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Introduction

This is a summary report of the situation in Japan and other East Asian countries. The report should be seen as continuation of regular reports/notes from our mission and additional to earlier rapotage by myself, Ms Tsuyama Naoko and Mr. Hirano Kazunari during our respective visits to Lusaka during the past year.

Evaluation of 1989

Our office evaluate highly our activities during 1989 calendar year. This VieW/observation is held by Solidarity Groups, Anti-Apartheid Committees, Political Parties, Embassies and scores of other local groups and organisations. Indeed the June 1989 visit by Comrade T.T. Nkobi and the series of meetings held with officials in government, business, ambassadors, political parties and solidarity and support organisation contributed tremendously to our efforts. Above all the tireless and selflessness of Mr. Hirano and Ms

Tsuyama, our two Japanese staff during the past year, help further to mobilise more support for ANC and our struggle. This let to expansion of our work across Japan and broad in new forces and support. It is this newly mobilised areas of work that put so much pressure on the three of us in the office.

Major Development of 1989

(a) Formation of Volunteers Campaign Committee

Inspired by our activities and moved by Asinamali and Defiance Campaign in South Africa, a group of ordinary Japanese, predominantly University Students from Six different

Tokyo Campasses and workers formed ANC Volunteer Group. This Group not only organised public rallies, demonstration and protest but also visit Japanese Foreign Ministry to demand support for ANC, release of Political Prisoners, isolation of Apartheid South Africa.

During their visit to South African Consulate General office the group showed 376,000 signatures collected across Japan demanding of all prisoners in South Africa, Unbanning of

ANC and end of Apartheid. Further this Volunteer Group formed reliable additional, consciouse and willing manpower our office could easily mobilise at short notice for various activities. We also arrange for them to meet a number of visitors from South Africa Who came to Japan during the previous year.

(b) Formation of Lawyers Committee Against Apartheid

As reported earlier, the Group was formed partly by inspiration from the British Lawyers Against Apartheid where Ms Yoko Hayashi (founder member of the above) studied for a year during 1987. Although the Group is still young, they have ambitious plans that if implemented, will lead to more pressure on the government and Business Community. During the visit to Japan by a delegate of Lawyers for Human Rights to meet government officials, a meeting was arranged with the above group and Democratic Lawyers Association. Ever since Democratic Lawyers feels obliged to work towards the destruction of Apartheid. They have kept dynamic contact with NEDAL and LHR and collecting funds for their scholarships. We hope the ANC Legal Department can also keep contact with the above Japanese groups.

(c) Formation of (Diet) Parliamentary League Against Apartheid

On November 29, 1989 at the Parliamentary (Diet) Chambers, parliamentarians from all Japanese political parties, ruling and opposition, big and small, in the presents of almost all African Embassies, ANC Chief Representative, officials of Gaimusho (Foreign Ministry), inaugurated League Against Apartheid. This was history in Japanese politics -thanks to the patience and skillful work of Mr. Toshio Kawakami of Japan Socialist Party and current Chairperson of the League. Parliamentarians usually form ideological separate support committees for a particular country or issue but all come together to form ONE Committee against Apartheid. All of them attended the steering Committee that met first time during the visit of Cde T.G. to Japan. Although they have not as yet elaborated their 1990 plan of action, we hope that they will increase pressure within the government . and Will highlight the support for ANC and anti-Apartheid struggle within the corridors of

the Diet. The group is schedule to reconvene after the pending February General election for the powerful Lower House. ANC Chief Representative & Ambassador of Nigeria, H.E. Dagon Yaro addressed the inauguration meeting.

Our office took initiative to request them to meet parliamentarians from other countries who will be attending the UN. sponsored ; East Asian Action Against Apartheid Seminar, 23-25 January 1990 in Tokyo. Further we are proposing to them to consider a visit to Southern Africa during this year, preferably after the February election. During this visit they will also hold discussions with ANC leaders. Comrade Walter Sisulu send greetings and appeal to the inauguration meeting.

(d) Formation of Amandla Tour Committee

Already the Japan Africa Asia Latin America Committee (AALA) have set-up local committees across Japan to prepare Amandla Tour from 29 September-10 November 1990. The growing ANC support across Japan enabled the Tour organisers to easily confirm tour in about 22 cities to date. Asinamali national tour and publicity across Japan have undoubtedly also contributed to this unparalleled enthusiasm.

Amandla Tour to Japan, Singapore (June) and Malaysia (June) Will surely help to develop further ANC presents, objectives in the region.

(e) Apartheid Non Exhibition

This exhibition that have been already to a number of European countries is currently touring Japan. So far the exhibition have been to 150 places across Japan, and according to the organisers over 400,000 ordinary people across the country have seen it. The striking feature of the exhibition is that local people form their own committees, prepare their own information to propagate and publicise the exhibition. They collect money in order to host it. In this way they become part of the exhibition anti-apartheid activities. This leads to upsurge of anti-apartheid activities locally. Our office have participate in helping local organisers establish these committees and help mobilise the public to visit the exhibition. Another feature is that just ordinary citizens, very ignorant

of apartheid and its realities come out aware of our situation after visiting this exhibition. Big quantities of Anti-Apartheid literature is also distributed and sold in the process.

The exhibition has been in Tokyo since Dec. 1989 and Will move around various . Tokyo districts for 3 months. Organisers are projecting an estimated 400,000 Tokyoites Will see the exhibition. The ANC and the entire African Ambassadors accredited to Japan have joined this campaign.

