

PRESS STATEMENT OF THE
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Lusaka Zambia - 2nd March, 1990

A meeting of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress was held in Lusaka, Zambia on 1st and 2nd March, 1990. It was also attended by leaders of our movement based inside South Africa, including Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and other comrades. '

The meeting reviewed the situation since the historic release of Comrade Nelson Mandela. It reiterated the fact that despite the undoubted importance of this release, the majority of political prisoners are still in 91101.

It is urgent that this matter be resolved. This urgency is emphasised by the fact of the heroic hunger strikes on which our comrades in prison have now embarked.

It is also of vital importance that the Pretoria regime moves without delay to remove all other obstacles standing in the way of negotiations.

In this regard the NEC reaffirmed its earlier decision to meet the Pretoria regime to discuss the issue of removing these obstacles. It welcomed the positive response of FW de Klerk to their initiative. Having discussed various matters of detail concerning this meeting, the NEC decided that it was necessary to initiate contact with the regime immediately to seek agreement on the dates of the meeting, the venue and other matters relating to the preparation of the meeting.

The NEC also discussed as a matter of urgency the implementation of its earlier decisions to send into the country some of its members who would, together with the ANC leaders inside the country, carry out an extensive process of consultation with all democratic and anti-apartheid forces on the current situation and our perspectives. The NEC group will be selected and sent home as soon as the necessary arrangements are made.

The NEC considered a report by Comrade Walter Sisulu on work done to re-establish the legal structures of the ANC. It decided that the Headquarters Office of the ANC will be opened in Johannesburg without delay. It also approved the constitution of other headquarters, regional and local structures which will be put in place as soon as possible.

It resolved to approach its international allies to assist in providing the resources that are necessary for the rebuilding of the ANC.

The NEC considered future international visits by Comrade Nelson Mandela and other leaders based inside the country. It confirmed that Comrade Mandela will, from Zambia, visit Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Sweden before he returns home.

It expressed its appreciation for the very many communications it had received. inviting Comrade Mandela to visit various countries. It therefore directed the National Working Committee of the NBC to look into this question to elaborate a programme of International visits for Comrade Mandela and other leaders based inside the country. The NEC expressed its profound thanks to Comrade President Kenneth Kamda, UMP. the government and people of Zambia for the unprecedented welcome they extended to Comrade Nelson Mandela. his family and the rest of his delegation. This outstanding demonstration of solidarity and unqualified friendship is a vital factor strengthening our movement and people in the continuing struggle to end the apartheid system and transform our country into a non-racial democracy. It also expressed its warm appreciation to the Frontline. Commonwealth. EEC and other leaders who travelled to Lusaka to meet Comrade Mandela. The discussions which took place with them have helped further to reinforce the continuing international struggle for the isolation of apartheid South Africa. The NEC also thanked the rest of the international community for the mobilisation carried out to welcome the release of Comrade Mandela. The NEC saluted Comrade Mandela and other comrades who have served prison sentences for their opposition to apartheid. It paid tribute to them for their outstanding contribution to the struggle for the liberation of our people. It resolved that immediately the comrades who were members of the NEC before they were arrested. namely Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and Gavan Mbeki. will resume their places with the NBC. The NEC further elected Comrade Nelson Mandela as Deputy President of the ANC. the NEC resolved to convey its greetings to Comrade President Sam Nujoma, SWAPO and the people of Namibia on the occasion of the accession of their country to independence. It further decided to send a high-level delegation to participate in the independence celebrations. Finally, it paid its tribute to the National Reception Committee. the democratic and anti-apartheid movement and the masses of our people for the manner in which they received Comrade Mandela into their midst. This process has helped further to reinforce the unity of our people and emphasise the necessity further to intensify the struggle. The NEC conveyed its Warm greetings to Comrade President Oliver Tambo. thanked him for his invaluable contribution to its discussions and wished him a speedy recovery. The NEC is confident that he will soon return to his post to lead our organisation and people to victory.

ISSUED BY TEE ARC. PO BOX 31791. wens. Luau.

SENT av: xaaox Telecaaier 7:17:15- 2-50 : 1s:37 : 2501215334- ERROR ceases?

-1-

STATEMENT OF THE-NATIONAL zxxcurxvx COMMITTEE (REC) OF THE
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ARC): LUSAKA. ZAMBIA. FEBRUARY 16.
1990, 1

The National Executive Committee of the African National Congress
met in Lusaka. Zambia from February 14 -

16, 1990 to consider the

situation arising from the decisions announced on February 2 and
10, 1990, by Pretoria state president, F. W. de Klerk. affecting

10

the White National Party regime had instituted during
years of its illegitimate rule of South Africa.

