

OT/031/0257/18

# AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

## PRESS STATEMENT

The President of the United States has finally pronounced the long-awaited policy statement on South and Southern Africa, marked by the now characteristic and hypocritical condemnation of apartheid, while at the same time giving the usual support and comfort to the apartheid regime by refusing to accede to the demand of the oppressed people of South Africa for the imposition of comprehensive, mandatory sanctions.

This is despite the most recent call made by the leaders of the Front Line States for comprehensive mandatory sanctions, knowing that tremendous sacrifice awaits their countries and peoples. We are confident that the Front Line States will reject the new policy formulation with the same vigour they have shown in the past.

Even the Commonwealth is, at the present moment, going through a most profound crisis because of the stubborn refusal of the Thatcher Government to accede to this popular demand.

The issue facing both our people and the rest of the international community is the immediate and complete destruction of the apartheid system, to pave the way for lasting peace and security for our region and Africa as a whole.

Yesterday Reagan reaffirmed that the United States Government is not interested to contribute anything to this objective. Reagan's affirmation of the disastrous policy of constructive engagement flies in the face of United States public opinion which is in favour of decisive action against the apartheid regime.

We therefore welcome the overwhelming rejection by the American elected representatives who, having described the speech as nothing new, have embarked on a plan to propose sanctions bills within a month.

The African National Congress has no choice but to ensure the all-round intensification of the struggle until apartheid is destroyed and South Africa transformed into a united, democratic and non-racial country. Yesterday's diatribe by President Reagan against the ANC and other manoeuvres aimed at disarming us will not deflect us from this course.

The ANC calls upon the people of the USA and Britain to give a fitting rebuff to the Reagan Administration and the Thatcher Government by intensifying the campaign for the imposition of comprehensive, mandatory sanctions against apartheid South Africa and increasing their support for our movement. In the light of the escalating conflict in our country and region, and the continuing resolve of the Reagan Administration to protect the Pretoria regime, Africa and the rest of the world have a supreme obligation to take new initiatives towards the realisation of these tasks.

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Lusaka 23.7.86*

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