

Dalam senarai Majlis 1 I  
Ekonomi dan Sosial , ' -- ,  
Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu  
- P. s. 1049, 10830 PULAU PINANG  
0 (I Roster of the Economic \_ . '  
& Soei'jal council of the United Nations. N101 t NGS TAL/TEL: 04-87 1608  
MALAYSIA

Press Statement

SANCTIDNS AND THE KUALA LUMPUR STATEMENT

ALIRAN welcomes the decision of the Commonwealth Heads of Government to strengthen sanctions against the Pretoria regime. What is particularly significant in the Kuala Lumpur Statement is the resolve "to develop new forms of financial pressure on the Pretoria regime by seeking to intensify and extend financial sanctions."

It is a pity however that the British government has once again refused to endorse economic sanctions against the Pretoria regime. The British public should increase its pressure upon the British government to join other Commonwealth countries in cutting off all trade, financial and other economic ties with the apartheid regime in South Africa. Only through effective mobilization of public opinion in Britain by anti-apartheid groups there, might it be possible to force the Margaret Thatcher government to impose sanctions against Pretoria.

Apart from the Thatcher government's obstinate attitude, the Commonwealth desire to strengthen sanctions faces other difficulties which the Kuala Lumpur Statement does not acknowledge. A number of Commonwealth States continue to have indirect trade ties with Pretoria. There are also indirect investment linkages between companies in certain Commonwealth countries and South African interests. The Commonwealth Heads of Government should have undertaken an honest appraisal of their own flaws and feeble vie-a-vis sanctions. They should have urged their own kith and kin within the Commonwealth family to terminate whatever indirect ties they may have with the Pretoria regime.

The Statement by the Commonwealth Heads of Government should have also called upon the member States to boycott these Multinational Corporations (MNCs) with massive investments in South Africa. A couple of them play crucial roles in prepping up the Pretoria regime. Some of these MNCs have extensive business interests in a number of Commonwealth countries. Shell is one such example. Very few Commonwealth governments have lent support to 'ehun Shell' campaigns organized by anti-apartheid groups in their countries. The Malaysian government, for instance, has been expanding its relations with Shell. denu kcaduan,kebebasan,perpaduan  
for justice, freedom, solidari t y

The Kuala Lumpur Statement was a disappointment in yet another sense. It failed to take its task those nations which are guilty of Duating Eanctiona. The greatest culprit is of course Japan. Japanese firms have unashamedly moved in to fill the vacuum left by certain European and American companies which have been forced to cut off business ties with Pradmria. Indeed, Japan has emerged as a major trading partner of the South African regime. One would have thought that a Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Asia would have given special attention to Japan's perfidious role in buating sanctiona against Pretoria. Taiwan is another Asian country which has wide-ranging ECONOMIC ties with South Africa. The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting should have taken the decision to 99nd delegations to Japan and Taiwan to persuade those two countries to impose sanctions against Pretoria.

In conclusion, it is obvious that sanctions against Pretoria will not succeed in destroying apartheid; unless the sanctions are comprehensive and global. The Commonwealth must take the lead to ensuring that there is total, absolute, economic and political isolation of the rectifying the Commonwealth.

crusade to de economic Sanctions

:24 DI: t IZIBGEV 1 .389

0

the Pretoria regime. It must, of course, begin by sing of om'rggan and commigian within the But it should/E 50 resolved to launch a world-wide stray apartheid and the Pretoria regime through CIFIES.

, \_ LVJ/

Dr. Chandra Muzaffar

President

ALIRAN