As is known, de Klerk also spelled out

petty and government which he

addressed the issue of ending the

policy positions of his

presented as being intended to

the system of apartheid.

submitted to the meeting by the President of the ANC, Oliver

T. - ANC based within South Africa.

... ..-...-...-.. v bUALbAtLuU hut: BLsug'aLIIs 2.9 SRO 1'33

:anartmcid avatar: aa mxinulu .. -_.___.uu 7

.ev

The NBC recognised the unhappiness of the
organisations as an important factor in
negotiations. It also viewed

in a positive light other measures such as the partial lifting of
the press restrictions and the rescinding of banning orders
affecting various persons.

It welcomed the suspension of the death penalty as an important
first step which must, without

delay, lead to the unconditional

release of all political activists

It therefore calls on this regime specifically to release all
political prisoners and detainees. and the

state of emergency,

legislation, halt all political trials and

remove all troops from the townships.

To help achieve these objectives in the shortest possible time.

It resolved to meet Mr de Klerk as soon as possible to discuss

with him the need to address these

issues so that a climate

conducive to negotiation is created.

It is delegation will be

represented by the leaders of the ARC based within the country as

ssur av: xaaox Telecooier 7317::5- 2-90 : is 37 % 280121533h siROR CSRREC

- 2 -

well an membsrc Gf'the SEC hazadauutaide ih0"t0uncrv.

The NBC also considers it of vital importance that it should meet the leaders of the ARC who are inside South Africa, as well as those of the mass democratic movement and other anti-apartheid forces. It therefore resolved to send a delegation into Benth. Africa as soon as the necessary arrangements have been made. It further resolved that it is important immediately to begin work of reestablishing the ARC within the country. It has therefore constituted the leaders within the country into an organ - under the NEC charged with the task of carrying out this work, working under the chairmanship of Comrade Halter Sieulu. - The NRC called on all members of the ANC as well as those of our compatriots who had already taken steps to constitute themselves into ARC units to work directly with and under this leadership collective. '

The NRC resolved to take immediate steps to prepare for the organised return to the country.

---h- _ouuaghn.p dud neuaerah

i 0: the ANC. .

It also recognised that over the years, a serious brain drain has occurred with the emigration from South Africa of many people who were opposed to the apartheid system. It therefore resolved to take steps to encourage the return of these exiles as well so that they can contribute to the democratic transformation of our country and make an effective contribution to the reconstruction and development of a free-apartheid South Africa.

In the light of the new developments, the NBC resolved that the next National Conference of the ARC will be held inside South Africa from the 16th to December, 1990. The planned National Consultative Conference originally scheduled for June this year will therefore no longer take place. Conference preparations will however continue, both inside and outside the country.

The NEC welcomed the unhelping of the SACP. It reaffirmed the importance of the alliance of the ARC, the SACP and the organised workers of our country. It resolved that this historic alliance will continue to function with the necessary restructuring having taken place to meet the new situation. '

It also reviewed the relationship of the ANC with other democratic and anti-apartheid formations within South Africa. As already indicated, it resolved to enter into discussions with these to assess the recent developments. It reiterated its view that at this stage, the DD? and its affiliates should continue to function and mobilise their respective constituencies.

The NBC is gravely concerned at the continuing violence - especially in Natal and Uitenhage. It reiterates the necessity to take urgent steps to stop this destructive process and to achieve a peaceful and democratic South Africa.

1
SENT SY: XEROX Telecoaiar 7017:16- 2-90 : 18'38
: zammaw ERROR canned?

confirmed earlier decision: that the leadership within the country should intervene immediately to end this fratricidal carnage. It calls on all those who have previously blocked attempts to end the violence; to cooperate with the leadership to protect the interests of the people itself; - r-- - .

The NBC reiterated the fact that the masses of our people continue to suffer under the apartheid system. It restated that even when a climate for negotiations is created, this will not mean that this system will have been abolished. Therefore the struggle for a united, democratic and nonracial South Africa must and will continue; it

In this regard, it considered with all due seriousness, suggestions that it should unilaterally suspend the armed struggle. While appreciating the sincerity of purpose underlying these suggestions, it however confirmed that the only just and correct way to approach this question is to adhere to the positions contained in the Barots and UN Declarations. It therefore reiterates that upon the creation of a climate conducive to negotiations, the ANC will seek to negotiate with the Pretoria regime a suspension of hostilities by both sides. The 2: 'i:'.f". efith serge": n-u-nv-H ant: ewv-nnnlv rnmlemna fh. continuing campaign of repression carried out by the South.

African and bantustan police and armies. The state of emergency and repressive legislation, such as the Internal Security Act, which have been maintained, legalise and encourage this campaign of terror against the people.

