

PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
.733 THIRD AVENUE . NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017 . TEL, (212) 953-9130
STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. MOHAMMED -Z. ANKA, A
NIGERIA'S MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS;
AT THE MEETING MARKING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UN SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID
NEW YORKI MAY 6, 1988

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AFRICA, WILL BE "CELEBRATING" THEIR THIRTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY NEXT MONTH, HAVING HAD HARDLY A FEW MONTHS OF NORMAL MARRIED LIFE, FOR NO OFFENCE BUT THEIR DEDICATION TO THE PRINCIPLES CHERISHED BY HUMANITY. ZEPHANIAH MOTHOPENG, A SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AND LEADER OF THE PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS; IS SERVING A LONG TERM OF IMPRISONMENT IN HIS OLD AGE.

APARTHEID DEATH SQUADS ARE OPERATING EVEN IN WESTERN COUNTRIES; THREATENING THE LIVES OF THE FINEST SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF AFRICA. WE HAD TO MOURN, ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO, THE KILLING OF DULCIE SEPTEMBER ON FRENCH SOIL.

OUR DUTY IS CLEAR.

WE MUST NOT ONLY DECLARE BUT DEMONSTRATE BY ACTION THAT THE DESTRUCTION OF APARTHEID IS AS MUCH THE INTEREST OF AFRICA AND THE WORLD AS OF THE OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

I NEED HARDLY TELL YOU THAT MY COUNTRY, NIGERIA, STANDS FIRM IN HER SUPPORT OF ALL INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS FOR THE ERADICATION OF APARTHEID. WE ARE CONVINCED BEYOND DOUBT THAT APARTHEID HAS LONG CROSSED THE THRESHOLD OF REFORMATION AND EVOLUTIONARY CHANGE. GIVEN ITS EVIL CHARACTER; IT MUST SHRIVEL AND DIE. OUR COMMITMENT IS TO CONTINUE IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE TO ENHANCE THIS OBJECTIVE.

I WISH TO REAFFIRM TO YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, THE UNFLINCHING SOLIDARITY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF NIGERIA WITH THE OPPRESSED AND DISPOSSESSED PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA, AND OUR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THEIR NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS OF AZANIA; THEIR QUEST FOR A FREE; DEMOCRATIC AND NON-RACIAL SOUTH AFRICA HAS OUR TOTAL SUPPORT.

I WISH ALSO TO REAFFIRM THE COMMITMENT AND DEVOTION OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF NIGERIA TO ITS MEMBERSHIP IN YOUR COMMITTEE AND ITS NOBLE BUT ARDOUS TASK.

'THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF NIGERIA RECOGNISE AND ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY THEY BEAR, AS REPRESENTING THE LARGEST NATION IN AFRICA, TO CONTRIBUTE THEIR UTMOST TO TOTAL EMANCIPATION OF THE CONTINENT. IT IS WITH THAT COMMITMENT THAT NIGERIA ACCEPTED, WITH APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE, THE GESTURE OF THIS COMMITTEE IN ELECTING NIGERIA AS CHAIRMAN FOR MANY YEARS.

I WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE WILL NEVER FAIL TO GIVE UTMOST CONSIDERATION TO ANY SUGGESTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE; IN THE DISCHARGE OF ITS MANDATE, FOR ACTION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

IN REAFFIRMING NIGERIA'S COMMITMENT, PERMIT ME TO RESTATE THE FIRM CONVICTION OF OUR COUNTRY - WHICH IMPOSED SANCTIONS AGAINST APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA EVEN BEFORE ITS OWN INDEPENDENCE IN 1960 - THAT THE IMMEDIATE IMPOSITION OF MANDATORY AND COMPREHENSIVE SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA REMAINS THE ONLY HONOURABLE AND PEACEFUL MEANS OF DISMANTLING APARTHEID WITHOUT A WIDER CONFLICT AND BLOODSHED. WE, THEREFORE, URGE THOSE COUNTRIES OPPOSED TO SANCTIONS TO RETHINK THEIR STAND.. THEY MUST ENACT AND IMPLEMENT LEGISLATIVE MEASURES FOR THE TOTAL ISOLATION OF THE APARTHEID REGIME AND SUPPORT A GLOBAL DIPLOMATIC AND ECONOMIC PRESSURE AGAINST IT; ONLY SUCH COLLECTIVE ACTION CAN MEET THE PRESENT CHALLENGE;

THE FREEDOM OF SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA, THE SECURITY OF FRONTLINE STATES, THE HONOUR OF AFRICA AND THE CREDIBILITY OF THE

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