

OTR/011/0088/12

INDIAN SOCIETY FOR AFRO - ASIAN STUDIES

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No. ISAAS/AAC-I/86

August 27th, 1986

H.E. Mr. Oliver Tambo
President
African National Congress (South Africa)
P.O. Box No. 31791, Lusaka, ZAMBIA.

Your Excellency,

I am taking the liberty of approaching Your Excellency through this letter to introducing to you the Indian Society for Afro-Asian Studies (ISAAS) and seeking participation as our Guest of Honour in the Conference called by it in New Delhi to deliberate the problems and perspectives of "Cooperation between the Afro-Asian Countries". The Conference is co-sponsored by seventeen institutions and organizations of India including the Anna University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, North-East Hill University, the Punjab University and National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS). The Conference will be held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi from 14 to 19 November 1986.

Africa and Asia are endowed with the largest share of the world resources both in terms of natural wealth and territory. These two continents are also most populous and provide habitation to more than half of the world population. These two continents also provide potential of development not only for their own people, but also for Developed countries as well. However, the region itself is enchained with the vicious circle of poverty.

Various studies undertaken by the international agencies under the aegis of the UN system and academic institutions have stressed upon the need of cooperation amongst the developing countries for attaining self-reliance and breaking state of dependency. UN, NAM, OAU and other regional agencies have formulated comprehensive strategies for implementing the programme of cooperation. However, these strategies have so far remained more or less rhetoric and the countries are slipping into serious state of destabilization and negative rate of development. We can find answer to this anti-clockwise movement in the rise of economic imperialism.

During the time of their ascendancy, the imperial powers gave birth to vested interests which thrived upon their dominance and underdevelopment of the colonies. Therefore, the struggle for freedom which should have been over by now after humanity paid heavily in fighting the

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