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Report of HART Aotearoa to the Regional Anti-Apartheid Conference
held in Tokyo Japan - August 1988

Ti hei Mauri ora !

Ka Tangi te Titi

Ka Tangi to Kaka

Ka Tangi hoki au

Ti hei Mauri ora

. Ki nga mate haere haere haere

Ki nga tangata i roto i nga whareherehere

Aroha ki a koutou

Ki nga tangata i roto i nga hohipora

Aroha ki'a toutou

E aku rangatira c whakanui nui i a au

Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou

Translation :

To those who have passed away, farewell. To the imprisoned our
thoughts are with you. Let us also think of those who have fallen
ill, You, my friends here bidding me welcome, I salute you.

Greetings 2

Sisters and Brothers of the anti-racism movement, I bring you fraternal greetings from HART Aotearoa.

Firstly I would like to give my thanks to the organisers of this meeting for issuing the invitation to HART which was gratefully taken up by me on their behalf,

I would like to cover two matters in HART's presentation to delegates. Firstly we note the conference wants to look at issues of local and regional racism as well as the anti-apartheid struggle. Therefore I would like as a Maori myself to outline the situation regarding the struggle of the Maori people for racial justice. In the second part of my presentation I will outline the work of HART, its background and current objectives in the struggle against apartheid.

Firstly then a little background to the current racial situation in New Zealand.

Early European explorers came to New Zealand finding the Maori people already settled on the land. European settlement followed from the early 1800's. This resulted in seizure of land, introduction of foreign diseases etc. A typical situation of colonial domination developed which led to the breakdown of traditional Maori society with Maori people relegated to a second-class citizen status.

On February 6 1840 Governor Hobson representing the British Crown met with Maori chiefs and the Treaty of Waitangi was signed. This treaty had three basic articles -

(1) Governorship of Aotearoa to the British Crown

(2) Chieftainship over their lands, forests, fisheries etc to the Maori people

(3) Guarantees of full rights and privileges of British citizenship to Maori people.

However many Maori grievances have developed over the 148 years since 1840.

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because successive governments have refused to adhere to the principles of the Treaty and have ridden roughshod over Maori aspirations. One of the major demands of Maori people today is for the full recognition of our rights under the Treaty. Honest consideration of these grievances was refused by governments till 1975 when a tribunal was established with a bi-cultural approach to look into these matters. One must say there is hope in this initiative as several important claims have been found in favour of the Maori,

Despite such positive signs there are still major problems facing our people today. These present problems stem from three basic failures -
- firstly the failure to respond to the large economic differences between Maori and Pakeha and allow for Maori economic-self-development

- secondly the failure to recognise and accept the cultural needs of the Maori

- thirdly failing to recognise our status as tangata whenua (first people of the land)

The symptoms of these failures show up dramatically. Maori people earn 35% less than Pakeha. Another disturbing fact is that Maori people are massively over represented in the jails and unemployment statistics. Maori health is also in a poor state with diseases associated with low socio-economic conditions being prevalent. eg heart and lung diseases.

The Maori movement has only recently been organised to such an extent that we can exert real pressure for change. Our tactics have been firstly to accept the positive things of European society and then to organise a mass movement for positive changes along with the rebirth of the language and customs.

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Although Maori make up just 12% of the total population this in no way makes our demands less attainable or justified, New Zealand was founded on racist ideology and colonialism and the dramatic symptoms of this remain. In no way is New Zealand the land of racial bliss which it has been portrayed as over the years.

HART's support for the recognition of Maori rights in New Zealand has grown over the years. HART also has a policy of support for indigenous struggles around the world, In the South Pacific for example the struggles of the Kanak people and those in East Timor have HART's support. International contact for all oppressed peoples is important and we look forward to sharing our ideas and experiences with other delegates here.

The Anti-Apartheid struggle in New Zealand :

With the main thrust of this conference being the struggle against apartheid we hope for some strong regional initiatives from the conference as well as strengthening the anti-apartheid struggle in each of the countries represented here. We believe our work here at the conference must lead to determined activity by us all to undermine further the support for the regime in this part of the world and develop real solidarity for the liberation struggle.

Firstly a little background to HART and our work to date. HART (originally Halt All Racist Tours) was formed in 1969 with its main objective being to stop the 1970 All Black tour to South Africa. This focus on New Zealand sporting links with South Africa remained until 1986 as these links, particularly through rugby were the most important links New Zealand had with South Africa, 'Rugby is the national sport for white South Africa and is the New Zealand national sport, For this reason major mass campaigns were organised against

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all the rugby tours both by the Springboks to New Zealand and the All Blacks to South Africa. The fiercest campaign was that organised against the visit to New Zealand by the Springboks in 1981, During protests against that tour over 2200 people were arrested with a number serving jail terms. One match was cancelled for security reasons while another was abandoned after 300 anti-apartheid supporters invaded the ground and occupied the middle of the field. Since the rebel All Black Cavalier tour to South Africa in 1986 however there have been no major tours to or from South Africa by representative rugby teams. Only relatively minor sporting contacts with apartheid remain today.

Throughout this time though the anti-apartheid movement has also worked to cut New Zealand's investment and trading links with the regime. New Zealand had only a small amount of money invested in South Africa through 2 insurance companies and after a vigorous shareholder campaign both companies withdrew their investments. On the trading front HART strategy until recently has been to pick off the biggest traders with apartheid one by one and target them for protest action. This has involved both pickets as well as shareholder action where this has been possible. We began by targetting importers of South African wine and have followed this by singling out other high profile importers. This approach has been particularly successful to date and many companies have now ceased trading with South Africa and overall the value of NZ trade with South Africa is falling, From this year though we have taken a new direction in the sanctions campaign. We are putting all New Zealand links with South Africa into a campaign for total economic sanctions. This campaign is due for nationwide launch in New Zealand on October 9th and has its aim to get the government to legislate to ban all trade with South Africa.

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(Currently the New Zealand government has banned only agricultural imports which cover only about 26% of imports from that country)

Our campaign slogan is END APARTHEID TEREOR - TOTAL SANCTIONS NOW and this will be HART'S biggest campaign since the major sporting campaigns of the past.

In support of the liberation struggle HART has been involved in political support and through touring liberation movement representatives as well as in material aid to a much smaller extent. Next year HART plans to organise a cultural tour by a group of students from the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College in Tanzania for three weeks. We look forward to sharing with conference delegates ideas and strategies for the implementation of the total boycott of South Africa and support for the liberation struggle. Particularly from this conference we would like to see -

- regular contact and liaison between the groups here for solidarity and support in our part of the world
- regional coordination of anti-apartheid campaigns where this is possible and practicable

2. joint action against Shell in support of the international Shell campaign

joint action for pressure on the government of Japan as South Africa's major trading partner

- sharing of information about issues of local racism and publicizing these in our respective countries

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