

AIDE MEMOIRE FOR A DISCUSSION WITH THE HON. DR. VOLKMAR  
KÖHLER MP UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE IN THE FEDERAL MINISTRY  
FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION - WITH MANGOSUTRU GATHSA  
BUTHELEZI, CHIEF MINISTER OF KWAZULU, PRESIDENT OF INKATHA  
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK ALLIANCE

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I consider it a great privilege to have the opportunity to have a discussion with you Sir, just as I considered it to be a privilege to have a talk with Minister Warncke last year.

The increasing concern of the West about our apartheid society is heartening to the blacks as victims of this evil system. The abhorrence which the West often expresses from its Capitals and at International Forums, is a great encouragement to us. I have however often wished that this strong condemnation of apartheid was at the same time matched by humanitarian aid which is extended to the victims of apartheid. Over the years I have heard it expressed almost Ad nauseum that as South Africa is a rich country, it should be giving the blacks the kind of aid which blacks so desperately need. The fact that apartheid is abhorrent for the very reason that it keeps we blacks both economically and politically deprived, is often overlooked when this view is expressed. The more this view is expressed the more I see it as no more than a pretext by the West for not doing something concrete to alleviate the suffering of the black victims of apartheid in South Africa.

While the condemnation of apartheid is plausible, I wish to state that no amount of rhetoric used in condemning it can help its victims to wrestle with problems which they face such as ignorance, poverty and disease. The struggle for liberation in South Africa is more than just a quest for political liberation. Our oppression in South Africa



has social economic as well as political aspects. This important factor in the black struggle for liberation is often overlooked by many friends in the West who so readily express their abhorrence for apartheid without matching their rhetoric with concrete actions, such as giving us humanitarian aid.

It is against this background Sir, that I highly appreciate the aid which the War on Hunger in Bonn has given to Kwazulu after we were hit so hard by two cyclones, early this year.

It is the measure of the hypocritical atmosphere within which the struggle for liberation has to be waged that both SWAPO and the External Mission of the ANC spokesman attacked the War on Hunger for ordering this much needed aid to Kwazulu. They talk as if the struggle for liberation is not taking place within South Africa.

We have appreciated also the money which has come to us through the German Consulate in Durban to enable our people in Kwazulu to keep their heads above water after being hit by a severe drought last year, and by two cyclones I have mentioned. It is not proper for me to make remarks which may be interpreted as looking at a gift horse in the mouth. But I do wish to say that I hope the day may come when the German Government may give us more humanitarian aid that comes anywhere near the humanitarian aid which Germany has the capacity to give and which Germany in fact gives to other parts of the Third World in Asia, in free Africa and in South America.

It is high time the West realised that it just does not make sense to us that the West should in one breath state even so often that South Africa's politics are a threat to World peace, and in the next breath express as many excuses as possible for not doing something to help us as victims of apartheid, to enable us to help ourselves.



We do not pretend that the International Community has any legal obligation to help us. But in terms of the thousands of words that are uttered each and every year to condemn apartheid there appears to be a moral obligation to render such assistance to us as is commensurate with the thousands of words which the international Community has exuded over the last three decades to express the depth of its concern about us as victims of apartheid society.

This is not the first time I have spoken in Bonn along these lines. I recall Sir, that when I addressed the German Society for Foreign Affairs last year you were present. So I am not really saying something new. I believe the problems of South Africa and Southern Africa can never be resolved unless we are perfectly honest with each other. So while I appreciate the humanitarian aid which has been given by Germany so far just as has been given lately by Great Britain and the United States, I must say without appearing to be ungrateful that the enormous problems which South Africa's problems confront the international Community with, deserve more humanitarian attention than they have received so far.

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation  
BONN  
Germany

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