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Declaration and Resolutions

Of the

Conference of Arab Solidarity

with the Struggle

for Liberation in Southern Africa

Tunis, Tunisia, 7-9 August 1984

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Prefam

The Conference of Arab Solidarity with the Struggle for Liberation in Southern Africa. organized by the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid in co-operation with the League of Arab States and held at Tunis from 7 to 9 August 1984. was an important event in the international campaign against apartheid.

It was an occasion not only to recall the growing solidarity between Africa and the Arab world in the common struggle for freedom but. even more importantly, to formulate plans for action in this crucial period.

The Declaration and resolutions of the Conference provide a framework for action by the Arab Governments and organizations in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity and the national liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia. I trust that they will be disseminated widely and result in greater action against apartheid.

Arab-African co-operation can and must be one of the main forces enabling the peoples of South Africa. Namibia and Palestine to obtain freedom. Such co-operation is dictated not only by geography. history and common experience in the struggle for liberation but also by loyalty to the principles of the United Nations and the regional organizations of African and Arab States.

J. N G'dl'ba

Chairman

Special Committee against Apartheid

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DECLARATION

The Conference of Arab Solidarity with the Struggle for Liberation in Southern Africa, organized by the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid in co-operation with the League of Arab States. met at Tunis from 7 to 9 August 1984. It was attended by representatives of Governments of Member States of the League, Member States of the Special Committee. the Frontvline States. intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as the representatives of the African National Congress of South Africa. the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania. the South West Africa People's Organization and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

At the opening session of the Conference. addresses were delivered by HE. Major-General J. N Garba. Chairman of the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid; HE. Mr. Beji Caid Essebsi. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia; HE. Mr. Chedli Klibi. Secretary-General of the League of Arab States; HE. Mr. Agostino N. Chimuka. Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity; and Mr. Yasir Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Conference received messages from the Heads of State of Algeria. Iraq. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Mauritania. Nigeria. Qatar. Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Conference heard with great appreciation the commendation by the Chairman of the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid. the representatives of the Organization of African Unity. the Southern African National Liberation Movements and others of the steadfast support by Arab States and people to the cause of liberation in southern Africa.

The Conference was conscious of the geographical. cultural and historical bonds. as well as the common experience in the struggle for liberation and economic and social development and against' settler colonialism. which have indissolubly linked the Arab and African peoples.

It pledged continued and increased support at this critical time in the struggle for liberation in southern Africa. and total solidarity with Africa in the historical effort for the emancipation of that Continent from colonialist and racist oppression. In that context. the Conference gave serious consideration to further action to enhance the contribution of Arab States and people and of the League of Arab States.

Towards the end, it adopted the following declaration

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The Conference of Arab Solidarity with the Struggle for Liberation in Southern Africa met at a critical time.

In an attempt to stem the tide of resistance by the people of South Africa and Namibia, under the leadership of their national liberation movements-ANC, PAC and SWAPO-the racist regime in Pretoria, arrogant by its armed might and encouraged by the policies of certain major Western Powers and Israel, increased its acts of economic blackmail, terrorism and destabilization against the neighbouring African States.

The Conference joined with the nineteenth summit of the Organization of African Unity in welcoming the advance of the armed struggle in Namibia by the South West Africa Peoples Organization (SWAPO) and in South Africa by the African National Congress (ANC).

The Conference strongly condemned the manoeuvres of the Pretoria regime to impose a blatantly racist constitution on South Africa designed to entrench white minority domination and to secure the conscription of the so-called "Coloured" and Asian communities into the apartheid army and make the indigenous African majority foreigners in the land of their birth. It equally condemned the manoeuvres of the Pretoria regime to sabotage, at every step and in various forms, the implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia in accordance with Security Council resolutions 385 (1976) and 435 (1978).

It also condemned the repeated acts of aggression, destabilization and terrorism by the Pretoria regime against the Front-line and other independent African States.

It declared that any support, direct or indirect, to the manoeuvres of the Pretoria regime to delay genuine independence to the people of Namibia, or to dispossess the African majority in South Africa, or to intimidate independent African States, is not only a hostile act against the Continent of Africa, but also a challenge to the Arab States and people and the international community.

