

NMO/205/2007/13

MEETING OF NORDIC MISSIONS, OSLO, 8-9 JUNE 1991

DENMARK REPORT

1. Danish Government relation with the ANC

Following persistent pressure on the Foreign Ministry through DANIDA by the Advisory Committee to the latter to establish direct contact with the ANC like all Nordic governments, the Government finally relented at the beginning of this year. All along the Government had maintained the position that the ANC was involved in armed struggle to end apartheid. A government delegation met the ANC in Johannesburg in March to discuss broad modalities of the new cooperation. WUS (Denmark), a member of the Advisory Committee to DANIDA having existing projects in South Africa, will in future administer the funds allocated to the ANC by the Foreign Ministry. The allocation comes from the Anti-Apartheid Fund which services South African projects internally and externally.

The projects presented in Arusha in February will be considered under the Democracy Fund.

The position of the ANC office in Denmark, having had serious financial constraints, will hopefully improve under the new situation.

2. The Danish Government on South Africa

The minority coalition government is over zealous to strengthen its links with South Africa; the Danish Embassy was re-established last August. Members of the minority right-wing parties have been invited on visits to South Africa. On the question of lifting sanctions, the government lacks majority to repeal the 1986 Sanctions Act.

The present cohesion of the Opposition Front (Social Democrats, Socialist People's Party and Social Liberals) depends to a large extent on the small Social Liberal Party,

well known for its vacillation.

Having failed after numerous attempts to have a high level ANC delegation coming to Denmark to give an overview of the disturbing developments in South Africa, the favourable position that the ANC has enjoyed is now being gradually weakened. An ANC delegation including representatives of the democratic spectrum, visiting the Nordics, would strengthen this tenuous position. A strong appeal by this meeting to the NEC would assist the Nordic offices.

3. National Committee on South Africa (LSA)

The Committee has a very small membership but very active in lobbying amongst the parliamentarians. The government having virtually lifted the ban on visas to South Africa, sports and academic boycott, the strategy in brief presented by LSA to the opposition parties is as follows:-

- a) Ban on new investments will be lifted only if:
 - Pillars of apartheid are repealed
 - S. Africa fullfills the agreements under the Groote Schuur and Pretoria Minutes (political prisoners and exiles in particular).
- b) Lifting of trade ban: the S.African government publicly commits itself to an agreed time scale leading to a democratic election. This undertaking will be followed by lifting all other restrictions except nuclear co-operation.

The LSA has also been very active within the Nordic sanctions Bureau which now seems to be packing up. LSA has adopted the Midlands region in Natal.

The challenge facing the ANC at this juncture is to give concrete guidance to the AAM network on burning issues to be raised to the world in the light of De Klerk's manoeuvres.

This meeting should consider a joint campaign by the Nordic support groups in the light of the changing positions of the governments.

4. The Business Community in the Nordics

Aware that this group has massive influence on the governments, what is our strategy towards them?

5. De Klerk's Visit to Denmark

Because of the strength of the opposition in restraining the government to lift the economic sanctions, Denmark was the only dissenting voice in the EC in March. The visit was intended to weaken the opposition's hold on government. This did not succeed; the demand being democratic elections in South Africa before sanctions are lifted. At the press conference De Klerk gave the impression that sanctions were contributing to the violence and adversely affect the unemployed.

The De Klerk entourage was carefully steered to avoid the demonstrations mounted against him.

6. Visit of Musi Myeni

The visit organised by the S. African Embassy, through the Danish - South Africa Friendship Association, following immediately after De Klerk's visit, is part of the regime's strategy of promoting Inkatha. The visit had a low-key profile and was given a luke-warm glare by the media of the right-wing parties.

As stated earlier, there is an urgent need to send a representative delegation to the Nordics in particular to put the South African case. As I see it the opportune time would be immediately after the National Conference.

7. Feasibility of Joint Nordic projects

The Consultative Conference in December identified two areas as needing immediate attention: EDUCATION/TRAINING and HOUSING.

*Come with people
concrete project
for the people
of the region
equally*
Bearing in mind the efforts of the respective offices in securing assistance in the above needs, what are the possibilities of fusing these into joint Nordic projects?

8. The Department of International Affairs

The lack of dynamic contact between DIA and the missions was strongly raised in the consultative meeting last December. The proposed structure was issued early in January. The problem still persists. What is our input to the improvement of the department?

9. The National Conference

- Overview of the preparations and proceedings of the Consultative Conference.
- Suggestions

10. Possibility of a Come-together of Nordic ANC members

*No. of people?
How many days?
2 days before or after the conference*