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International Solidarity Conference with the Struggle of the African
and Arab Peoples against Imperialism and Reaction,
ADDIS ABABA, SEPTEMBER 15-17, 1978

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July 25, 1978

Mr. Cliver Tshilo
President
African National Congress of
South Africa
P.O.Box 1791
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Dear Comrades,

During the period 28-30 April, 1978 an International Preparatory Committee meeting was held in Addis Ababa, capital of Revolutionary Ethiopia, in which 36 non-governmental, national and international organizations, political parties and liberation movements participated. The meeting emphasized the vital importance of international solidarity with the struggle of the African and Arab peoples fighting for their independence, sovereignty and freedom. (See declaration hereby enclosed)

The delegates present at the meeting unanimously agreed to hold from the 15th to 17th of September, 1978 a broad-based "International Solidarity Conference with the Struggle of the African and Arab Peoples against Imperialism and Reaction." (Official opening of the Conference, however will take place in the evening of the 14th of September.) The participants accepted the fraternal offer on the part of the Government and People of Ethiopia to host the Conference.

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The International Preparatory Committee established by the participants in the consultative meeting of last April invites you to attend this historic Conference. Please note in passing, that your delegation is anticipated to comprise of two members.

The International Preparatory Committee is happy to inform the participants of the Conference that the national observance of the Fourth Anniversary of the triumph of the Ethiopian Revolution will take place on the 12th of September. Delegates who wish to attend the Ethiopian Revolution Day are kindly requested to be in Addis Ababa on the 11th of September.

The purpose and objectives of the Conference as discussed in the preparatory meeting of April 28, 1978 and as outlined in its final declaration will be:-

- a) The plots and tactics of imperialism and its alliance with the forces of reaction to undermine the development of the revolutionary struggle of the African and Arab Peoples as part of its global strategy to maintain its dominance and exploitation. Imperialist penetration in Africa and the Middle East and the role played by monopolies and transnational corporations and the tactics of destabilisation.
- b) The struggle of the African and Arab Peoples as an integral part of the general uprising of peoples against colonialism neo-colonialism, racism, fascism and apartheid for peace, democracy and social progress.
- c) Importance of the unity of action and the closing of the ranks of the anti-imperialist forces in Africa and the Middle East struggling against imperialism and reaction. The role played by international solidarity and action to step it up further.

their unity and solidarity, with all anti-imperialist and anti-reaction forces of the world.

The freedom-loving forces of the world, in particular socialist countries continue to render selfless moral, political and material support to the struggle of the national liberation movements which play a decisive role in the victories scored.

The struggle of the peoples, who are still subjected to colonial or neo-colonial oppression, fascism, racism, zionism, reaction and apartheid, for their right to self-determination and national independence and economic developments free from the exploitation of imperialist monopolies, for a new international economic order, on the basis of justice and sovereignty of the peoples over their natural resources and the selection of their own ways of development, have intensified within the framework of the present correlation of forces.

But, in spite of this unfavourable situation for imperialism, in its retreat it develops new strategies and methods to deter the thrust of the peoples' struggle wherever it can; it tries to impose its interests at the expense of the blood and suffering of the peoples, through direct aggression stifling liberties, establishing despicable regimes at its service and perfecting its weapons for blackmail, such as the neutron bomb.

Imperialism, in particular American imperialism, realising the bankruptcy of its policy, resorts to all sorts of methods to destabilize progressive governments in Africa and the Middle East, carries on slanderous campaigns, provocations, fosters and allies with local reaction.

The latest events show that the peoples of Africa and the Middle East have become one of the key fronts in these struggles against imperialism and its agents; its overall strategy of oppression and crime. They therefore, declare:-

1. The participants affirmed their resolute solidarity with the struggle of the people of Ethiopia to defend their revolution and territorial integrity against imperialist and reactionary attempts to escalate expansionist aggression and secessionist movements to weaken the National Unity and reverse the popular revolution.
2. The participants expressed their solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia under their legitimate representative, ANC, SWAPO, the patriotic Front of Zimbabwe against racism, imperialism and colonialism, and condemning thereby the so-called internal settlement; and also appeal to all governmental and non-governmental bodies

to step up their moral, material and diplomatic support to these national liberation movements and extend full support to the frontline states.

3. The participants affirmed their solidarity with the struggle of the Arab people of Palestine led by PLO for their inalienable rights to self-determination, return to their motherland, and to establish their own independent state, on their national soil, Palestine.

