

Lum 083/0002/17  
**AFRO - ASIAN SOLIDARITY ASSOCIATION OF CEYLON**

88 A, Main Street, Colombo-II. Telephone 5060.

President: Rev. U. Saranankara  
Secretary: A. Aziz  
Asst. Secy: Suriya Wickremasinghe  
Treasurer: T. Duraisingam

Vice-Presidents:  
Sir Razik Fareed M.P.  
Dr. M. C. M. Kaleel M. P.  
Jaya Pathirana M. P.  
Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe M.P.  
A. C. Nadarajah

12th June 1965

Oliver Tambo Esq  
Deputy President-General, A.N.C.  
Dar es Salaam

Dear Friend,

Our delegation to the 4th Conference of the AAPSO held in Winneba last month have told us of the interest you showed in the question of our representation, and of the invaluable assistance you gave them. We are most grateful to you for your help.

I am sending you a copy of our constitution which I gather you said you would like to have. As you yourself pointed out, everything hinges on the validity of our meeting of 23rd April 64. Any observations you have to make after seeing the constitution would be most valuable to us.

I am also sending you a copy of a letter we went to our Prime Minister Mr. Dudley Senanayake and his representative to the C"wealth P.M.'s Conference Mr. Fairlie Wijemanne (Minister of Justice), about South Africa. In this connection Desmond Fernando (whom you met in Winneba) also interviewed Mr. Wijemanne and gave him a copy of the Penguin SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA and other material. He showed considerable interest and concern over S. Africa. We have written to Anti-Apartheid, London, about this, and suggested they too seek an interview with him. If our govt can be made to take a firm line I think it could be of use to you precisely because it is a right wing Govt, and therefore more likely to be taken notice of by the U.K. and U.S.A. The present ruling party has always given us good cooperation in our S. Africa campaign, and leading members of it met John Marks when he visited us last year. We feel that that was an extremely useful visit.

We are also sending you, by surface mail, some material about our Association's Vietnam campaign. This will be sent also to members of the Executive Committee of the AAPSO. The idea is to counter the propaganda that we are "pro-imperialist"! We know you need no reassuring on this score, but the material may assist you to do a little canvassing for us when the opportunity arises.

May I also ask you to remember me to J.B. Marks, and to give him the enclosed photographs, and to convey to him my apologies for having delayed them so long. We all remember with great affection and pleasure his brief visit to us.

Thanking you once more for all your cooperation,

yours sincerely,

*Suriya Wickremasinghe*

Asst. Sec.

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7th, June, 1965.

The Hon. Dudley Senanayake,  
Prime Minister of Ceylon,  
Colombo.

COPY

Dear Sir,

During the last year, our Association has devoted much attention to the question of South Africa, whose racist policies outrage the conscience of civilised people everywhere. On the eve of your representative's departure for the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, we would like to draw your attention to certain practical possibilities of assistance to the fight against apartheid.

An objective, detailed and highly expert study of the feasibility of economic sanctions was made by the International Conference for Sanctions against South Africa held in London last year, at which our organisation was represented as an observer. The conclusions of this scientific analysis were that concerted economic sanctions against South Africa by all countries was both practicable and effective, and also the only means of averting or shortening the violent uprising and consequent bloodbath that must ensue if the Verwoerd government is permitted to continue its oppressive rule. The Conference also found that the effect on individual economics and the dislocation of world trade would be less than often supposed, and in any event only temporary. Measures for mitigating hardships were also discussed. The main problem is to persuade Great Britain and the U.S.A. to agree to such action. These countries, while condemning apartheid, have so far stopped short of voting for action by the Security Council of the U.N.

The expert papers and conclusions of the Sanctions Conference have been published by Penguins. (Penguin Special S 212 SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. ed. Ronal Segal. 1964.)

We forward to you herewith a copy of the resolutions passed unanimously at the all party public meeting held last year in Colombo on South Africa Freedom Day. The Hon. J. R. Jayewardena spoke on your behalf on that occasion,

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We also forward to you a few revealing quotations from the proponents of apartheid. (Included among them is one showing the reaction of the government of South Africa to the appeal made last year by Ceylon M.P.s.) We know that you fully appreciate the monstrosity of the apartheid regime, and we are confident of the Ceylon government's willingness to support the legitimate aspirations of the people of South Africa. However, we feel it important to underline the unreality of expecting the Verwoerd Government to yield to moral pressure alone. The incredible arrogance of the quotations cited amply demonstrates this. They also serve to emphasise the grave provocation continuously being offered by the Verwoerd Government not merely to the non-White people of South Africa, but also to those of the independent countries of Africa, many of whom will be represented at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference.

May we also remind you that the judgment of the International Court of Justice on the question of South West Africa is expected this year. It is generally anticipated that the Court will rule South Africa's apartheid policies in this trust territory to be a violation of the mandate under which the League of Nations permitted her to administer South West Africa. Should this happen, there will undoubtedly be a call for action under the U.N. Charter to enforce the judgment. It is very important that Great Britain should support this. It is also essential that Great Britain should maintain a firm stand against the white settler government of Southern Rhodesia. The independent States of Africa realise that otherwise that country too will become another South Africa.

The free States of Africa have high hopes of achieving firm decisions on all these matters at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference. In this they expect and must receive the active support of newly free Asian countries such as our own.

In conclusion, may I add that our organization is in direct contact with the liberation movements of many of the still unfree African countries - FRELIMO (Mozambique); M.P.L.A. (Angola); ZAPU (Zimbabwe - Southern Rhodesia); A.N.C. (South Africa). You will remember that John Marks, an envoy of the last named, visited Ceylon last year at our invitation and met leading members of all parties. We shall be pleased in future to obtain for you any information or material from these sources.

Yours truly,

Asst. Secretary

Copies to

The Hon. Fairlie Wijemanne, Minister of Justice.

The Hon. J.R. Jayewardene, Minister of State, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence & External Affairs