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MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
Pun Division '  
23 March 1991  
Unofficial translation  
Statement on South Africa made at the Meeting of the  
Foreign Ministers of the Nordic Countries at Karlshamn tram  
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The foreign minister: of the Nordic countries noted with satisfaction that progress has continued in South Africa since the last Meeting of Nordic Foreign Ministers was held. The ministers particularly welcomed President de Klerk's undertaking that he would propose the abolition of the laws on which apartheid is based in the current parliamentary session.  
The ministers were pleased to observe that the South African government has now taken significant concrete steps to realize President de Klerk's promises in the form of the legislative proposals which were presented recently. The Nordic foreign ministers are looking forward to the implementation of the final decisive legislative steps towards a society which has been freed from apartheid. It is encouraging that additional agreements have been entered into between the ANC and the South African government regarding the resumption of the release of political prisoners and the repatriation of refugees in exile. The constructive spirit which characterized the first meeting between the leaders of the ANC and Inkatha is a further encouraging feature. The ministers noted with satisfaction the ARC proposals for an all-party congress on the fundamental principles for negotiations on a democratic constitution.  
At the same time, the brutal and meaningless violence which has caused thousands of deaths over a number of years and which is still continuing is a highly disturbing feature of developments in South Africa. The South African government has a special responsibility to: ensuring that this  
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violence is rapidly brought to an end. The ministers also  
- appealed to the ANC and Inkatha leaders to continue to make  
i every effort to ensure that talks.ahout the South Africa 0:  
the future can take place in a peacetul and constructive  
atmosphere. -

The minister: noted that the Nordic countries have been  
making joint endeavours since 1978 to contribute to the  
total abolition of apartheid by peaceful means.

In the Nordic progamme on South Africa which the foreign  
ministers adopted at their meeting in Molde in September  
1990. the ministers established that. in the-light of  
developments in South Africa, they wished to continuously  
evaluate and consider adjustments of Rordic measures  
regarding South Africa. '

Against this background, the foreign ministers discussed  
. how the Nordic countries can best support and expedite the  
dialogue in South Africa and the process of negotiation.

The foreign ministers noted that, in the light of the  
developments outlined above, the time.is apptoaching when  
the economic sanctions applied by the Nordic countries  
against South Africa must he reexamined. Actual  
developments in South Africa are the decisive factor in any  
possible relaxatian of sanctions policies.

The foreign ministers agreed that the abolition of the  
apartheid syetem. which is based on legislative measures,  
will he a turning point in the development of South Africa  
;which will make it possible for the Nordic cauhtries to  
grevoke economic sanctions. on the basis of a comprehensive  
political assessment of the situation.

However. the encouraging changes which are taking.place in  
South Africa already justify additional steps on the part  
. of the Nordic countries to promote dialogue and the process  
of democratization. In the current situation, the ministers  
are convinced that this endeavour will benefit from broader  
contacts between the NO:dic.countries and South Attica. The  
Nordic countries have therefore decided to abolish the  
special guidelines which apply to: the granting of visas to  
South Attican citizens, with the exception of restrictions  
which are required to ensure the implementation 0:  
nationally applicable sanctiOne.

The ministers also conzitmed their intention to support  
ettorts in South Africa to reduce economic difierences and  
to ptomote democracy, tollowing the abolition of the  
apartheid system. .

The Netdic foreign ministers declare their strong hope that  
the government e! South Africa will new implement its  
policy of reform so that genuine and meaningful  
negotiations on a new, democratic constitution can start as  
soon as possible. It is therefore desirable that parliament

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:ultils President de Klezk'a undertaking to abolish the  
apartheid laws and that the government 0: South Africa  
removes all th. remaining obstacles to- negotiations on a  
new constitution to: South Africa u soon as ?ossihle.