

SDI/201/203/1

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
P.O. BOX 31791 LUSAKA ZAMBIA
TELEPHONE: 211169 TELEX: 45390

7th January, 1983

RE: MANOEUVRES AND ACTS OF AGGRESSION BY THE PRETORIA
REGIME AGAINST LESOTHO

Dear Friends,

The African National Congress again draws the attention of the international community to the dastardly attack and atrocities perpetrated by the racist Pretoria regime in Maseru, Lesotho which resulted in the killing of 42 people, including 10 Lesotho nationals on the 9th December, 1982.

Following this criminal attack the Pretoria regime is persistently contriving further sinister actions against Lesotho. The government of Lesotho, despite the flagrant violation of its sovereignty and other acts of aggression undertaken by the racist regime, has publicly proclaimed its steadfast determination to adhere to the UN resolutions and continue to offer asylum to those seeking refuge from the Apartheid regime of terror.

The Pretoria regime, in pursuance of its policy of terror and destabilisation against Lesotho and in attempts to deter her from adherence to the UN Resolutions on the question of Apartheid, is presently contriving and carrying in measures aimed at sabotaging and strangling economically the Kingdom of Lesotho whose geographical position renders her most vulnerable. These schemes pose a great danger to the stability of Lesotho and her ability to maintain an uncompromising stand against the Apartheid regime whose policies have been internationally condemned as a crime against humanity and a threat to peace.

We therefore appeal to the international community to:-

- expose and condemn these sinister schemes by the Pretoria regime.
- plead with your governments to undertake measures of support and assistance to Lesotho.
- organise solidarity meetings, protests, and pickets outside South African Embassies calling on the regime to: "Hands off the Kingdom of Lesotho".
- write letters of protest to the South African State President demanding an immediate end to these criminal acts.
- encourage debate in the Parliament of your country on this issue to ensure that appropriate decisions are taken and implemented.
- ensure that the plight of the Kingdom of Lesotho becomes the focal point of your country's mass media so as to guarantee the awareness of public opinion and therefore easy mobilisation for support.

The African National Congress believes the economic, political and diplomatic actions of the international community can render valuable assistance to the Kingdom of Lesotho during this hour of trial.

We count, on your active support!

Yours fraternally,


J. JELE

Director of International Affairs