Ambassadors give speeches to local preparatory committees, attend opening exhibition reception ceremonies, give interviews and almost all mobilise Japanese populace to increase support for ANC Tokyo office.

Political Situation in Japan

The recruit stock scandal, former P.M. Uno Geisha problem and the introduction of consumption tax have virtually ended the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) monopoly of power in Japan. In the June 1989 Upper House or House of Counsellors the LDP lost its majority and went into opposition after 35 years of defacto one-party-state and domination of both Houses of Parliament. The opposition, especially the main opposition party, Japan Socialist Party (JSP) led by chairperson Takako Doi rallied women electorate around (i) corrupt LDP money politics

(ii) P.M. women scandal

(iii) Recruit scandal and

(iv) unpopular Consumption tax (3%)

Although the government of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu tried to deal with the blows suffered after June Upper House election defeat the electorate seemed not convinced and still mistrust the ruling party.

February Election

The opposition parties especially JSP and Democratic Socialist Party, Komeito and United Democratic Socialist Party (Shaminren) seems confident to win more seats in the forthcoming powerful lower House election. The Lower House has strength, the party governs or loses power depending on how they fair in the Lower House parliamentary election. Analysts predicts that although the LDP might be forced into a hung up or coalition government with some centrist party like Democratic Socialist or Komeito Party. On the left the Communist Party, which neither cooperates with or joins the four other opposition parties seems not confident enough for the coming February House of Representatives election. During the June 1989, the Japan Communist Party (JCP) lost seats to JSP to what party activists and analysts called "The after-effects of Tienanmen Square shooting" in Beijing, June 4 1989. Comrades points to events unfolding and losing of power or dissolving of Communist Parties in Eastern Europe, especially the Romanian turnabouts as bad omen for JCP changes for the election. The general observation is that the four ; JSP-DSP, Komeito and Shaminren will increase their seat in the forthcoming parliamentary elections. Their prospects are re-inforced by Rengo (Japanese Confederation of Trade Unions) support. In the June 1989 Lower House election, Rengo fielded candidates in LDP strong hold. They won all except in only one constituency which ever way, the ruling party which is facing the wall will be denied the absolute majority for the first time in 140 years of single rule.

Coalition Government

During and after the Upper House general election in June 1989, Japan Socialist Party, (JSP), Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), Komeito and United Socialist Party (Shaminren) have been holding series of meetings re: Formation of Coalition Government to unseat LDP while initially the parties were miles apart especially on;

1. Japan-U.S.A. security treaty

- . Issue of Japan Self Defence Forces
- . Socialist and radical inclinations of JSP

The Nuclear Energy Policies and

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Korean Peninsula Position and Treaty,

six month of varies special committee sessions and leadership summits, through compromises and consensus a unified position seems to be emerging. The general direction and position is that only the above four, With backing of powerful 10 million strong Reng
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Trade Union can end LDP rule, money politics, scandals and curruptions and improve Japan image from First Class economy, second class standard of living, third class politics to First Class Economy, First Class standard of living and First Class Politics.

Winds Blows Our Way:

the above political developments and trends have change the course of usually strong and hostile Winds to blow our way. Our timely decision to open our mission in Tokyo, gave us rear opportunity to understand, cooperate and to some extend influence certain important circles to see things our way.

The other obvious reflection of changing tide is the agreement by all parties that Japan need only one Diet League Against Apartheid. This situation could have been . unthinkable two years ago.

As the pressure builds and intensify in both Houses of parliament, we expect the ruling party to seriously rethink its positions on South Africa. The LDP Will not like to face a hostile forces and isolation from both Within and without. Over 1990 campaigns, as Will be detailed later is precisely a respond to and preampive actions to force LDP acced to overwhelming opinion against Apartheid and introduction of Sanctions on Pretoria. The fact that some party officials With LDP donate funds to AND and some one the LDP to donate funds to ANC Tokyo Office is an indication that there promising changes or changes of opinion somewhere Within the party.

Our next step should be to encourage the opposition parties to introduce anti-apartheid legislation first in the Upper House, Where it will be voted overwhelmingl
y

and then to the Lower House, Where even if it can be narrowly defeated, Will introduce

the issue of apartheid in a lengthy debate within the parliament chambers. This will then allow the other extra-parliamentary forces to rally support for our just course.

The present Emperor, Emperor Akihito, seems not to have much influence on the above trends, although there is fear that the LDP might use the Imperial Household name for its political programme. Like when Prime Minister Takeshita was fighting hard against Recruit stalk scandal, among other he used the funeral of the late Emperor Showa, in what was called "Funeral Diplomacy".

The new Emperor official Enthronement is coming in November and Emperor's Akihito second son is due to get married in June or July this year. These occasions might provide yet another diplomatic and stage management group for LDP.

The main issues at the coming elections will still be;

(i) corrupt money politics

. (ii) unpopular consumption tax

(iii) recruit scandal

The outcome of election will depend on how each party propagated the above. If the opposition gains absolute majority, we will see possibly a fundamental policy change towards Pretoria. Even though a red-carpet might not be extend to the ANC, more sympathetic personalities shall be Wilding the reigns of power. It will depend on us how we approach the new situation. Whatever way, new tomorrow seems to be dawning for our movement and our struggle. Hopefully, the effects will go beyond the national boundries to other East Asian countries, especially those belonging to Newly Industrialis ed

Economic (NIEC'S) and association of East Asian Nation (ASEAN).