

UPDATE ON SITUATION IN DENMARK (April 18th 1991). No. 2.

Denmark will veto lifting of sanctions in EC

Denmark does not support the proposal to remove EC-sanctions. Wednesday the 17th of April a clear cut majority for sustaining the present EC-sanctions had emerged. Thereby the Danish parliament will block the lifting of the trade embargo on iron ore, steel and Krugerrands. The three parties behind the majority feel cheated by the Danish foreign minister, Mr Uffe Elleman-Jensen, who failed to stand up to official Danish policy by condoning the lifting of the EC-ban on new investments in Rome last month. Elleman-Jensen had no majority backing his policy. According to Danish traditions of parliamentarism and minority governments this is regarded as a very serious break of parliament's confidence in the government. At a meeting in parliament's special committee on EC-related problems Friday the 19th the foreign minister will therefore get instructions to follow the majority in parliament and not his own intuition when the lifting of trade restrictions comes up at next week's meeting of EC foreign ministers.

The three parties constituting the parliamentarian majority, respectively the Social Democratic Party, the Social Liberal Party, and the Socialist Peoples Party, all state that Denmark should not participate in any further lifting of sanctions before unambiguous evidence of universal suffrage being on track can be presented. This principled stand has been taken despite heavy lobbying from the Danish Chamber of Commerce and Board of Industrialists.

The National Committee South Africa Action in Denmark has expressed its deep appreciation of the principled stand of the Danish politicians. At the same time the National Committee states: "Since the Danish foreign minister has been in his position for nearly nine years, he should know by now that the Government has no independent mandate when it comes to South Africa. But still he persists in promoting his independent views. Thus FW de Klerk is not invited by the Danish parliament or the Danish people. On the 24th FW de Klerk will visit a foreign minister in Denmark - in private."

National Committee South Africa Action,
Griffenfeldtsgade 35,
2200 Copenhagen N,
Denmark.

Tlph.: (45) 31 35 9232 Fax: (45) 31 33 4332