

NM 0/005/0009/6

PRESS CONFERENCE. OPENING STATEMENT BY MR. KJELL MAGNE BONDEVIK ON 14 MAY AT 3:15 P.M.

At the outset of this press conference I would like to note that we have just concluded the third meeting between the Foreign Ministers of the Frontline States and the Nordic countries.

- During our meeting, Namibia was welcomed as a new participant in the Frontline group of States, as well as the 10th member of the SADCC and the 160th member of the United Nations. We noted with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the Namibian independence process and commended UNTAG for its contribution. We also urged South Africa to ensure early re-integration of Walvis Bay into Namibia, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 432 (1978). We stressed the importance of the Namibian independence for a democratic and peaceful development in South Africa to dismantle apartheid.

- We had an extensive exchange of views on the recent developments in South Africa, their implications for the countries in the region and what measures are necessary to achieve the total eradication of apartheid in a peaceful way and the establishment of a true democracy.

- We welcomed the promising outcome of the "talks about talks" in South Africa on 2-4 May and expressed our hope that real negotiations could start soon between the South African Government and genuine representatives of the majority population. However, we noted that important obstacles to initiate real negotiations exist, and that the pillars of apartheid are still in place.

- We pledged our full support for the democratization process in South Africa through various measures, such as:

a) continued pressure on the South African Government, including existing economic sanctions, until irreversible and profound changes to eradicate apartheid had taken place;

b) in this respect, also firm support for the maintenance of an arms embargo against South Africa;

c) continued support to the ANC and other organizations and groups working for a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa;

The Nordic Ministers informed their colleagues from the Frontline States of their intentions to update the Nordic Programme of Action against Apartheid with these objectives in mind.

6. The international community has a particular responsibility to promote dialogue between the South African Government and the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa with a view to achieving a successful outcome of the democratization process and to dismantling apartheid in South Africa. The Ministers stressed the urgent need for the South African Government to remove the obstacles standing in the way of negotiations aimed at dismantling apartheid in the framework of the Harare Declaration and the United Nations Declaration on Apartheid adopted by consensus at the United Nations Special Session in December 1989.

7. The Nordic countries and the Frontline States agreed to continue their contacts with regard to the developments in South Africa and the consequences for the Frontline States. They reconfirmed their support to alleviate the burden caused by the long-lasting destabilization and the hosting of refugees from South Africa. They reiterated the importance of the Nordic/SADCC initiative which is as valid as ever.

8. The serious situation in Angola and in Mocambique was given particular attention, and the Ministers expressed their earnest hope that the peace talks under way in these two countries would soon bear fruit.

Oslo, 14 May 1990