

BUSINESS DAY, Johannesburg,

NEWS

11 October 1991

Denmark vows to stand firm on sanctions

DENMARK would maintain sanctions against SA until all political prisoners had been released, members of a key parliamentary committee said in Copenhagen yesterday.

The Danish stand has prevented the EC from lifting a ban on trade with SA in iron, steel and gold coins. Denmark's EC partners voted to lift the ban last April, but need a unanimous decision to scrap the sanctions.

The committee made the decision after a report from MPs who met SA political leaders last month.

BUSINESS DAY, 11 October 1991

End to Arab oil embargo in sight

MANAMA — SA was seeking trade relations with the Persian Gulf countries and had indications that key states in the region might soon lift official embargoes on oil sales, a senior government official said this week.

Foreign Ministry Middle East affairs head John Sunde, speaking in Bahrain, said the dismantling of apartheid and the lifting of US sanctions earlier this year had encouraged Gulf states like Saudi Arabia to review the long-standing ban on oil shipments to SA.

Pretoria had indications that direct oil purchases from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states might be possible soon, Sunde said.

But any change would have little effect on the pattern of SA energy imports as the country had been able to cover all its needs even under sanctions.

Oman had been supplying much of SA's needs for several years, Sunde said.

He noted that SA had recently decided to sell 10% of its strategic petroleum reserves, a sign of confidence about the security of its long-term supplies.

Sunde was attending a financial conference in Bahrain sponsored by Euromoney Publications in his first visit to a Gulf country since taking over the Middle East department at the Foreign Ministry last year.

He said he was not visiting in an official capacity, but added he might make preliminary contacts on setting up a trade office in Bahrain or elsewhere in the region.

He said it was too early to talk about full diplomatic ties with the Gulf states.

SA businessmen were keen to boost exports to the Gulf region as vital markets in Europe became more difficult with the integration of the EC, Sunde said.

Steel and food products were earmarked and SA hoped to take part in the expansion of regional industries like the huge Saudi industrial complexes at Jubail and Yanbu.

Sunde said government was moving to impose curbs on weapons sales to Middle East states, in line with a general move towards arms control following the Gulf war.

He confirmed that SA weapons had been supplied to Oman, Abu Dhabi and Iraq in the past, but denied a recent report of weapons deliveries to Qatar.

Reports said SA had supplied long-range artillery to Iraq in the Gulf war. Sunde said there were indications the Iraqis tried to use the equipment in the later stages of the war.

He said he planned to visit Dubai later in the week, another possible site for a Gulf trade office, and said he planned to fly from there to Iran to negotiate the re-opening of the South African interests section at the Swiss embassy in Teheran.

Sunde said SA had had no difficulty obtaining its oil despite sanctions by Arab states and said he doubted that any Saudi decision to remove sanctions would result in substantial purchases from that country.

He also doubted that any easing of sanctions would result in a drop in the overall cost of energy.

Sunde declined to provide specifics, but oil industry sources said SA probably imported at least 430 000 barrels a day of oil, equivalent to the country's total refining capacity. — AP-DJ.

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SOUTH AFRICAN REPORTS

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THE CITIZEN, Johannesburg,

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SA important item at C'wealth summit

HARARE. — Commonwealth leaders started to gather in Harare yesterday for a biennial summit which will debate the future role of the 50-nation group.

Other major items during the week-long session opening on Wednesday will be South Africa, development, the environment, democracy and human rights, said Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku.

"The top of the agenda for this meeting will be the future role of the Commonwealth," he told Reuters.

Diplomats and Commonwealth officials say they hoped South Africa and sanctions would cease to dominate the summit, last held two years ago in Kuala Lumpur.

"South Africa remains a very important item on the agenda of the Commonwealth, and here we will be discussing in the main . . . how the Commonwealth can best help the process of movement forward that was begun last year by President De Klerk," Mr Anyaoku said.

"On sanctions, we had a meeting of Commonwealth Foreign Ministers in Delhi last month and that meeting mapped out a programme for the Commonwealth, relaxing sanctions in tandem with

concrete developments in South Africa.

"So there is not going to be much heated debate on that," he added.

Diplomats said the absence of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her confrontational approach should help to ease proceedings.

Mr Anyaoku was more diplomatic. He said a calmer approach "would be mainly because developments in South Africa now make it possible for the Commonwealth not to spend too much time arguing about sanctions".

Development was one of the main challenges facing leaders.

"That covers issues like debt burden, free trade arrangements — we have to make the Uruguay round (of world trade talks) more successful — the flow of resources to developing countries, private investment, the free market economies and how to exchange views," Mr Anyaoku said.

He expected democracy and human rights to come up during discussions on the future role of the Commonwealth. Those were among the body's core principles.

