

MOM 2014/7

CALL FOR INTENSIFIED SANCTIONS BY CHURCH AND LABOUR LEADERS IN SOUTH AFRICA October 1989

We, the undersigned, after extensive consultation and serious deliberation, wish to endorse the call for sanctions made by the South African Council of Churches (SACC), the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the National Council of Trade Unions (NACTU), and mass-based organisations.

The change in leadership of the apartheid regime should not be considered as a shift in policy. The pillars of apartheid remain intact: the Land Acts, the Group Areas Act, the Population Registration Act and the Reservation of Separate Amenities Act. These are reinforced by a plethora of discriminatory legislation and emergency regulations. The State of Emergency enables the state to govern by decree. Stringent censorship of the media creates a false sense of stability. Since De Klerk assumed power, more than 200 opponents of apartheid have been detained without trial, many have been effectively house-arrested, six were hanged in Pretoria's gallows and the restrictions placed on 33 organisations — including Cosatu, the UDF and the Azanian People's Organisation — are still in force.

We believe that racially-based elections, such as those of 6th September, cannot solve the crisis in South Africa because the majority of South Africans are denied the right to vote. These elections were without legitimacy, and the government formed on the basis of these elections rules without the authority of a mandate from the majority.

De Klerk's talk of negotiations falls far short of the demands made by the majority of South Africans. His proposals for reform are based on the preservation of group rights and the protection of white superiority within apartheid structures. The Defiance Campaign and the Standing for the Truth Campaign were intended to expose the deception of the state's promises for reform. We believe that the De Klerk government has been forced to concede the right of the people to peaceful protest, by allowing a number of peace marches in the past few weeks to take place as a response to the persistent resistance of the people against apartheid rather than an indication of a change of heart.

We are convinced that the apartheid regime will never enter into genuine negotiations with legitimate leaders unless pressurised to do so. Negotiation in South Africa will be the outcome of heightened pressures, and not a substitute for them. To relieve pressure at this point would be an historic and strategic mistake, a tragedy for our country.

We accordingly reiterate our call for foreign governments to campaign for comprehensive, mandatory sanctions through the United Nations, and to impose effective and comprehensive sanctions against apartheid. These would include:

- enforcing existing sanctions measures, such as those on oil, arms and computer technology;
- tightening up financial sanctions in the context of the forthcoming rescheduling negotiations;
- cutting all trade credits to South Africa;
- strengthening all effective trade sanctions;
- strict monitoring of the implementation of sanctions;
- promoting the Commonwealth strategy amongst other nations, especially those with economic power over South Africa, and through multilateral organisations such as the United Nations;
- liaising with and assisting non-governmental organisations in their sanctions campaigns.

We believe that sanctions should be sustained and intensified until the dismantling of apartheid has become irreversible. In line with the OAU guidelines towards achieving the conditions for negotiations, this would mean the intensification of sanctions until the following have been achieved:

- the unconditional release of all political prisoners and detainees;
- the lifting of the restrictions on organisations and individuals;
- the removal of troops from the townships;
- the repeal of the State of Emergency and repressive legislation;
- the cessation of political trials and executions;
- the drawing up and adopting of a new constitution by a properly constituted constituent assembly.

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General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches

The Most Rev Desmond Tutu

Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town

The Rt Rev Dr Stanley Mogoba

Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of South Africa

The Rev Dr Allan Boesak

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