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# IRISH ANTI- APARTHEID MOVEMENT





# .. THE CASE FOR SANCTIONS ..

*"I have no hope of real change from this government unless they are forced to do so. We face a catastrophe in this country, and only the pressure of the international community can save us. Our children are dying, our land is burning and bleeding, and so I call on the international community . . ."*

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

## THE CRISIS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

One of the most noble and inspiring struggles of our times is unfolding in Southern Africa, as the people of South Africa and Namibia struggle towards their freedom and independence. But as the momentum towards liberation becomes irreversible, so the apartheid regime scales new heights of terror in its vain and frantic efforts to stem the tide. Even the lives of little children are no longer sacrosanct — they, too, are murdered, tortured and imprisoned in the Botha government's last ditch stand to maintain white racial domination.

The war against the people is waged unseen by the rest of the world as censorship of the media is rigorously enforced under the State of Emergency. But the cost of waging war is high, and in its desperation the regime must turn increasingly to its friends, the western countries that trade with apartheid, to keep the profits flowing in. So far, the west has not let apartheid down.

## WHY SANCTIONS?

The rest of the world cannot stand idly by, condemning apartheid verbally yet continuing a trade that arms the apartheid war machine. The world community must isolate South Africa, not alone to cut off its profits, but to show our solidarity with the indomitable courage and dedication of those who are struggling to assert the democratic values and human rights we claim for ourselves. Fear of sanctions is over-riding with the regime, as evidenced by foreign minister Pik Botha's statement that: "South Africa's first priority is to stop boycotts being imposed by our Western trading partners." Our first priority must be to impose those sanctions, sanctions which will be both comprehensive and mandatory, — no buying time for apartheid, none of Mrs Thatcher's "a tiny little bit,". Simply total isolation.





# .. THE CASE FOR SANCTIONS .....

## WHAT ARE OUR GOVERNMENTS DOING?

In 1986 the European Community introduced a package of sanctions against South Africa, but these have proved more symbolic than effective.

The Irish Government obstinately maintains a belief in 'graduated and selective' sanctions, and hides behind the skirts of the EEC to excuse itself from taking further measures. The heroic stand of the Dunnes strikers forced it a year ago into banning the import of fruit and vegetables from South Africa, but since then it has lapsed into inaction and has not even 'graduated' to a ban on coal imports.

Britain, which has done more than any other country to sustain the apartheid regime in South Africa, still has billions invested in the country and is one of South Africa's largest suppliers, while remaining South Africa's biggest customer for fruit and vegetables.

Mrs. Thatcher has denounced sanctions as 'immoral' and scoffed at the 1985 Commonwealth sanctions as only a 'tiny little bit'.

## WHAT NEXT?

Meanwhile the situation in South Africa becomes more explosive as the apartheid regime reacts ever more violently to opposition. We need immediate action. If our governments refuse to act, we must now do so ourselves. By our organised and united efforts in our trade unions, churches, political parties, women's organisations, professional, cultural and sports bodies, through Local Authorities, student unions and community associations, we can act now to break the links.

People's Sanctions must develop into an unstoppable groundswell that not only breaks the links at local and regional level, but forces action at government level.

*"We bury people every day, we see blood flowing around us. With all that is happening . . . we are still supposed to suffer when sanctions are applied to this land, when we have suffered so much? Only those whose pockets get fatter and fatter, who get their reward from Pretoria, will talk that kind of language."*

Winnie Mandela

*"In a situation as critical as that facing South Africa today, the church has a duty, never mind a right, to endorse methods such as sanctions."*

Dr. Beyers Naude, former General Secretary  
South African Council of Churches

*"Sanctions work. But it depends how they are applied. If they are applied hesitantly, then they will have less of an effect. If they are applied in a piecemeal fashion, then they will be feeble. But if they are applied unanimously, they will produce rapid effects."*

President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique,  
October 1987



