

. 3:200??th Q

PRESS RELEASE: ANC-TOKYO OFFICE

T'E L O 3 - 3 8 2 - 2 4 4 1

COMMENT: UNITED NATIONS ANTI-APARTHEID

1213 S C)I;IJff I(DIN

On Monday, December 5, the United Nations General Assembly, a world body representing over 151 countries, unanimously adopted a resolution calling on all its member states to impose comprehensive mandatory economic sanctions, including a trade embargo against Apartheid South Africa. The resolution specifically called upon major trading partners of Pretoria, of which Japan is NO. 1, including multinational cooperations to sever business and trade relations with the racist Republic of South Africa and thus help alleviate Black sufferings.

This declaration by the world body has once more raised the hopes of the Black majority that the system that has caused them immense pain for decades will soon be destroyed by combined internal and international efforts. Major trading partners with Apartheid ruled South Africa should take this expectation into account.

The December 5, U.N. resolution is again a re-affirmation of earlier held views and resolutions that Apartheid still is a crime against humanity. This year alone 103 Black people have been executed at Pretoria Central Prison and 85 others, with average age of 22 years, are awaiting the hangman at the same notorious slaughter house. In the past three years, from 1985 to 1988, over 30,000 black people, including 8 year old children, have been thrown into Apartheid jails for simply demanding respect for expressing their own views, the right to freedom of speech, movement and association. According to the newly established Human Rights Commission in South Africa, 2,000 innocent black people are still in racist detention prisons. Among them are 100 children below the age of 18. Torture, executions, detention without trial and a State of Emergency have become part of the Apartheid system. This cruelty should be enough to move human conscience to take effective actions

against Apartheid South Africa.

Although the resolution as such is not binding, it,s moral implications and political significance cannot be ignored. It will serve as a dynamo in the struggle against Apartheid, and continued protests and demands for governments and corporations to cut all links and isolate Pretoria. Through this resolution, billions of people across our globe have once more renewed their pledge to do everything, sparing and stopping at nothing, to hasten the demise of Apartheid and the creation of a democratic, non-racial South Africa as reflected in the Freedom Charter. This places big challenges on the people of East Asia, particularly Japan. The eyes of the world will focus on this area and will await with high expectations new decisions and drastic bold actions that will completely change the present unacceptable state of affairs.

We expect the Japanese Government to move from " self-restraint" to legislation forbidding trade with Pretoria. By so doing, Japan will be joining the rest of it's major trading partners in the West and elsewhere that have enforcable legislation , regulating monitoring structures that ensure that Pretoria does not enjoy the fruit of their technological knowhow and yet continue denying the black majority freedom in their own country of birth.

Jerry Matsila

ANC Chief Representative,Japan.