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Australasian and Pacific 1 Dem Pall

REGIONAL CONFERENCE AGAINST APARTHEID

FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA

SYDNEY, SEPTEMBER 15 - 17, 1989.

Message of Support for SWAPO

15-17 September 1989 S,Mey Australia

The first Australasian and Pacific Regional Conference Against Apartheid for a Democratic South

Africa convened by the Australasia and Pacific Office of the ANC was held in Sydney, Australia on

the 15 - 17 September 1989. It was attended by over a hundred representatives of trade unions, churches,

women, youth, and student groups, (Australian) parliamentarians, political parties, professional,

organisations, anti-apartheid and ANC support Groups from Australia, Aotearoa (New Zealand), Fiji,

Hawaii, Hong Kong, Japan, Kanaky (New Caledonia), Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands,

South Korea, Vanuatu and Western Samoa. Representatives of the Australian Department of Foreign

Affairs and Trade also participated.

The conference was also attended by representatives of the African National Congress (ANC), the

Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), the South African Council of Churches (SACC),

the South African National Medical and Dental Association (NAMDA) as well as Ambassadors, High

Commissioners and other diplomats accredited to Australia and representing Algeria, China

, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Hungary, India, Kenya, Mauritius, New Zealand, Nigeria, the U.S.A, the

U.S.S.R, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The conference was a follow-up of the International Conference Against Apartheid for a Democratic

South Africa which was convened by the ANC in Arusha, Tanzania on December. 1 - 4, 1987.

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Conference brought together for the first time all concerned groups to support the liberation struggle

and the ANC's place in that liberation struggle.

The Regional Conference was opened by Senator the Hon. Gareth Evans, Australian Minister of

Foreign Affairs and Trade. Other speakers at the official dinner were His Excellency Fereenc

Esztergalyos, Hungarian Ambassador to the UN and representative of the UN Special Committee against

Apartheid, Thabo Mbeki, ANC Secretary for International Affairs and member of the National

Executive Committee of the ANC, and Eddie .Funde ANC Chief Representative in Australasia

and the

Pacific .

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The conference endorsed the Declaration and Programme of Action of the December, 1987 Arusha

Conference and the various sectors considered ways and means of implementing that programme in the

context of the tasks facing the solidarity movement in the Australasian and Pacific region and in the

light of the changes in South and Southern Africa since the Arusha conference was held.

Conference Noted : '

1. that the Namibian people are facing increasing hurdles in the final stages of their achievements

for a free society in the form of:

a) intimidation and fraud

b) no central voters' role

c) the hideous assassination of Comrade Anton Lubowski in the past week

2. the increasing interference by the South African regime in the constitutional processes of a new

Namibia and control over the finances for the new Assembly.

Conference Reaffirms its commitment to the struggle of SWAPO and the Namibian people, the

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endeavour to achieve freedom and genuine independence.

Conference further endorses the call by SWAPO for :

a) the extension of the voter registration period

b) the increase of UNTAG forces to 7500 members .

c) all former "Koevoet" and South African controlled military units to be disbanded and removed

from SWAPOL.

Sydney

17th September 1989 _ x