A handful of leaders, including Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, were due to arrive in Zimbabwe yesterday. Most planned to fly in today or on Tuesday.

— Sapa-Reuters.

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SUNDAY STAR, Johannesburg, 13 October 1991
Secret visit to Beijing climaxes
Pacrim nations tour?

PIK SNEAKS INTO CHINA

David Brewer, Political Correspondent
In a major international breakthrough, Pik Botha this month became the first South African Minister of Foreign Affairs to visit Red China when he paid a bush-bush visit to Beijing.

The pioneering secret visit has opened up the possibility of diplomatic relations with the world's most populous country of 2.1 billion people. As one of the world's last remaining communist countries, China had previously been forbidden territory for the South African Government.

Mr Botha held "constructive" talks with his counterpart in Beijing, the Chinese Foreign Minister Chen Qiliang, during his unpublished visit which formed part of his week-long tour of Pacific rim countries including Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia and New Zealand.

It is understood that Mr Botha has been very careful to keep South Africa's longstanding allies Taiwan informed of his visit to mainland China so as not to damage the friendly relations between South Africa and Taiwan which President de Klerk is to visit next month.

While mainland China has a vast population compared to Taiwan, the powerful Taiwanese economy is particularly important to South Africa. Taiwan is now South Africa's sixth largest trading partner. However, as Taiwan itself has made economic inroads into the mainland, South Africa does not expect contact with China to disturb its Taiwanese connections.

During Mr Botha's visit to Beijing, trade relations between South Africa and China formed a major basis of discussions as a number of South African businessmen are known to have established strong ties there.

South Africa regards the Pacific rim and the Far East as the world's greatest long-term economic growth region, with mainland China ripe for major economic development.

Foreign Affairs officials are eager to cement diplomatic and trade relations there.

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Pik in New Zealand row

SOUTH African Foreign Minister Pik Botha left New Zealand yesterday, fuming after a frosty reception, saying New Zealanders had fallen behind the times and had not even caught up with the African National Congress.

Mr Botha, who was said to have called off a news conference after reportedly losing his temper during a hostile radio interview, accused New Zealand opposition leader Mike Moore of having

no idea of reforms under way in South Africa.

However, a Foreign Affairs Department spokesman in Pretoria, Mr Awie Marais, said any

Mr Botha faced angry questioning during his visit to New Zealand on the Pretoria Government's commitment to abolish the last vestiges of apartheid. The visit was the first by a South African Minister since South Africa left the Commonwealth 30 years ago.

Mr Botha also came under fire for his involvement in the secret funding of the Zulu-based Inkatha movement in South Africa.

He said his ministry, which had the express mandate to circumvent international sanctions against South Africa, had decided to help Inkatha organisers with a demonstration against sanctions.

His ministry had paid for "some proper slogans that look neat and can be photographed".

Mr Botha, who met Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke in Canberra before flying to Wellington, had no official meeting with New Zealand Prime Minister

Jim Bolger, but bumped into him in a Wellington car park yesterday morning.

The two men were appearing separately at the same radio station and chatted for a few minutes in the car park as one arrived and the other left.

Mr Botha then faced hostile questioning on Radio New Zealand and seemed to be about to walk out of the studio when the interview ended abruptly.

South Africa's international sporting links were raised frequently during Mr Botha's talks, and he said he brought a message from ANC leader Nelson Mandela to rugby union and cricket-mad New Zealand.

He had asked Mr Mandela before he left South Africa about the prospects of South African rugby winning ANC approval to return to international competition.

Mr Mandela replied: "You can tell them that Dr (Danie) Craven

(South African Rugby Board President) and I are involved in a plan that ought to resolve the problem," Mr Botha quoted him as saying.

Mr Botha, who said in Australia that his country's Springbok rugby team would easily beat Australian and New Zealand teams, accepted a bet from a New Zealand parliamentarian on the outcome of the next Test match between the Springboks and the All Blacks.

Mr Botha also attacked a decision by the West Indies and Pakistan to oppose South Africa's inclusion in next year's cricket World Cup as a slap in the face to Mr Mandela, who favoured South African participation.

International cricket authorities are due to rule this week on whether South Africa can take part in the competition, to be held early next year in Australia and New Zealand.

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"They are directed world-wide against the proliferation of missile technology."

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Mr Botha was reacting to the announcement by the US on Friday that it would impose new sanctions on South Africa to protest against the proliferation of missiles and missile technology by Armscor.

Press reports speculated yesterday that the sale of missiles to Iraq, among other countries, was behind the US decision.

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Pik: New weapons sanctions 'unfair'

FOREIGN AFFAIRS Minister Pik Botha denied yesterday that new arms sanctions on South Africa by the United States had anything to do with Armscor sales and said the move should not be seen as political.

