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Declaration of the Panel at the International

Hearing on South African Aggression against  
the Neighbouring States.

Oslo 22-24 March 1984

On the initiative of the Norwegian Council for Southern Africa, the Africa Groups of Sweden and the Danish Association for international

Co-operation, an International Hearing has been held in Oslo in March 22-24 1984 on South African aggression against neighbouring states.

In the course of three days, representatives of the liberation movements

ANC and SWAPO, the front-line states, as well as a number of international experts and witnesses have presented a comprehensive and penetrating

documentation about the wide-ranging South African policy of destabilisation and aggression against neighbouring states. Information has been given about the vast material losses and human suffering inflicted

in the whole region by military attacks, support to terrorist groups, economic sabotage and blackmail from South Africa. It has been established

that this aggression forms part of what by the South African regime is called its 'total strategy' and whose aim is to strengthen the possibility of the apartheid regime to survive. It has emerged from the information presented at the hearing that all means are being used to exert military and economic pressure against the neighbouring states. Circumscribe the

struggle of the liberation movements and to weaken the international society's campaign against apartheid.

The hearing has also given evidence about the build-up of the South African war economy since the 1960's, facilitated by deliveries from, and co-operation with - in particular - Western countries, where also Nordic countries have participated. It was further documented that the illegal occupation of Namibia continues in contravention of U.N. resolutions and

of the right of the Namibian people to self-determination, and that South Africa by various devious means has blocked since 1978 the implementation of the Security Council resolution 435 on armistice, election and independence.

The recent negotiations and agreements cannot hide the fact that a lasting peace in Southern Africa is impossible as long as the apartheid system exists. As pointed out to the Hearing by the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sverre Strøm: The dominant factor in the many

problems which are confronting this part of the world is South Africa's apartheid policy."

In South Africa, the vast majority of the population continue to be barred from participation in the political decision making. There is a systematic violation of human rights, and an intensification of the

brutal repression of anti-apartheid forces. The militarisation of politics and the economy is also advancing..

Forced removals of africans to the destitute areas called "Homelands" continue. The number of persons who, only during the recent past, have in this way been deported and deprived of their nationality, surpasses three million human beings, and more than one million are in danger of being subjected to the same inhuman treatment.

Desecration and aggression in South Africa, together with the continued occupation of Namibia, has been encouraged during the last few years by the policy of the present U.S. Administration. The efforts to present super-power, and East-West perspective, together with the views held by the U.S. and South Africa on the current negotiation, have underlined this danger.

In this situation. South Africa seeks to present itself in world opinion as a more 'peaceful country';

There is an apparent risk that this will be exploited in particular by some of the Western powers in order to deflate the pressure for actions against South Africa, for support to the Frontline states and to the struggle for liberation in South Africa and Namibia.

It is clear that these recent developments have not encouraged South Africa to drop its delaying tactics in Namibia. Nor has anything emerged which indicates that the South African government is prepared to dismantle its apartheid system, which is the fundamental cause of the serious threat from South Africa to international peace and security.

It is therefore more important than ever to work for the elimination of apartheid, the termination of the illegal occupation of Namibia, and to counteract the South African destabilisation and economic dominance of the neighbouring states.

Against this background we emphasise that the main goals for the policies of the Nordic countries in relation to Southern Africa should be to contribute to the complete elimination of the apartheid regime in South Africa, to the independence of Namibia and to the achievement of peace in the

whole region. From this, it follows that the Nordic governments should:

- increase their support to the liberation movements in South Africa and Namibia (ANC and SWAPO), as well as to the independent trade unions, the church organisations and to other forces - such as the United Democratic Front (UDF) - struggling for national independence, democracy and a non-racist society.

- substantially increase the assistance to the Frontline states and to their organisation of economic cooperation SADC, in order both to assist in the reconstruction after the massive South African destructions and to enable them to resist South African economic and military pressure in the

future. Such support is not an alternative but a valuable supplement to international sanctions and to direct support for those who conduct the struggle inside South Africa and Namibia. The Frontline states must be given the necessary support to improve the material conditions and personal security of refugees. The status and rights of these as refugees under international agreements must be safeguarded.

- intensify the efforts to secure full implementation of the arms embargo against South Africa, and to oppose all forms of nuclear and military

cooperation with South Africa. The arms embargo must also be expanded to cover all products which can be used for military control and more severe punishment if violations nevertheless occur.

An important contribution to the effort to supervise the arms embargo and to disclose any military collaboration between South Africa and other states, is to provide support to the World Campaign against nuclear and military collaboration with South Africa.

The hearing urges the Nordic countries, in cooperation with the countries involved to initiate an investigation of allegations about the use of napalm, toxic or other chemical substance and other means of warfare which are prohibited by international law, and to provide the necessary expertise.

- strengthen the efforts to obtain binding international sanctions against South Africa. Until such sanctions are adopted by the UN Security Council, the Nordic governments must halt the increase during recent years in trade and transport services.

Strict control must be enforced in order to prevent that any product exported from the Nordic countries can be used by the South African army and police.

At the same time the apartheid regime can be altogether cut down. It is of particular importance to adopt effective measures to prevent supply of oil.

Oil-exporting countries and countries providing transport services have a joint responsibility in this regard since they are supplying South Africa with a product necessary to engage in warfare against neighbouring states and

to suppress the vast majority of their own population. The Nordic governments are also requested to present a proposal to the Security Council for a binding oil embargo against South Africa.

- instruct Nordic representatives to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) consistently to oppose any credit facilities to South Africa.

- review the Nordic Programme of Action against apartheid (1978) in order to evaluate the degrees to which it has been implemented and in which areas there is a need to strengthen these measures. Consideration

d should be given, i.e., to a strengthening of the prohibition of investments and transfer of technology. Furthermore, a more rigorous control should be exercised to prevent all forms of contact with South Africa in the fields of culture, science and sport.

The Nordic governments should also use their influence to urge SAS to stop

its flights to Johannesburg.

- enact national legislation prohibiting any involvement in extraction of natural resources in Namibia as well as import, transport and sale of such

resources as long as that country is occupied by South Africa. The basis of this legislation should be Decree NO. 1 on the protection of the natural resources of Namibia adopted by the U.N. Council for Namibia in 1974.

- strengthen their participation in the international campaign so that Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners in South Africa and Namibia be released without preconditions of any kind.

- strengthen the diplomatic, political and economic pressure on South Africa in order to halt its aggression against the neighbouring states, to implement the Security resolution 435/1978 on armistice, elections and independence for Namibia, and to stop the forced removals of South Africans

to the Bentustans. Beyond increased efforts in the United Nations, the Nordic countries must seek to isolate the apartheid regime also by using their contacts in multilateral and bilateral relations, to influence the main partners of economic collaboration in the near future.

- provide increased support to the solidarity organisations and anti-apartheid movements in our part of the world which carry out a valuable work to disseminate information about the conditions in the Southern Africa,

and which mobilize political, material and moral support to the frontline states and liberation movements.

The Hearing also emphatically calls on individuals and organisations in the Nordic countries to support the solidarity efforts for an independent Namibia and the domination of the South African apartheid system. These efforts must include boycott of South African products, support to fund-raising for resistance - and liberation movements, pressure on government authorities to

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isolate South Africa politically and economically, and participation in the campaign for the release of all political prisoners in Namibia and South Africa without preconditions. The trade unions in the Nordic countries are also requested to strengthen their efforts to reduee Nordic links to South Africa. We also urge members of the parliaments in

the Nordic countries to participate in the collaboration now established in Western Europe to coordinate the struggle on the parliament ary level against the South African apartheid regime.

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