



Commonwealth News Release

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

Harare

16-22 October 1991

Communiqué

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Harare Commonwealth Declaration

Communiqué

Commonwealth Functional Co-operation

Annex: *Ottawa Declaration on Women and Structural Adjustment*

9. The High-Level Appraisal reflected the continuing concern of Heads of Government with the situation in South Africa. While recent changes have raised hopes of achieving a free, non-racial and democratic order in South Africa, violence continues to obstruct progress. The Commonwealth has played a leading role in the international campaign against apartheid. Now that the goal is closer than ever before, Heads of Government considered ways in which the Commonwealth should continue to play a significant role in progress towards a non-racial democratic South Africa.

10. Heads of Government also gave consideration to the adequacy of Commonwealth institutions, including the Secretariat, to fulfil the task ahead. They welcomed the Secretary-General's internal review which had identified a measure of existing resources which could be released for redeployment to priorities identified in the Harare Commonwealth Declaration and endorsed his proposal to institute a management audit, to be undertaken by external consultants, designed to enhance the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of the Secretariat. While commending the proposals contained in the Secretary-General's Strategic Action Plan they considered that these should be further examined by senior officials of the High-Level Appraisal Group in the light of the priorities agreed to at the Harare Heads of Government Meeting, taking into account the management audit and the Secretariat's need for adequate resources to implement these priorities. If it emerged that additional resources were still required, after available resources had been matched to needs, Heads of Government agreed to consider making appropriate contributions.

Global Trends and Prospects

11. Heads of Government welcomed the end of the Cold War which had provided new opportunities and greatly improved prospects for international peace, security and economic development. The end of ideological confrontation had made possible more effective international co-operation in addressing the many problems, old and new, facing humanity. Foremost among these were poverty, hunger, disease and environmental degradation. They expressed the hope that in a new international order these issues would be of central concern.

12. Heads of Government were particularly encouraged by the resurgence of democratic ideals throughout the world. They undertook to use the Commonwealth's common values and practical means to help advance this hopeful development. Nevertheless the emergence of ethnic chauvinism, racial bigotry, and other forms of intolerance was a cause for serious concern, posing grave threats to peace and communal harmony. Accordingly they agreed to do everything practicable, both within their own societies and internationally, to combat discrimination in all its forms and to promote democracy, human rights, mutual tolerance and the rule of law through processes and institutions which have regard to national circumstances.

13. Heads of Government recognised that opportunities to promote the ideals which inspired the establishment of the United Nations had never been better. Reaffirming their commitment to the world organisation, they agreed to work together to enable it to discharge the role envisaged in its Charter.

Disarmament

14. Heads of Government warmly welcomed the recent dramatic initiative by the United States, matched by the Soviet Union and Britain to reduce their nuclear arsenals which had greatly enhanced the prospects for world peace. They urged these states to

They therefore decided to request the Secretary-General to visit South Africa at the earliest possible opportunity in order to explore with the principal parties concerned ways in which the Commonwealth could assist in lending momentum to the negotiating process.

21. On his return, the Secretary-General would report his conclusions to the Ten Heads of Government previously concerned with the High-Level Appraisal, and to the President of Zimbabwe, Chairman of the current Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Heads authorised this Group to consider and determine the necessary follow-up action in the light of the Secretary-General's mission:

Sanctions

22. Heads of Government expressed the hope that the stage would be reached when the situation in South Africa would justify reconsideration of their sanctions policy against South Africa. They recalled that the purpose of sanctions had always been to bring about a peaceful end to apartheid through the promotion of negotiations between the Government and the acknowledged representatives of the black majority. In recognition of the crucial role sanctions had played in bringing about the changes thus far, they agreed to continue to use effective forms of pressure to assure a successful final outcome to the conflict in South Africa. Accordingly (subject to the proviso in the following paragraph) they endorsed the programmed management approach, elaborated by the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa, linking any change in the application of sanctions to the taking of real and practical steps to end apartheid. In respect of the different categories of sanctions, subject to the same proviso, Heads of Government agreed as follows:

- the arms embargo, applied by the United Nations and supported by a variety of specific Commonwealth measures, should remain in force until a new post-apartheid South African government is firmly established, with full democratic control and accountability;
- the most demonstrably effective of all sanctions -- financial sanctions -- including lending by international financial institutions such as the IMF and World Bank, should be lifted only when agreement is reached on the text of a new democratic constitution, unless a contrary recommendation is made by agreement at the proposed All-Party Conference, or by an interim government;
- other economic sanctions, including trade and investment measures, should be lifted when appropriate transitional mechanisms have been agreed which would enable all the parties to participate fully and effectively in negotiations;
- people to people sanctions, namely consular and visa restrictions, cultural and scientific boycotts, restrictions on tourism promotion and the ban on direct air links should be lifted immediately in view of progress made in overcoming obstacles to negotiations and the need to give external support and encouragement to democratic anti-apartheid organisations in South Africa and to permit free interaction with them. The ban on air links would be lifted on condition that South African Airways (SAA) and other South African airlines proceed with appropriate affirmative action programmes.

23. The British Prime Minister stressed the importance of foreign investment in restoring growth to the South African economy and the need for decisions now if the

Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa

28. Heads of Government decided that the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa under the continuing Chairmanship of the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs should remain ready to meet as and when necessary until the completion of the implementation of their recommendations.

South African Economic Studies

29. Heads of Government recognised the valuable contribution made by the Centre for the Study of the South African Economy and International Finance and looked forward to the continuation of its work.

Namibia

30. Heads of Government welcomed the independence of Namibia and the interim agreement between the Government of Namibia and the Government of South Africa to establish a joint Administration of Walvis Bay and the off-shore islands pending a final settlement. They urged the early reintegration of these territories into Namibia in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 432 (1978). Noting the importance attached by the Government of Namibia to the Enhanced Commonwealth Programme for Namibia, Heads of Government commended the Programme and reaffirmed their support.

Mozambique

31. Heads of Government remained gravely concerned over the continuing conflict in Mozambique which was still claiming human lives and destroying socio-economic infrastructures. They urged an immediate end to all external assistance, material and otherwise, to the MNR. They pledged their support to the search for peace and urged the international community to do everything practicable to advance the peace process. They called upon the parties to the Rome Agreement of 1 December 1990 to honour its letter and spirit, and commended the Government of Mozambique and the mediators in Rome for their persistent efforts to bring about a comprehensive peace settlement and national reconciliation. In this context they further noted that a protocol had been signed on 18 October 1991 which committed both sides to achieving a general peace agreement as soon as possible. Accordingly, they strongly urged the parties to move expeditiously towards the signing of such an agreement.

32. Heads of Government expressed gratitude to those countries hosting the Mozambican refugees who continue to flee from their country and appealed to the international community to continue to render assistance to them. They noted that the plans for the post-war resettlement and rehabilitation of displaced peoples and the normalisation of life in general laid particular emphasis on the strengthening of institutional capacity to guarantee and promote democratic practices. In this context they commended the Special Commonwealth Fund for Mozambique for its contribution to Mozambique's priority needs which is effectively augmenting the significant bilateral contributions of Commonwealth countries, both developed and developing. They recognised that continuing pledges and contributions would be required to enable the Fund to maintain a full five year programme, including assistance in preparations for multi-party elections and in other aspects of institutional development.