

S. African Foreign Minister Botha Set for Visit to Japan

JOHANNESBURG (Financial Times Service) — Pik Botha, the South African foreign minister, flies to Japan Tuesday for five days of talks as part of a concerted effort to boost South African relations with Asia and reduce dependence on sanction prone European countries.

After meeting both Japanese politicians and businessmen, Botha will go on to Taiwan, where Dawie de Villiers, the South African minister for trade and industry, met Taiwanese officials Monday. De Villiers last week made an unannounced stopover in Japan for talks with businessmen.

High on South Africa's list of priorities is the maintenance and development of its coal exports in the face of sanctions

JOHANNESBURG (Kyodo) — South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha left here Tuesday for an unofficial visit to Japan by way of Taiwan.

moves in its European markets. Last year, Japan last year took about 20 percent of South Africa's 44.8 million tons of coal exports.

Japan has also sharply increased imports of South African gold in connection with the minting of the Emperor gold coin, although most of its gold purchases were made indirectly through Europe and the U.S., where gold purchases helped to offset its politically embarrassing trade surpluses.

Botha is the highest-ranking South African politician ever to

visit Japan, although last year Dr. Gerhard de Kock, governor of the Reserve Bank, and Barend du Plessis, the finance minister, stopped in Tokyo for talks with Japanese business and finance leaders on their way home from the annual meeting of the IMF in Seoul.

On the formal diplomatic level, Japan only maintains consular representation in Pretoria, while the Japanese external trade organization JETRO has an office in Johannesburg. Japan has tended to keep a low profile over the sanctions issue but seems prepared to follow the U.S. and European lead.

Last October, Japan announced a ban on computer sales to government bodies enforcing apartheid, including the security forces.

l
p
t
w
s
n

Activists Want Botha's Visit Banned

A group of anti-apartheid activists in Tokyo visited the Foreign Ministry Tuesday to protest South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha's visit to

Japan.

About 10 representatives of five organizations, including the Japan Socialist Party and Japan Anti-Apartheid Commit-

tee, visited the Foreign Ministry and handed senior official Kunisada Kume a letter requesting that Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari not meet with his South African counterpart.

According to the ministry, Botha is scheduled to come to Japan for the first time on a private visit Sept. 3-7 and is scheduled to meet Kuranari on Wednesday.

The group demanded that the Japanese foreign minister cancel permission for Botha to enter the country, or at least forbid government officials from meeting with him.

The anti-apartheid group also requested that the government institute stronger sanctions against South Africa to demand abolition of the apartheid system.

Chisato Tatebayashi, a representative of the JSP, told the foreign ministry official that Japan's attitude toward apar-

theid was "lukewarm" compared with other developed countries.

With this in mind, Kuranari should not meet with Botha to show him that Japan maintains a firm stance against apartheid, Tatebayashi said.

Kume told the group that the meeting between the two ministers does not mean that Japan condones apartheid in South Africa, adding that he would hand over their letter of protest to Kuranari.

"We decided to accept Botha's request for a meeting because it will provide a good opportunity for us to present South Africa our views on the issue," he said.

Japan is currently exercising economic sanctions and banning cultural and sports exchanges with South Africa to protest apartheid, he pointed out (Mayo Issobe)

Int'l Anti-Apartheid Sanctions Seen This Fall; Japan Joining

By EMIKO OHKI

Japan, a major trading partner of South Africa, is about to impose limited sanctions against the anti-apartheid regime together with Western powers, but it is an open question just what this will mean.

The joint international effort involving imposition of sanctions on South Africa is likely to come into force early this fall, a Foreign Ministry official indicated Wednesday.

Naoto Amaki, chief of the ministry's African Division, emphasized in an interview with The Japan Times that the move, like those of the other nations, was in protest against the Pretoria government's racial discrimination policies.

Although Amaki withheld reference to the text of the sanctions, he said they will be "limited." Japan is not ending its trade with South Africa.