The ANC and Umkhonto we Sizwe have a responsibility to defend the people against this terror. There can therefore be no question of a unilateral moratorium or a suspension of the armed struggle in a situation in which the violence of the apartheid system continues unabated. The Pretoria regime has an urgent responsibility to take all the necessary measures to end this violence and thus create the situation when the present obligation on our part to act in defence of the people, arms in hand, will tell away.

The NRC reaffirms the need for the continuation of mass political action to achieve the objectives contained in the resolution of the Conference for a Democratic Future and the 8th statement of the REC, to realise the intention of this Year at People's Action for a Democratic South Africa.

The international community imposed sanctions against South Africa with the express purpose of ending the apartheid system. There can therefore be no justification for lifting these sanctions at this stage. The NRC strongly condemns the position taken by the British Government on this issue.

These positions not only hinder the process leading to the liquidation of the apartheid system, but are a betrayal of

' 53m av: xeax Telecoaler vmwae- 2-90 : 15:39 : 280121533h ERROR connect!

- 4 _

decisions of the European Community and the UN General Assembly.
to which the British government is petty, the sanctions would
not be lifted until profound and irreversible changes had taken
"12:: in hanging With the ch:::ti?es :A'taiaod in the UH tF"
Declaration 5: south A_rice. adapted unanimously laettnecenbet.
The.NEC therefore calls on the :orthconing nlnieterlel-meeting of
the European Community to reject the call 0: the Thatcher
government to lift sanctions and thus repulse its efforts to
weaken the international struggle to end the apartheid BYStOm.
The NRC reaffirmed that our country's problems can only be solved
when South Africa has been transformed into a nonracial
democracy. in which the fundamental rights of all our people.
both black and white. would be guaranteed. It therefore calls on
all forces committed to this perspective further to consolidate
their unity and continue to act together to advance towards the
common goal.
The struggle continues. The people's victory over the apartheid
system is assured.

STATEMENT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY
February, 1990

The Central Committee (CC) of the South African Communist Party has met to consider the new challenges and opportunities facing our Party. Forty years after banning us, the apartheid regime has been forced to concede that it can never uproot communist organisation and communist ideas from the soil of South Africa. Today our Party is emerging from the underground with massive prestige and popularity. The CC is fully aware of the weighty responsibilities this prestige and popularity place upon our Party and upon each one of our militants. Although our Party has been unbanned, the illegitimate apartheid regime remains in power. Highly repressive legislation remains on the South African statute books. W de Klerk has implemented some important first steps, but his regime is committed to a brutal economic policy that is anti-worker, and indeed against the interests of the majority of South Africans. His policies of privatisation, especially in the specific conditions of entrenched racial oppression, are handing over ever greater chunks of our national wealth to a small circle of white capitalists. Over the past year the regime, in collusion with the bosses, has launched a brutal offensive against the organised working class. All too often labour relations are being conducted at gun-point. In a period in which De Klerk has proclaimed his concern for negotiations, his government has been tinkering with the anti-worker Labour Relations Act without once consulting with the progressive trade union movement. Precisely because communists espouse the immediate and long-term interests of the working people, we have no doubt that, as our Party emerges from illegality, communists will remain prime targets for all kinds of repression - legalised and informal. We shall not be deterred. We are determined to seize the time, making creative use of the new opportunities, rising to the new challenges. A major objective of the coming months will be the building of a strong, legal SACP rooted among the working masses of our people. A concerted campaign of mobilisation and organisation will be undertaken, with its focus upon the tens of thousands of militant workers and youth who have, over the last years, openly associated themselves with the traditions and ideals of the South African Communist Party. To this end the SACP is in the process of consulting our underground and other structures, and we shall shortly be announcing a public SACP leadership core within our country. We shall also be despatching Communist Party members into the country to strengthen this core as soon as possible. Our Party is determined to rally all those within our country who are genuinely committed to a socialist future. Now, more than ever, the place of all socialists is within the ranks of the South African Communist Party. In building a powerful, above-board Party let us avoid all forms of sectarianism, elitism and dogmatism. Let us spread and deepen a liberating and democratic socialist culture within our country. The Central Committee reaffirms the SACP's firm commitment to our revolutionary alliance with the ANC. The new situation will present us with opportunities for creatively deepening and extending still further this alliance. A major task facing all Party militants in the coming months will be not only that of building our Party, but of assisting with the construction of a mass-

based ANC.

the leading organisation in our national liberation struggle.

The CC wholeheartedly endorses the February 15th statement of the PJC lationai ornminee, and we commend the initiative to present, face-to-iace with De Klerk. those outstanding p recon-

ditions that need to be implemented in orde: to create a negotiating climate.

LONG LIVE THE SBCP!

LONG LIVE THE SACP-ANC ALLIANCE!

FORWARD TO A DEMOCRATIC VICTORY END AN ADVRNCE TO SOCZRLISNR