Speaking at a press conference in Johannesburg on his return from an eight-day foreign tour, Mr Botha described the sanctions as "a bit unfair" and said they had come at an "inopportune time".

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SUNDAY TIMES, Johannesburg, 13 October 1991



BUSINESS DAY, Johannesburg, 11 October 1991

Barend to put SA case in Bangkok

A HIGH-powered SA team, led by Finance Minister Barend du Plessis, yesterday headed for the IMF and World Bank annual meeting in Bangkok with the message that SA needed international finance soon to get the economy moving.

But Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo immediately warned that without consultation, any attempt to secure loans would incur the wrath of his trade union federation, the ANC and SACP.

Du Plessis is accompanied by Reserve Bank Governor Chris Slats, Finance director-general Gerhard Croeser and deputy director-general Estiaan Calitz.

Du Plessis' main purpose is to address the meeting, but he will also have high-level discussions with officials from both organisations. Also on the itinerary for his two-week trip are meetings with businessmen and representatives of some of the world's largest banks, and an address to an investment conference in Hong Kong.

High on his agenda will be recent ANC and Cosatu statements on nationalisation, hints of reneging on foreign loans and Cosatu's threat that if government does not enter into negotiations on restructuring the economy with it and other major players they might cripple the economy.

In an interview Du Plessis said international investors should be "fully aware of the importance of predictability with regard to fiscal and monetary affairs, pre-

sence of technical recommendations from the IMF. We have not been consulted by the IMF, so it seems to us that there has been a deal struck between the IMF and government. We are clearly going to say to the IMF we do not accept deals struck behind the backs of the people. There is a necessary link if these deals relate to economic restructuring, such as VAT, which will

BILLY PADDOCK

dictability even with regard to company law". They should be reassured that capital would be safe, and that it could make money and be repatriated.

"If we have a substantially higher rate of economic growth, with a pending economic upswing extended over a longer period on account of having access to international finance, not necessarily IMF only, our economic growth will give us more expenditure capability without raising the overall tax burden. Obviously that additional money will go towards urgent social expenditure items," Du Plessis said.

A source said Du Plessis was expected to gear his address to the southern African region. He was expected to tell the IMF and World Bank that good growth in SA would have much wider positive developmental effects in the sub-Saharan region.

Du Plessis was expected to address issues such as nationalisation more circumspectly and not counter the ANC directly. He would reassure the international financial community that the present government would ensure loans were honoured.

In an interview Naidoo linked Cosatu's increasing militancy and ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa's statement on re-evaluating foreign loans.

"Government operates purely on the ba-

then entitle government to borrow money overseas," he said.

"So whether it is from private banks, the IMF or the World Bank I would say that in Cosatu there would be a lot of support that we would not honour loans that are made arbitrarily to the SA government."

THE CITIZEN

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FW, Mandela to get UN prize

HARARE. — ANC leader Mr Nelson Mandela and President F W de Klerk will receive their UN-sponsored peace award in Geneva on October 22.

The Felix Houphouët-Boigny peace prize will be presented to the joint winners during the session of the UN Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, Zimbabwe's news agency Zimna reported.

The news agency quoted a statement issued by the UN body in Geneva.

The statement said: "Nelson Mandela, president of the ANC, and F W de Klerk, South African President, will come to Unesco during the session in order to receive the Felix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize." — Sapa.



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American roadshow to raise funds for ANC

SAN FRANCISCO — A "caravan" of American anti-apartheid campaigners and entertainers will visit SA next week in a drive to raise funds for the ANC and rekindle international concern for the plight of voteless blacks.

The TransAfrica-sponsored mission follows a plea, in the form of a letter, from ANC president Nelson Mandela, "which had a note of desperation in it", a US congressman said yesterday.

However, what was originally intended as a four-day "Hollywood extravaganza" to SA involving stars like Michael Jackson,

ANTHONY JOHNSON

Bill Cosby and Quincy Jones, appears unlikely to materialise at this stage — despite frantic 11th-hour lobbying of black entertainers sympathetic to the anti-apartheid cause. Plans for an international satellite broadcast of a fundraising telethon have also apparently been postponed.

TransAfrica director Randall Robinson, who was "too busy" to respond to media inquiries this week, still has to finalise details with Mandela and a variety of US parties interested in joining the trip to SA,

scheduled for October 18 to 22.

And SIMON BARBER reports that New York mayor David Dinkins now plans to visit SA between November 19 and 17. He was forced to postpone his trip last month because his staff could not raise the \$500 000 he needed to charter a jumbo jet for himself and an entourage of nearly 50.

He now intends to fly by commercial airline with a much smaller group of city officials and businessmen. His bill will be paid by a controversial "charity" which raises money from companies that do business with the city.