expressed the hope that all obstacles to negotiation, including the detention of political prisoners and the problems impeding the return of exiles, can be removed swiftly.

"They regret the continuing cost of violence in

South Africa and call on all parties to work for tolerance."

In an enthusiastic welcome of this statement, Mr Terry said it would have immense international repercussions, and was the AAM's most satisfying achievement since the Dublin EC Summit last June, which prepared the way for relaxing sanctions.

"Since February 2 last year everything has been a welcome of progress being made... this is the first time that the EC has expressed criticism of the lack of progress... it is very explicit and precisely on the issues we focussed on in our representations.

"People were reading Mr De Klerk on his words rather than on his deeds," Mr Terry said.

It was particularly significant that Germany and especially Britain, regarded as Mr De Klerk's powerful allies in the EC, had endorsed the Luxembourg statement of concern. — Sapa.

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20 June 1991

'SA is returning to Western standards'

THE Internal Security and Intimidation Amendment Bill represented a gigantic improvement on the existing situation and put South Africa back on the road towards Western democratic standards, said Mr Dave Dalling (DP Sandton).

Speaking in the debate on the Bill, he said South Africa, under the National Party administration, had an abysmal record on human rights.

At least 78 000 people had been detained in terms of the security laws since 1960.

Since 1981, less than four percent of detainees had been convicted of any offences.

A total of 73 people had died in detention. The official alleged causes of death made "macabre reading reminiscent of the Tom Tom Macoute of

Haiti in the heyday of Papa Doc Duvalier".

"But detentions were not the only weapon used by an insecure, paranoid government, hypnotised by the lie that was entitled 'the total onslaught'.

"Bannings, banishments and house arrests were used against individuals while anti-apartheid groupings were declared 'affected organisations', or were otherwise neutralised."

The Bill limited the period of detention to an initial 10 days and detained people would have immediate right to seek redress from the courts. Upon request, the detainee might be visited by his own doctor, lawyer and family.

"If one is honest, what is left of the original Section 29 is but a pale shadow of the Draconian

measure we in opposition have so long abhorred.

"I do believe it is true to say that the concept of habeas corpus has at last made a welcome return to the body of our South African law."

The Bill also repealed Sections 18 to 27 of the principal Act, which spelt the end of personal bannings, house arrests and restriction orders.

Mr Dalling said it was a pity the provisions relating to marches and gatherings in the principal Act had not been amended. The present provisions were both inadequate and undemocratic.

The Minister of Justice should request the Joint Committee to study the remaining security legislation during the recess with a view to submitting recommendations on its repeal or adaptation.

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WORLD CAMPAIGN

BUSINESS DAY, Johannesburg, 20 June 1991

Full attendance expected at weekend peace summit

THE attendance of most major political groups at this weekend's talks on violence has been described as a "major breakthrough" by the organisers.

The 12 church and business "facilitators" announced that the ANC, Azapo, the DP, Inkatha, the Labour Party, the NP, the National People's Party, Solidarity, the PAC and SACP would attend.

In addition, Cosatu, Nactu, the Council of Mining and Building Unions, the Federation of Salaried Staff Associations of SA and the United Workers' Union of SA (Uwusa) would attend.

Diplomacy

Conference organisers expect that government will also be represented, separately from the NP.

Most of the political groups would be sending up to three representatives. Among the political representatives at the meeting will be DP leader Zach de Beer, ANC secretary-general Alfred Nzo, Labour Party leader Allan Hendrickse, SACP leader Joe Slovo and Inkatha central committee member Walter Felgate.

"Behind the scenes shuttle diplomacy which has taken place over the past weeks by a peace facilitating group of church and

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businessmen has paid off," organisers said in a statement yesterday.

The organising group's spokesman Val Paquet said Saturday's gathering, described as a discussion, proposal exercise, was viewed with optimism because so many groups had been willing to attend at very short notice.

"The issue of violence is so complex that it is anticipated that the meeting will be needed to sift through a large amount of material to be presented on Saturday," Paquet said.

"It will then be up to the meeting to decide what processes, mechanisms and actions are required to address the problem of violence in the country."

No quick-fix solutions were expected, but Saturday's meeting was viewed as the beginning of a process which could lead to long-lasting solutions.

"The facilitating committee has emphasised that this meeting will not discuss ideological or political programmes, but will focus on the critical issue of violence and how to end it," Paquet said.

The CP, the AWB and the INP have turned down invitations to attend.

THE CITIZEN, 20 June 1991

Zambia invites SA to trade fair

ZAMBIA has invited South African companies to exhibit at the Lusaka trade fair for the first time, a South African businessman said yesterday.

John Thomson said his company, Exhibition Management Services, had been given the go-ahead by Zambian officials to organise South African participation in the August fair.

The invitation is the latest sign of crumbling African resistance to trade with South Africa following steps to dismantle apartheid. — Sapa-Reuter.