

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

(SOUTH AFRICA)

PROVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Telephone P.O. Box 680,

Office: 116 MOROGORO,

Residence: 208 United Republic of

Our Ref. No..... Tanzania.

Your Ref. No.....27th....August, 19 '7Q.

Dear Friends,

With reference to your circular of 1st August and 3rd directing all ANC Units to observe August 22 as a Day for "NO ARMS FOR RACIALIST SOUTH AFRICA", we wish to advise that consultations were immediately held with the All India Peace Council. It was agreed that they would issue directives to all their units in the various states to observe the Day. I am happy to report that I have since been informed that the necessary directives have already been given.

However, prior to the receipt of the circular we had received your Statement to U Thant and to the OAU. It came just in the nick of time when I was about to give an interview to the political correspondent of the Indian Express.

I then requested him to look through it and use it as he deemed fit. He used it extensively as you will note from the clipping attached hereto. As it came out as a scoop in the Indian Express, there was no point in my issuing your statement in the form of Press Release. It would not be taken up.

Subsequently, I addressed letters to all the main

political parties^ Afro-Asian Solidarity Committees and Peace Councils in India and in other countries of South-East-Asia.

A separate letter also went out to the Afro-Asian high Commissioners and Ambassadors. The background material on the Simonstown Agreement was attached to all those letters. I

hope you have received a copy of our Press Release of July 29

carrying all the documents referred to. The National Herald carried the background material on the Simonstown Agreement in two instalments on July 29 and August 1, respectively. The relevant clippings have already been sent to you.

On July 30s an All-Party public meeting was held

in New Delhi to protest against the U.K. arms supply to South Africa. I was also one of the main speakers at that meeting.

A copy of the resolutions adopted is attached hereto. Clippings on this meeting have already been sent to you.

From the Madhya Pradesh Afro-Asian People's Solidarity and World Peace Committee, I received the attached copy of statement issued on July 22. I am informed that their statement got good coverage in their local English Daily; "Hitvad".

Following your circular referred to herein above,

I addressed another set of letters on August 11 to all the main political parties in India, Ceylon, and Malaysia appealing to them to ensure the observance of the Day by calling â— upon all progressive political parties, movements and people join together to register their mammoth protests on that day in support of the liberation movements in Southern Africa; in solidarity with the continent of Africa and, in

2/

1-/ o e o 9 c

defence of the right of self-determination of the peoples of Africa and Asia".

At this stage, I may mention that several High Commissioners and Ambassadors have reacted sympathetically in one form or another to our letter to them of July 28.

In the meantime the Government of India is fully seized of the matter. Although it has condemned Britain's iniquitous intentions in the strongest of terms, it has not yet spelled out what action it will take should the arms be supplied. But it has said though that her action will be in line with those of the African countries. I can assure you that preparations on this question are being made by the Government with a view to discussing the matter more intimately and vigorously with the African Heads of State at Lusaka next month.

In her speech on Independence Day on August 15 the Prime Minister, Mrs Gandhi referred to this question in sharper tones when condemning Britain's intentions to give arms to South Africa. This was during her review of the international situation. After concluding her remarks on the Soviet and West Germany non-aggression pact which she thought would prove beneficial to the world peace, she went on to declare that: "Unfortunately, in another area (Southern Africa) war is still continuing. There it is not only continuing but it has further enlarged. Many people who have nothing to do with it - innocent children, old men and women

- they have also been engulfed by it and they are undergoing tremendous sufferings and difficulties. Our heart goes out to them in sympathy".