On this score, Peter Sluiter, secretary-general of the Association of West European Parliamentarians for Action against Apartheid, is critical. In a separate interview during a recent visit to Japan, he said imposition of sanctions with a lot of loopholes will not solve any problem in South Africa.

He claimed a series of sanctions which Japan has applied since 1969 were designed to leave economic relations with South Africa unhindered. "It is about time for Japan to give up its old approach based on double standards," Sluiter said.

Responding to Sluiter's remarks, Amaki contended that Japan has taken a firm stance against Pretoria, probably much stricter than other countries.

The Foreign Ministry has repeated over and over again that Japan strongly opposes apartheid, he insisted, and Japan sincerely desires a solution to the problem on behalf of the people of South Africa.

Respecting the 1969 anti-apartheid resolution of the United Nations, the Japanese government bans cultural, educational and sports exchanges, trade in arms and direct investments as means of having joint ventures.

Besides, Japan has reduced diplomatic relations with South Africa to the counselor level. The two nations do not have embassies in each other's capitals.

Last July, the Japanese government added a few more

sanctions, including prohibitions on selling computers to the South African military forces and police and discouraging the public from buying Krugerrand gold coins. It also advised Japanese firms with operations in South Africa to employ native blacks under equal working conditions with Japanese and white workers.

Further cited, the ministry started last October offering scholarships for black students in South Africa to receive higher education.

"We are now planning to invite some black South African

students to Japan to study high technology and other things," Amaki said.

However, as Sluiter pointed out, there are many loopholes in the Japanese sanctions.

For instance, the ban on selling Japanese computers means only direct sales to the Pretoria government and police, but not to local dealers.

"How effective is the sanction if the Pretoria government officials can buy Japanese computers from local dealers?" Sluiter asked.

Then there is the matter of Krugerrand gold coins. While government officials here point out that Japan's import of the coins is now zero, the import of gold from South Africa rose 442 percent within a year between 1984 and 1985.

Japan is second to the United States in total purchases from South Africa. In 1984, Japanese imports totaled \$1.335 million in value, including precious metals and other natural resources of South Africa, according to a white paper published by Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

The paper also showed Japan to be the third largest exporter to South Africa in 1984, following the U.S. and West Germany. Japan's sales totaled \$1.934 million in manufactured goods, mainly industrial machines and automobiles.

A spokesman of the Japan Anti-apartheid Committee pointed out that more than half

of the cars running in South Africa and almost 100 percent of home VTRs there are Japanese.

With regard to the loopholes, Amaki said, "Some may think that the sanctions are too lenient, but the government has and will continue to oppose a full blockade for various reasons."

Amaki pointed out that Japan associates itself with other nations that view a total blockade as not necessarily productive for achieving a solution to apartheid.

The Pretoria government has threatened to impose countersanctions. Last Tuesday it announced controls on trade with Zambia and Zimbabwe as a countermeasure against the international sanctions campaign.

It is also possible for them to impose countersanctions against the bigger countries, including Japan.

Japanese officials cannot ignore the fact that South Africa is economically vital to Japan.

Most of the imported natural resources, including gold and coal, are possibly replaceable. But curtailment of precious metals imports would have a strong effect in the Japanese high-technology fields.

Some 50 percent of Japan's imported vanadium, chromium, manganese and white gold are imported from South Africa, and Japan does not have much stockpiles of these criti-

cal minerals.

In addition to these practical reasons limiting the scale of economic sanctions, there is domestic pressure in Japan against sanctions.

Shintaro Ishihara, secretary-general of the Japan-South Africa Parliamentarians' Friendship League, said further sanctions will only make the Pretoria government defensive and further worsen conditions for the blacks.

Ishihara said: "Like the Aesop fable of the North Wind and the Sun, Japan can be the sun and persuade the Pretoria government to take off his coat by maintaining good economic relations with South Africa."