It expressed grave concern over the continued collaboration by major Western Powers and Israel with the South African racist regime encouraging its pretensions for recognition as a regional Power in southern Africa.

It considered that the continued opposition by the Western permanent members of the Security Council to comprehensive and mandatory sanctions

against the racist regime in South Africa has permitted the continuation of the crimes of the apartheid regime.

It drew attention in particular to the policy of the United States Government which by its strategic cooperation with Israel and its "constructive engagement" with the Pretoria regime, has acted against the vital interests of Africa and the Arab world. It called on all Arab States and Africa, as well as all their friends, to exert their influence to persuade the United States Government to harmonize its position with that of the overwhelming majority of States.

The Conference condemned the collaboration by transnational corporations with the Pretoria regime and their plunder of the natural resources of Namibia and South Africa.

It denounced all manoeuvres to divide Arab and African States in their common struggle to secure the liberation of South Africa, Namibia and Palestine, and called on them to resist and combat all such manoeuvres. It considered that the Security Council of the United Nations must adopt urgent and effective measures by imposing comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the racist regime of South Africa, under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. It also agreed that all States and organizations committed to freedom and opposed to racism in all its manifestations must provide all necessary support to the national liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia in their legitimate, and indeed, sacred struggle.

The Conference strongly condemned the close alliance which has developed between the racist regimes in Pretoria and Tel Aviv in their common hostility to genuine freedom of African and Arab peoples. The growing collaboration between these regimes in the military, nuclear, economic and cultural fields represents a menace to both Africa and the Arab States and people.

This collaboration, especially in the nuclear and military fields, furthermore constitutes a grave threat to international peace and security.

The Conference stressed that Arab and African States and organizations must jointly and resolutely oppose this unholy alliance and frustrate the realization of its objectives.

The Conference noted with great satisfaction the strong and developing relations between the Arab and African countries in the context of Afro-Arab co-operation which is based on the principles of mutual solidarity expressed in the decisions and resolutions of both the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States.

It commended African States which have refrained from any relations with Israel because of its alliance with the racist regime in South Africa and its hostility towards the Arab people and the inalienable rights of the Palestinians.

The Conference expressed its distress at the war between Iraq and Iran, and its continuation, which has had an adverse effect on the intensification of the liberation struggles in Palestine and southern Africa. It called for an early end to the war.

The Conference declared that apartheid and all other forms of racism must be totally eliminated from this globe that no adjustments or reforms of racism are acceptable and that there can be no compromise with racism.

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1. The Conference recognizes the importance of intensifying the dissemination of information in Arab countries on the situation in southern Africa and the just struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa and Namibia. It requests the League of Arab States, in co-operation with the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid and the Organization of African Unity, to take steps towards this end. It invites Arab Governments and organizations to lend their full co-operation in the dissemination of such information.

The Conference expresses its appreciation to the Special Committee against Apartheid for publicizing information on the alliance between the racist regimes in Israel and South Africa. It requests the League of Arab States to lend its full co-operation to the Special Committee in this respect.

2. The Conference requests the Arab Boycott Bureau to provide information, advice and assistance to the OAU and the Special Committee against Apartheid in their efforts towards an effective and total boycott of the racist regime of South Africa.

3. The Conference requests the League of Arab States and the Organization of African Unity, through their cooperation system, in co-operation with the national liberation movements of South Africa, Namibia and Palestine, to study the phenomenon of settler colonialism, the structural similarities between Zionism and apartheid, and the collaboration between Israel and South Africa. It further requests them to consider ways and means to produce and disseminate the results of such studies, including the establishment of a specialized institution.

4. The Conference calls on the Arab States not to patronize those Western companies which collaborate with the apartheid regime by supplying it with military and nuclear equipment and technology.

It urges the Arab League, the Organization of African Unity, the Special Committee against Apartheid and other relevant United Nations bodies to study and publicize the trade concessions and privileges enjoyed by Israel with the European Community and other Western countries, as well as those to be extended by the United States of America in January 1985, and expose their full legal, economic and other implications to the occupied Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories, as well as the implications of the utilization of such arrangements by the South African regime which is already exporting many of its products via Israel.