# .. THE CASE FOR SANCTIONS ..

## WON'T BLACKS SUFFER MOST FROM SANCTIONS?

To ask this is to ignore the constant suffering that blacks endure under apartheid. The great majority of blacks would prefer that their suffering was increased in the short term by the imposition of sanctions, if the end result was the isolation of the apartheid regime and a swifter end to apartheid. They would also derive some comfort from the knowledge that the world community had taken a moral stand on their side of the struggle. In the words of Nelson Mandela, *"Every effort to isolate South Africa adds strength to our struggle."*

## AND WOULDN'T SANCTIONS HAVE A DISASTROUS IMPACT ON THE FRONT LINE STATES?

Another question that presumes that the people of southern Africa are incapable of deciding what is best for themselves. Former President Nyerere of Tanzania forcibly answered this point: *"Africa calls for economic sanctions, and we are not stupid . . . We know that South Africa's retaliation may well be directed against neighbouring African states. But we also know that our freedom and our economic development will remain under constant threat until apartheid is defeated."* A reminder that South Africa's aggression has subjected the entire region to a concerted economic, political and military campaign of destabilisation.

The Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) has been formed by the Front Line States in an effort to weaken and break their historical economic and transport ties with South Africa, rooted in the history of colonial conquest and domination. Sanctions, says the SADCC, will "be well worth the cost."

## WILL SANCTIONS END APARTHEID?

Sanctions alone will not end apartheid, nor are they intended to. The purpose of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions is to show the world community's solidarity with the South African and Namibian people's struggle for freedom. It is that struggle that will bring down the evil system of apartheid, and sanctions are not an alternative but a complement to it. The effect of sanctions, properly implemented, will be to limit the scope, scale and duration of the war that is now raging in southern Africa, and those who resist sanctions support apartheid and resist freedom.

*"Sanctions are a weapon that the international community can and must use against the racist regime — a way of cutting off support for racist South Africa and denying the regime the means through which it can sustain and perpetuate itself . . . Unless the international community can do this, the repercussions of the conflict will almost certainly engulf us all . . ."*

President Oliver Tambo, African National Congress



## BREAK THE LINKS

### \* **Make the consumer boycott bite!**

Make sure all supermarkets and shops know about the boycott. Ask your local authority and (in N. Ireland) your Health Authority to stop buying apartheid products. Stop the sale of South African textile products, fruit and vegetables (banned from sale in the Republic), and the import of South African coal and anthracite.

### \* **Stop Irish exports to South Africa!**

Stop all goods going from Ireland, especially electronic equipment and computers.

### \* **Stop emigration and tourism!**

Protest at recruitment for jobs in South Africa. The national dailies in the Republic do not advertise these jobs — make sure your local or regional paper does not either. EEC Governments are supposed to discourage tourism, but their efforts have no teeth — let's give it teeth through local action.

### \* **Don't play with apartheid!**

Persuade all sports clubs and associations to sever links with South Africa, and all sports men and women not to compete with or against South African teams or individuals.

### \* **No collaboration in music, theatre, arts!**

Persuade all performers not to go to South Africa. Boycott artists on the UN Register of Performers, and boycott apartheid artists from South Africa.

### \* **Don't invest in apartheid!**

Make sure that no body or institution with which you are connected has any funds invested in the apartheid economy, or in big British companies with links with apartheid.

### \* **No fuel for apartheid!**

Boycott Shell — demand that Shell stops bolstering up apartheid in South Africa and Namibia.

### \* **Make your local area an Apartheid-free zone!**

Stop all commercial, financial, political, cultural or sporting links with South Africa. Stop all diplomatic activities and (in Northern Ireland) trade missions.