Ishihara's view is shared by some 40 members of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) who joined his league in 1984. The league is committed to facilitating diplomatic relations between the two countries and ending economic and cultural sanctions against South Africa.

Ishihara also stressed that Japan's close economic relationship with South Africa benefits both whites and blacks there.

"We Japanese, as the first non-white nation to join the Western nations, should seek to persuade the Pretoria government of the high ability of the colored race. This is the way for us to contribute to dismantling apartheid in South Africa," he advised.

S. African Minister May Visit in Oct.

Kyodo

South African Minister of National Education Frederik de Klerk may visit Japan early next month, reliable sources in South Africa contacted by telephone said Friday.

According to the sources, who asked not to be named, de Klerk, who they said is a likely future candidate for the presidency, is expected to make a private visit to Japan to meet with business leaders.

The next parliamentary elections are not expected until 1989, according to South African officials in Japan. The president is elected by members of the House of Assembly, or parliament, after a new parliament is formed.

The sources said de Klerk would not discuss sports and cultural exchanges during the visit. Japan generally complies with the United Nations boycott of sport and cultural exchanges with South Africa to protest its policy of apartheid, or forced

racial segregation.

Japanese Consulate officials in South Africa confirmed that they had heard about the proposed visit, but said the consulate has not yet received a visa application.

De Klerk would be the third South African minister to visit Japan since August following visits by Minister of Trade and Industries Dawid de Villiers and Foreign Minister Roelof "Pik" Botha. De Villiers made a secret six-day visit during which he spoke with business leaders.

Foreign Minister Botha, who met with his Japanese counterpart Tadashi Kuranari for the first time Thursday in Tokyo, winds up a five-day "private" visit Sunday when he leaves from Osaka for Taiwan and Hong Kong before returning home.

During the visit, Botha met with "influential Japanese," including Diet members and business leaders, according to South

African officials here.

Sources in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party said Botha had a meeting with six LDP Diet members on Thursday afternoon, during which they said he asked Japan to convince the United States not to impose economic sanctions.

Japan, whose citizens have the status of "honorary whites" in South Africa, does not formally recognize South Africa. Diplomatic relations between the two countries are limited to the consular level.

Botha said in an interview with Kyodo News Service Thursday that he is in Asia to seek diversified trade with the region.

Japan, South Africa's No. 2 trading partner last year, is considering imposing sanctions in accord with actions to be taken by the United States and Western Europe, Japanese officials have said.

The U.N. Committee Against Apartheid criticized the Japanese government Thursday for permitting a government minister to meet Botha, but a senior Foreign Ministry official denied that the visit signified a relaxation of Japan's stance against South African racial policies. He explained the ministry wanted to take the opportunity to explain Japan's position to South African government ministers.

Japan Rejects South African Official Visit

JAPAN TIMES 20/9/86

The Japanese government has conveyed to South Africa its decision not to welcome a visit by National Education Minister F. W. De Klerk, Foreign Ministry sources said Saturday.

The sources said the Japanese decision was relayed to the South African government through its Consulate-General in Tokyo.

Japan does not maintain full

diplomatic relations with Pretoria.

Japan announced further actions against South Africa on Friday as part of its sanctions intended to support international pressure against South Africa's apartheid policy of racial segregation.

The sources said the planned visit by the South African minister was poorly timed because the United Nations General Assembly would not be in session.

Japan drew fire from the U.N. Anti-Apartheid Committee for accepting a visit by South African Foreign Minister Roelof "Pik" Botha earlier this month.

De Klerk would have been the fourth South African Cabinet minister to visit Japan this year if his visit, planned for early next month, materialized.

South Africa's Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism visited the country in June and its Trade and Industry Minister D.J. Villiers made an unpublicized visit to Japan last month.

The ministry sources said the government hosted the South African ministers on "private basis" but it would exercise more caution in allowing South African officials into the country in the future.

Japan, U.S., EC Eye S. African Sanctions

Japan plans to impose new economic sanctions against South Africa around Sept. 20 in a joint action with the United States and the European Community, a top Foreign Ministry official said Friday.