The delegates declared their solidarity with all Arab peoples fight and demand Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

They also condemn the imperialist and Zionist aggression against the Arab masses aimed at liquidating the Palestinian people and at weakening the Arab progressive forces, such as the recent attempt in Lebanon.

4. They also reaffirmed their solidarity with the West Saharan people led by POLISARIO in their struggle for the right to self-determination and national independence against the plot of imperialist and reactionary forces.
5. They stated their solidarity with the struggles of the people of Cyprus, victim of imperialist plot for a just solution of

the cypriot problem in conformity with the U.N. resolutions.

6. The participants noted the feverish attempts of imperialists and reactionary forces to stifle the liberation movements in the gulf area, and to establish military pacts and advance suspicious projects like the so-called "Gulf Security" and "Red Sea Security" the first aiming at aborting the main revolution and continuing the domination of imperialism and its stooges in the area against progressive regimes, and the latter as a direct design to destabilize the progressive regimes of the peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen and Ethiopia. The participants also condemned the policy of armaments pursued by imperialism to extend military support to reactionary regimes which go beyond their defensive needs.
7. The participants to the Preparatory Meeting of the International Solidarity Conference with the Struggle of the African and Arab Peoples against Imperialism and Reaction firmly support the revolutionary processes taking place in Africa and the Middle East against imperialist intervention and its policy of destabilization, and aggression, and therefore, declare the urgent need to unite all anti-imperialist and progressive forces of Africa, the Middle East and the rest of the world to intensify their solidarity in the face of imperialist conspiracies and manoeuvres.

8. Decided to organize a broad international solidarity conference with the African and Arab peoples struggling against imperialism and reaction from September 15 - 17, 1978 in Addis Ababa, capital of Revolutionary Ethiopia. The participants accept the fraternal offer on the part of the government and people of Ethiopia, to host the conference. This conference shall be open to all representatives of national, international and regional organizations who in this manner wish to contribute to the further consolidation of the unity of the anti-imperialist forces. And calls upon all revolutionary, progressive, democratic and patriotic forces to carry on actions of support and for the convening of the International Conference of Solidarity with the African and Arab peoples struggling against imperialism and reaction.
9. To this aim, they declare the formation of an international Preparatory Committee of the Conference composed of those bodies represented in this meeting and invite any other organization, if they so wish to join it in the future. They have elected a working group whose members are:-
 1. Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization (AAPSO)
 2. Algeria
 3. ANC
 4. Angola

5. Cuba
6. Ethiopia (Heading the working group)
7. Libya
8. Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe
9. PDRY (People's Democratic Republic of Yemen)
10. PLO
11. Portugal
12. Tanzania
13. USSR
14. Vietnam
15. World Peace Council (WPC)

The working group will be responsible for the practical preparation of the conference. The working group is entrusted with the task of making all the necessary consultations and elaborating the preparatory documents for the conference. If necessary, the working group will convene after due consultation another plenary session of the International Preparatory Committee.

The International Preparatory Committee appeals to all peace-loving and democratic forces throughout the world to organize a broad united effort to publicize this historic event to undertake all necessary preparations for its success.

For a great, broad and representative conference!

April 30, 1978

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

PLANS ON THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING OF
THE CONFERENCE

It is suggested that the International Conference of Solidarity with the struggle of the African and Arab Peoples against imperialism and reaction should carry on its work in plenary sessions and commissions.

During the plenary sessions, delegations may deliver their statements. The plenary session will adopt, by consensus the general declaration of the Conference. The reports of the commissions will be considered final after they have been approved by their respective commissions.

For the expedient and functional operation of the Conference it is suggested that two commissions be established to deal with specific and burning issues affecting Africa and the Middle East, the prime target areas of imperialist machinations and adverse designs.

Commission I (Will discuss item No. 2 of the agenda)

1. New plots, methods and manoeuvres of imperialism to undermine the revolutionary movements and subvert the progressive regimes of African and Arab peoples, as part of its overall strategy, to maintain its domination and exploitation.
 - a) NATO, its manoeuvres and acts of aggression and interference in the domestic affairs of the African and Arab peoples.
 - b) Growing military, political and economic cooperation of the racists of Southern Africa, Zionists of Israel and reactionary and fascist regimes of Latin America as a threat to the African and Arab peoples and the peace of the whole world.

- c) The overall strategy of imperialist and reactionary forces in the Red Sea, the Gulf, Indian Ocean and other parts of the world.
- d) Use of mercenaries by imperialist and reactionary forces against the just struggle of African and Arab peoples.
- e) The offensive propaganda of imperialism against objectives, achievements and unity of progressive forces.