5. The Conference recognizes that the Arab oil boycott of South Africa is an important contribution to the liberation struggle in southern Africa and agrees on the need for ensuring effective implementation of the boycott. It draws attention to the important resolution adopted by OAUPEC in May 1981 in this connection.

It denounces the tanker companies and other corporations which are helping South Africa to circumvent the oil embargo. It urges the Arab and African oil-exporting countries, in co-operation with other oil-exporting countries, to take firm action against those companies, including strict penalties against companies violating the oil embargo against South Africa.

6. The Conference requests the League of Arab States to collect and publicize, in co-operation with the Special Committee, information on actions taken by the Arab States and organizations in support of the struggle against apartheid.

7. The Conference appeals to all Arab States and organizations to maintain and consider increasing their material and financial assistance to the national liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia.

8. The Conference urges all States which have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

9. The Conference calls for the widest world-wide observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination in 1985, beginning on 21 March (the 25th anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre), in full solidarity with the struggles for liberation in South Africa, Namibia and Palestine.

RESOLUTION ON THE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALIEN OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA

The Conference of Arab Solidarity with the Struggle for Liberation in Southern Africa, meeting at Tunis from 7 to 9 August 1984, acutely conscious that 7 August 1984 is the hundredth anniversary of the alien occupation of the Territory of Namibia,

Recalling that the Namibian people have been subjected by Imperial Germany and later by the racist regime of South Africa to inhuman oppression, exploitation and genocide,
Recalling also, with admiration, the heroic struggle waged by the Namibian people for its freedom and independence,
Recognizing that the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) has earned recognition, by its leadership of the struggle for freedom, as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people.
Recognizing the inalienable right of the people of Namibia to self-determination and national independence in a united Namibia, including Walvis Bay, and the Penguin and other off-shore islands,
Affirming the total solidarity of the Arab Governments and peoples with the Namibian people in its just struggle for freedom under the leadership of SWAPO.

1. Condemns the illegal occupation of Namibia by the apartheid regime in South Africa in defiance of the United Nations and in contravention of international law;
2. Denounces the support and encouragement given to the apartheid regime by some Western Powers and Israel which have emboldened and enabled it to defy the United Nations, carry on a war against the Namibian people and commit acts of aggression and destabilization against neighbouring States;
3. Condemns the wanton and reckless exploitation of the human and natural resources of Namibia in the interest of foreign corporations and to the detriment of the Namibian people;
4. Rejects any linkage between the independence of Namibia and the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola, contrary to the provisions of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) which constitutes the only acceptable basis for a peaceful solution of the Namibian problem;
5. Calls for all necessary moral and material assistance to SWAPO in the struggle for genuine independence of Namibia by all available means including armed struggle.

RESOLUTION ON SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRUGGLE OF WOMEN OF SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA

The Conference of Arab Solidarity with the Struggle for Liberation in Southern Africa, meeting at Tunis from 7 to 9 August 1984.
Having observed the Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women of South Africa and Namibia on 9 August 1984.

Recalling the inhuman oppression of women of South Africa and Namibia under the criminal system of apartheid as well as their heroic role in the struggle for liberation.

Considering that the oppression of millions of women in southern Africa and in Palestine, by racist and terrorist regimes, is a challenge to the conscience of humanity,

1. Expresses its solidarity with the struggle of women of South Africa.

Namibia and Palestine;

2. Greets all women imprisoned or persecuted for their struggle;

3. Calls on the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held at Nairobi in July 1985, to give full attention to the plight of women in South Africa, Namibia and Palestine, and their heroic struggles:

4. Requests the League of Arab States, in co-operation with Arab

Governments and organizations:

(a) to publicize the struggle of women of South Africa and Namibia;

(b) to support projects for assistance to women refugees from South Africa and Namibia; and

(c) to organize a conference on the women of South Africa, Namibia and Palestine in co-operation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.

RESOLUTION ON ASSISTANCE TO THE OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF

SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA AND THEIR NATIONAL

LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, AND THE FRONT-LINE STATES

The Conference of Arab Solidarity with the Struggle for Liberation in Southern Africa, meeting at Tunis from 7 to 9 August 1984,

Aware of the enormous human suffering caused by the racist regime in South Africa through its oppression and repression in South Africa, its colonial war in Namibia and its acts of aggression and destabilization against independent neighbouring African States.