ALL IRELAND NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION

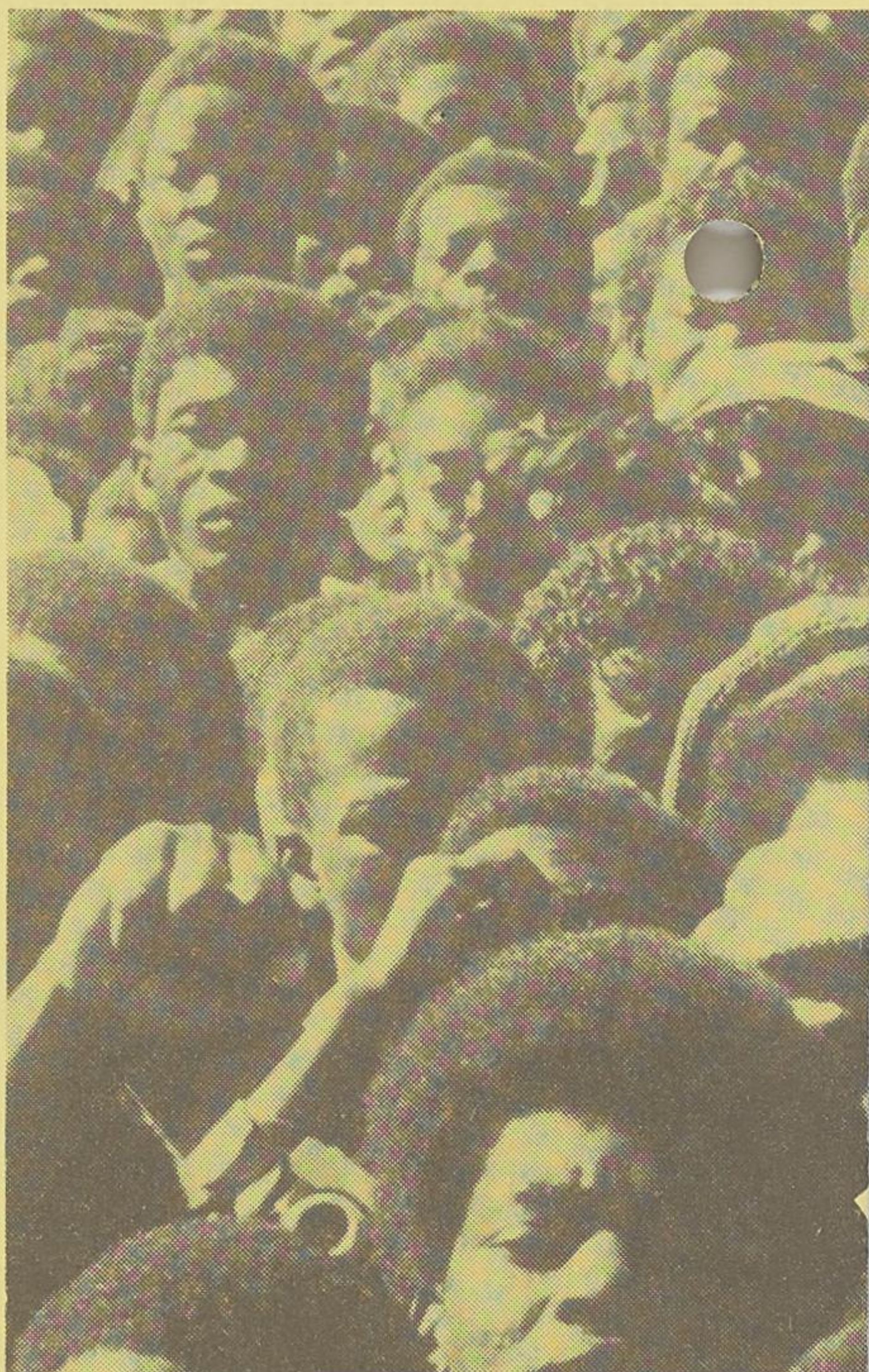
19 MARCH 1988.

ASSEMBLE 2.00 p.m. at PARNELL SQUARE.

RALLY 4 p.m. at the GPO.

*DEMAND COMPREHENSIVE SANCTIONS  
AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.*

**MARCH  
WITH  
US  
ON  
19  
MARCH**



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