

Gm 8/008/0044/1

African National Congress (South Africa)

Vertretung in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und in West-Berlin

Postfach 190140 · 5300 Bonn 1

Your Excellency,

All African & 3rd World
Countries.

15.5 1981

Re: Republic Day.

The African National Congress of South Africa is confident that you are aware that the criminal Apartheid regime is "celebrating" the anniversary of the proclamation of the white Republic of South Africa. Being the 20th anniversary, it has embarked on a prodigious propaganda campaign both internationally, through its various embassies and consulates as well as within the country itself to project a false image of impending or actual changes in order to create the untenable impression that the brutal racist system of apartheid is being reformed.

The truth, however is well known. Repression within the country is being intensified. Bannings, banishments, arrests, detentions in solitary confinement, kidnappings and torture are continuing.

It is no wonder that South Africa today is an outcast among the nations. It is the scene of a heinous crime against humanity, perpetrated by the racist regime in the name of white South Africa. The number of people the regime sends to the gallows each year is higher than the hangings in all the rest of the world put together. More than 700,000 Blacks are arrested for petty offences each year. Over 2 million of our people have been removed from "White South Africa" and resettled in the so called Bantustans to live a life of misery, starvation and death - this is apart from the millions who have lost their citizenship because "their ethnic Bantustans have become independent."

The regime is notorious for its massacres and other atrocities, bombings, subversion, harassment and racial hatred throughout Southern Africa. South Africa was involved in trying to foment a coup in Zambia; it deploys mercenaries against our sister country Mozambique; there are daily attacks against the Peoples Republic of Angola; it is training large groups of bandits for military incursions into Zimbabwe. The apartheid regime illegally occupies and wages a war of destruction and death against the Namibian people.

Your Excellency, like the racist constitution of the Union of South Africa, the constitution which created the Republic was the exclusive work of Whites only, for Whites only. The decision to inaugurate the Republic was based on a referendum called in 1960 by the then Prime Minister, Verwoerd. Those voting for the Republic totalled 850,458; those against 775,875. The population at the

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time was 16 million. So by the decision of 5 % of the total population, South Africa became a Republic. Today, out of the total population of 28 million, 2 million white voters decide the destiny and fate of all our people. This is their version and interpretation of, as they like to call it, "a Christian Democratic State." In fact they claim Devine rights to rule exclusively !

The Black people of South Africa have nothing to celebrate ! In his adress to the people of South Africa in January of this year, the President of the African National Congress, Mr. Tambo, called on our people to initiate a mass Campaign Against Republic Day.

The people and their organisations, including large sections of the churches within the country have come out clearly against any "celebrations". Are we to celebrate the shooting down of our children, the mass arrests, the mass removals, the fact that in a rich country like South Africa tens of thousand of our children die before they reach the age of one, - in the Ciskei one in four of the children never reach the age of one, - are we to celebrate the degradation, humiliation and brutal oppression we suffered ? This call for celebrations is an affront to both our people and the people of Africa. It is an affront to all democrats the world over. It presents, at the same time, a challenge to all of us.

We are confident that the governments and peoples of Africa and the world will, once more, not allow themselves to be seen in any way - even by their silence - as showing tolerance for the system but instead will seize the opportunity to again publicly proclaim their abhorance and condemnation of Apartheid and all that it stands for.

LONG LIVE AFRICAN SOLIDARITY !

VICTORY TO SWAPO AND THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE !

LIBERATION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN PEOPLE IS CERTAIN !

With warm fraternal greetings

Mohammed Seedat
(Chief Representative)

ANC