Commission II (Will discuss item No. 3 of the agenda)

1. Importance of strengthening the unity of action, solidarity of progressive forces and the necessity of intensifying international solidarity with African and Arab peoples struggling against imperialism and reaction.
 - a) Tasks of the world progressive forces in mobilizing support to the peoples of Southern Africa on the decisive stage of their struggle for full liberation.
 - b) The just struggle of the Arab peoples especially Palestinian people against imperialism, zionism and reaction.
 - c) Unity of action and close cooperation between the national liberation movements, socialist countries, international workers' movement and all progressive forces of the world as the guarantee for further victories in their common struggle.

Drafting Committee

The drafting committee will deal with the technical aspect of preparing the final resolution of the Conference in accordance with the proposals submitted by various delegations in the plenary sessions. The drafting committee will present its final document to the plenary session for adoption.

Taking into account that the delegates would arrive well ahead of time, the formal opening of the Conference could take place in the evening of the 14th of September.

FINAL DECLARATION OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING
INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE WITH THE STRUGGLE
OF THE AFRICAN AND ARAB PEOPLES AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND REACTION

April 28 - 30, 1978

The representatives of 36 national and international non-governmental organization, political parties and liberation movements met in addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia from April 28 to 30, 1978 to examine the pressing matters pertaining to the international solidarity with the struggles of African and Arab peoples against imperialism and reaction and confirmed that:- currently, the peoples' struggle for peace, disarmament, national independence, economic and social progress is taking place under more favourable conditions at a time when the united forces of progress and peace throughout the world advance, thus forcing imperialism to retreat. They noted, among other things, progress in international detente, historical victories of peoples such as that of Vietnam, the collapse of the Portugese colonial empire and the victories of Angola over imperialist plots, the access of countries to independence and the consolidation of the countries building socialism in all fields.

In order to deal a death blow to imperialism and reaction, it is imperative that all the forces of progress should strengthen

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AGENDA OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE WITH
THE STRUGGLE OF AFRICAN AND ARAB PEOPLES
AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND REACTION

(As amended by the Working Group)

1. The struggle of African and Arab peoples as an integral part of the world-wide struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, apartheid and fascism, for peace, national liberation, democracy and social progress.
 - a) New stage in the development of the national liberation movement -- social and economic tasks of the modern national democratic revolutions.
 - b) Forces struggling for the socialist path of development as vanguard of the national liberation movement.
 - c) Struggle of the progressive forces of the world for peace, disarmament and detente as a favourable factor for further successes of the national liberation movement.
2. New plots, methods and manoeuvres of imperialism to undermine the revolutionary movements and subvert the progressive regimes of African and Arab peoples, as part of its overall strategy, to maintain its domination and exploitation.
 - a) NATO, its manoeuvres and acts of aggression and interference in the domestic affairs of the African and Arab peoples.
 - b) Growing military, political and economic cooperation of the racists of Southern Africa, Zionists of Israel and reactionary and fascist regimes of Latin America as a threat to the African and Arab peoples and the peace of the whole world.

- c) The overall strategy of imperialist and reactionary forces in the Red Sea, the Gulf, Indian Ocean and other parts of the world.
 - d) Use of mercenaries by imperialist and reactionary forces against the just struggle of African and Arab peoples.
 - e) The offensive propaganda of imperialism against objectives, achievements and unity of progressive forces.
3. Importance of strengthening the unity of action, solidarity of Progressive forces and the necessity of intensifying international solidarity with African and Arab peoples struggling against imperialism and reaction.
- a) Tasks of the world progressive forces in mobilizing support to the peoples of Southern Africa on the decisive stage of their struggle for full liberation.
 - b) The just struggle of the Arab peoples especially Palestinian people against imperialism, zionism and reaction.
 - c) Unity of action and close cooperation between the national liberation movements, socialist countries, international workers' movement and all progressive forces of the world as the guarantee for further victories in their common struggle.
4. International solidarity with the Ethiopian Revolution and the peoples of Socialist Ethiopia in their struggle for peace, territorial integrity and social and economic progress.

The Conference will carry out its work in plenary sessions and commissions' meetings in Africa Hall. The working languages will be English, French, Arabic and Spanish with simultaneous interpretation.

We look forward to your participation at this International Conference of Solidarity with the struggle of African and Arab peoples against Imperialism and Reaction.

The International Preparatory Committee appreciates any kind of material and/or financial contribution to be made for the preparation of this historic Conference.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter and confirmation of your attendance before the 15th of August, 1978.

For a great, broad-based and representative conference!

International Preparatory
Committee

