

NM0/017/0027/11

28.3.89

STATEMENT OF THE SOVIET AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

The Soviet Republic views with a deep concern the campaign recently mounted in the Western, especially British, mass media directed at discrediting the traditional support of the Soviet Union for the liberation movement in South Africa. In the process of this campaign use is made of crude distortions of statements by Soviet scientists and public figures. The interpretation of facts and events is given in such a manner as to fit them into a (previously) formulated scheme of an alleged withdrawal of Soviet support for the liberation struggle.

What are the aims of the organisers of the campaign?

- Firstly, it is to drive a wedge through the traditionally friendly relations between the USSR and the ANC, which were reconfirmed during the recent visit to the USSR by the ANC President Oliver Tambo.
- Secondly, to demoralise the democratic forces in South Africa which invariably regard the USSR as a reliable supporter of their freedom struggle.
- Thirdly, to justify the continued co-operation of Britain and other Western countries with the Pretoria regime in their opposition to comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa.

The Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee resolutely reiterates its un-failing solidarity with the South African Liberation Movement led by the ANC, and its recognition of the Liberation Movement's right to choose the necessary means, including the armed struggle, to attain the eradication of apartheid.

Stressing our special commitment to traditional ties with the African National Congress, we once again confirm our readiness to develop relations with all forces in South Africa which are against the shameful apartheid regime. It is from this position that one should regard the recent visit to the USSR of the UDF leaders. It is from this position that one should regard the forthcoming visit to the USSR of the delegation of the Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa.

We are convinced that the ANC and the growing alliance of the democratic forces inside the country can achieve the elimination of apartheid and the implementation of the ideals of freedom and democracy formulated in the historic Freedom Charter — the ideals of a united, democratic non-racial South Africa.

**PRESIDIUM — SOVIET AFRO-ASIAN
SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE**

Moscow, 28/3/1989