

COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENTS' MEETING - KUAL LU
MPUR - OCTOBER,

1989.

1.1. ANC delegation was headed by Comrade Thabo Mbeki who was accompanied by Comrade Yusuf Salojee of DIA and Comrade Mendi Msimang, Chief Representative to the U.K.

1.2. Our delegation was officially hosted by the Government of Malaysia who covered travel, accommodation and meals.

1.3. Our principle objective at CHOAM was to ensure that struggle against apartheid remained a centre piece of Commonwealth deliberations. Within this context we aimed at either endorsement or serious reference to the Harare Declaration.

It was envisaged that it would be an uphill battle to achieve both of the above-mentioned since Margaret Thatcher, it was known, was coming in opposition to these objectives.

2.1. It was rather most unfortunate that from the very outset we had to battle with the cry "give De Klerk six months" being voiced from a Patriot, Dr. Allan Boesak. He was indeed lobbying for that position.

2.2. It was a call we had to respond to in haste since caucasing Dr. Boesak had not altered his stance.

2.3. Our delegation decided to publicly relay the ANC position on sanctions, the significance of the OAU (Harare Declaration) and of our opinion of De Klerk (projected at the time as a great reformer). This was done by Comrade Thabo Mbeki at a press conference especially called for that purpose on the first day of the conference.

2.4. It was interesting to note one of the questions posed by a British journalist:

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"Mr. Mbeki, you have just stated that you are to seek the maintenance and increase of sanctions, is there a serious rift of this issue between the ANC and the MDM since Mr.

Boesak is asking CHOAM to give De Klerk six months?"

To set the record straight, Comrade Thabo Mbeki made it clear that there was no division between the ANC and the MDM. The two organisations were at one on the need to increase sanctions and pressure on the De Klerk's regime.

2.5. After further consultations with Dr. Boesak, he agreed to retreat and pronounced the reversal of his position at a press conference convened for that purpose.

3.1. The ANC delegation met with several Foreign Ministers to lobby support for our programmes - the maintenance and increase of pressure strong reference to the Harare Declaration .

3.2. Meetings were held with the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Canada, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Papua New Guinea, India and Malaysia. These were for the purpose of providing briefings, exchanging views and soliciting support for ANC positions.

3.3. The meetings proved to be very productive not only for the immediate Commonwealth programme for long term support and relationship.

4.1. Our delegation expressed satisfaction at the final communique on South Africa by CHOAM.

4.2. The Communique NOTED the efforts and goodwill of the OAU in the resolution of the South African problem through the HARARE DECLARATION.

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4.3. The Communique not that while De Klerk had made some movements and pronouncements of intended changes, apartheid was still intact and was a long way from being ended.

4.4. It therefore called for a retention of existing sanctions.

It is also called for a strengthening of financial sanctions.

4.5. It decided to maintain the Commonwealth Foreign Minister Committee on Southern Africa with Malaysia being added to the Committee.

5.1. The final Communique had been drafted in full consultation with the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. John Mayors.

5.2. It was therefore not surprising that there were shock waves reverberating throughout the corridors of CHOAM and amongst the heads of states and their foreign ministers when it was discovered that the British had issued its own "Communique".

6.1. An attempt was made by our delegation to have a meeting with the British Foreign Minister.

6.2. He dispatched his assistant in the foreign affairs, Mr. Patrick Fairweather to inform us that his minister would only be willing to meet Comrade Thabo in an advance undertaking can be given that the ANC was willing to renounce armed struggle.

6.3. Comrade Thabo naturally refused to comply with such a ridiculous request.

7.1. Our delegation was also invited to meet with the Prime Minister Malaysia.

7.2. This meeting was very warm and cordial.

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7.3. Comrade Thabo provided a brief update on our struggle and the positions of the ANC on issues such as the necessity to increase all round pressure on the apartheid regime.

7.4. He also appealed to the Malaysian Government for material and financial assistance and raised the possibility of the Malaysian Government utilising its good-relations with the Kingdom of Brunei to provide initial contact between the latter and the ANC.

7.5. It was agreed that the ANC would dispatch a delegation to Malaysia, Brunei and the South East Region early in 1990 for the specific purpose of discussing financial and material support as well as discussing political developments and action.

7.6. It is imperative that we act swiftly in composing a delegation that includes DIA and TGO.

CONCLUSION:

Our delegation felt satisfied with its mission despite some of the political difficulties encountered.