Considering that the national liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia require and deserve increased financial, moral, political and material support in prosecuting their legitimate and just struggle against a ruthless and powerful enemy which continues to benefit from the collaboration of some Governments and transnational corporations.

Considering further that the Front-line States in southern Africa need urgent and generous assistance to overcome their serious economic problems and to enhance their defence capabilities against aggression by the racist regime of South Africa,

Aware that the difficulties faced by the Front-line States place an obligation on the international community to assume greater responsibility in support of liberation struggles,

Recognizing that assistance to the oppressed people of South Africa and Namibia and their national liberation movements, as well as the Front-line States, is not only a concrete expression of Arab solidarity and co-operation with Africa, but also a contribution to the common objective of the eradication of colonialism, national oppression and racial discrimination in all their forms and manifestations,

1. Appeals to all Arab States, organizations and institutions to maintain and consider increasing financial and material assistance to the oppressed people of South Africa and Namibia and their national liberation movements through:

(a) direct material assistance to national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity;

(b) contributions to the OAU Liberation Fund and the Solidarity Fund of the Nonaligned Movement;

(c) contributions to the relevant United Nations funds, namely:

(i) the United Nations Fund for Namibia;

(ii) the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa;

(iii) the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa;

(iv) the Trust Fund for Publicity against Apartheid;

(v) the United Nations Institute for Namibia;

2. Further appeals to them to provide increased assistance to the Front-line States.

RESOLUTION ON SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS¹

The Conference of Arab Solidarity with the Struggle for Liberation in Southern Africa, meeting at Tunis from 7 to 9 August 1984.

1. Strongly condemns the decision by the racist regime to impose a new racist and colonial constitution designed to perpetuate the enslavement and dispossession of the indigenous African majority and to divide the oppressed Black people:

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2. Considers this Constitution. which aims at rendering 72 per cent of the total population, the indigenous Africans. foreigners in the land of their birth, as a crime against the people of South Africa:

3. Recalls that the General Assembly of the United Nations-as well as the Summit Conferences Of the Non-aligned Movement, the Organization of African Unity and the Commonwealth-have condemned this Constitution as designed to further entrench the apartheid system;

4. Notes with appreciation the united opposition against this Constitution by the overwhelming majority of the people of South Africa and fully supports the planned boycott of the fraudulent elections by the so-called Coloureds and people of Asian origin;

5. Calls upon the United Nations Security Council to take urgent action to counter this new crime of the apartheid regime and renew its support to the oppressed Black majority in its resistance.

RESOLUTION ON SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TOWARDS THE PEOPLES OF NAMIBIA, SOUTH AFRICA AND PALESTINE

The Conference of Arab Solidarity with the Struggle for Liberation in Southern Africa. meeting at Tunis from 7 to 9 August 1984

Recalling the consistent support by the Arab Governments and people for the liberation of Africa. and especially for the struggle for freedom in South Africa and Namibia.

Pledging continued and increased solidarity between Africa and the Arab world in the course of the struggle for freedom and the abolition of racism in all its manifestations.

Recalling that the experience of the Arab world with the racist plots in Palestine and that of Africa with the inhuman system of apartheid in South Africa have reinforced such solidarity.

Condemning the growing collaboration between the regimes in Israel and South Africa. and the illegal occupation of Arab Palestine and Namibia.

Recalling that the sacred trust of civilization assumed by the international community in 1919 for the peoples of Namibia and Palestine has not been fulfilled.

Denouncing apartheid as a crime against humanity.

1. Proclaims that the United Nations and the international community

have an inescapable responsibility for securing the freedom and independence of the peoples of Namibia, South Africa and Palestine;

2. Urges all Arab and African Governments and organizations, in co-operation with all friendly Governments and organizations, to take all necessary and appropriate initiatives to enable the United Nations and the international community to assume and discharge their responsibilities;

3. Calls upon all Governments to refrain from any relations with the regimes in South Africa and Israel until the peoples of Namibia, South Africa and Palestine are enabled to exercise their inalienable rights, in particular their right to genuine self-determination.

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