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Anti-Apartheid Asia-Oceania Regional Workshop (AAAOW)

FINAL DECLARATION

AUGUST 29, 1988 TOKYO

Our concern for social justice and solidarity with the struggles of the people of South Africa and Namibia for freedom brought us together here in Tokyo, Japan, from 26 to 29th August 1988 for the "first Anti-Apartheid Asia and Oceania NGO workshop". '

This is a historical event where people who have suffered from and struggled against oppression and discrimination in South-East and East Asia, Oceania and Hawaii have come to participate in a workshop in order to express our support for the struggle against apartheid in South Africa and Namibia -- a just struggle which we also consider our own.

The Workshop was held to respond to the following aims 2

1. To discuss the growing economic and political and cultural relations between South Africa and the East Asian economies of Japan, Taiwan, Korea and Hong Kong.
2. To express ways of enhancing the cooperation and joint action of the Anti-Apartheid organizations in Asia-Oceania.
3. To draw up concrete proposals for common action to support the struggle against apartheid and for the liberation of the people of South Africa and Namibia.'
4. To share each othersi problems and aspirations and to express solidarity with one another.

We, the participants from Aoteaora(New Zealand), Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea( Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, Hawaii, and representatives from the South African Liberation Movements and other concerned organizations express our warm thanks to the organizer of the workshop, the JAAC, for their enthusiastic hosting and hospitality. We further express deep appreciation for the support given by the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid and the concerned Japanese organizations and social action groups.

We also express thanks to the World Council of Churches-Program to Combat Racism, which supported the conference.

1. As a primary principle we have all agreed that apartheid is a crime against humanity; and any countries or peoples who collaborate with apartheid are accomplices to this same crime.
2. Since apartheid is a crime against humanity which should be totally destroyed we have agreed that our main objective is the impositon of

comprehensive mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa. If sanctions are not effectively imposed, the apartheid system will be prolonged and its aggression and terrorism in South Africa, Namibia and throughout the Southern African region will increase.

3. It is vital that the UN arms embargo against South Africa should be implemented strictly and those who violate it should be exposed and condemned. All military and nuclear collaboration with South Africa should be ended.

1 4. We resolve especially to expose the close and vital military and nuclear collaboration between Taiwan, Israel and South Africa, and will campaign to g stop it.

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5. Japan, UK, USA and West Germany are the most important trading partners of South Africa and their governments are the most aggressive in their opposition to sanctions. This is despite the overwhelming public support for sanctions implementation in these countries. We pledge to organise special campaigns in our respective countries against their role as part of a worldwide campaign to secure effective sanctions.

6. East Asian economies, especially Japan, Taiwan, Korea, and Hong Kong are involved in expanding their trade with South Africa when certain other countries are imposing sanctions. We demand that they stop helping the apartheid regime by acting as sanctions busters and thereby undermining those sanctions measures which have been imposed by the US Congress, the EEC, the Commonwealth and Nordic countries.

7. We have all agreed to maintain close contact between the groups whose representatives have attended the workshop. We shall also extend contact to other concerned NGOs in the region, particularly regional organizations. In order to realise the objective of close contact, we intend to set up a network organisation, which shall exchange information about the activities of . those governments and businesses which have ties with South Africa.

. 8. The exchange of information should be followed by joint action to end ; the ties of governments and companies which maintain links with South Africa. Particular attention will be paid to the regional intensification of the international Shell boycott campaign.

9. In addition there will be other Joint actions such as:

(1) campaigning for the release of Mandela and all other political prisoners in South Africa and Namibia.

(2) intensification of the campaign to stop the execution of the Sharpeville 6 and other patriots on death row.

(3) campaigning for prisoner of war status to be conferred on all captured freedom fighters in accordance with the Geneva Convention.

10. The network should also exchange information about racist activities and anti-human rights activities which take place within each country in the region. We can then support each other through international actions designed to expose and eliminate racism and human rights violations. We affirm ourM ' opposition to all forms of colonialism in the region and support the aspirations of genuine indigenous peoples.

11. The participants extend their wholehearted support to the SHAPO in its struggle for the liberation of Namibia. We are especially heartened by recent developments in that region show the vulnerability of the racist regime.

After their recent celebration of Namibia Day we look forward to next year's celebration marking the establishment of a free and independent Namibia.

(We also regret that SWAPO did not have a representative at this workshop.)

12. Since we recognize that collaboration with apartheid is being an accessory to a crime and the need for joint action, the workshop participants agree to:

(1) condemn the Japanese government and companies which have allowed Japan to become South Africats largest trading partner;

(2) to undertake joint protest action focusing on Japanese government offices, including trade promotion offices (JETRO). As a first step this will be done throughout the Asia and Oceania region.

We add that the Japanese and Taiwanese participants in the workshop feel very ashamed to be called Thonourary whites" and they insist on rejecting the shameful title.

13. We hope to organise a follow-up meeting in the near future, following consultation with concerned people, to sustain our interaction and cooperation. The next meeting should be a broader one that will draw the participation of people and organizations committed to the destruction of apartheid and the triumph of justice.

14. In conclusion the workshop participants hail the heroic struggles and determination of the people of South Africa and Namibia, and salute the Governments and peoples of the Frontline states in their resolute support of national liberation struggles in that region. We pledge to continue our cooperation in support of the struggle against the abhorrent system of apartheid.