The official, who spoke on the understanding that he not be named, said that Japan hopes to take such a joint action.

"If (past sanctions are) not enough, we will do what we have not done yet ... Basically, we want it to be a (joint) Japan-U.S.-EC action," he said.

A senior ministry official, Wasuke Miyake, visited European capitals earlier this week for the coordination.

The official added that the timing for a final decision will be sometime between mid- and late September. Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari will debut

before the international community on Sept. 23 when he makes a speech before a session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Japanese sanctions are expected to include a ban on importing South African iron ore and coal, and an end to Japanese landing rights for South African Airways. Japan may also announce a fund contribution to a project to improve port facilities in Mozambique, which is hoped to reduce economic dependence on South Africa by its neighboring black states.

Kuranari, in a meeting Thursday with visiting South African Foreign Minister Roelof "Pik" Botha, warned that Japan would be forced to take sanctions unless the nation quickly abandons apartheid.

JAPAN TIMES 21/9/86

Japan Enacts New S. African Sanctions

By SHINJI ITO

Japan on Friday announced a package of new limited sanctions against South Africa, including a ban on importing pig iron and steel and a refusal to issue entry visas to South African tourists.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Masaharu Gotoda announced that the government will also discourage Japanese citizens from visiting the country as tourists, forbid government employees to use international flights operated by South African Airways, and confirmed that direct flights between Japan and South Africa will not be allowed.

Government officials said the moderate sanctions are unlikely to prompt the white-minority government of South Africa to abandon apartheid but they are a political gesture intended to help foster an "environment" for direct negotiations between South Africa and its outlawed rebel forces, including the African National Congress (ANC), and may facilitate release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners.

The Japanese government, however, has not taken a stand of complete opposition to the white-led South African regime. "We have taken note of part of South African explanations. ... We do not blame only South Africa," one official, who spoke on the understanding that he not be named, said.

South African Foreign Minister Roelof "Pik" Botha told Japanese officials earlier this month that ANC and other hard-core anti-apartheid bodies have refused to abandon violence and accept negotiations.

Gotoda said in a statement, which was approved by the Cabinet Friday morning, that Japan seeks a "solution through negotiations involving all the parties concerned." Foreign Ministry officials said this means that Japan also seeks to persuade the black rebels to discard their arms and agree to negotiate peacefully if the white-led government shows signs of serious reforms.

The sanctions were prepared after close consultations with the U.S. and European governments. A plan to impose a ban

on importing South African coal was dropped because members of the European Community have failed to agree on such a measure.

The U.S. administration, which has opposed any new sanctions, is likely to reverse its stance at any time, as Congress has called for, in favor of severe sanctions.

Even if the EC decides to ban South African coal, Japan will not go along because the ban would directly affect workers at South African coal mines, who are mostly blacks, and because Nippon Steel Corp. and other firms have strongly opposed the idea, according to officials.

One official said that Japan does not expect South Africa to take countersanctions against Japan and that the current round of international sanctions will probably be the last enacted against the nation.

In past sanctions, Japan has limited diplomatic relations with South Africa to the consular level; banned investment and loans; restricted issuance of visas; forbidden sales of computers to South African police and other apartheid-enforcing bodies; and discouraged the importing of gold coins from the country.

The Japanese ban on importing iron and steel will take effect in about a month, when the Ministry of International Trade and Industry invokes the Trade Control Law. Already-signed contracts are not subject to the ban, and neither is the importing of iron ore. In 1985, Japan imported ¥196 million worth of iron and steel, or about 9 percent of the total Japanese imports of the products from all over the world.

The refusal to issue tourist entry visas took effect immediately. Last year, about 1,000 South African tourists obtained visas to enter Japan. About 3,000 other South Africans visited Japan in the year, mostly for business. Japan is South Africa's third largest trading partner after the U.S. and West Germany.