

(For information media not an official record)

PARIS SANCTIONS CONFERENCE HEARS AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICA

International Conference on sanctions against South Africa, beginning its second day of an eight-day series of meetings at the Paris Headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), heard a statement on 21 May from President of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), Oliver R. Tambo, who stated that sanctions should not be seen as a way of reforming apartheid. They were a weapon that must be used against the racist regime to weaken its capacity to maintain its aggressive posture, to cut off support for that regime and to deny the regime the means through which it could sustain and perpetuate itself.

The conference heard statements by the Minister of State for Education of Singapore, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, the Foreign Ministers of Denmark and Tunisia, the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union and the representative of Burundi.

During the course of the meeting the President, Salim A. Salim (United Republic of Tanzania) said that as a result of consultations held late yesterday, it had been decided that Paulo Jorge, Foreign Minister of Angola, would serve as Chairman of the Conference's Political Commission, and that Noel Sinclair, Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations, would be Chairman of its Technical Commission.

On another matter the Conference decided, at the suggestion of the President, to entrust its steering committee with the drafting of the Conference's final declaration. The steering committee is composed of the 11 officers of the conference.

At the outset of the meeting, Mr. Salim announced that the Conference had received messages from the Presidents of Haiti, Indonesia, Tunisia, Mali, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka, and by the Head of State of Ethiopia., and by the Chairman of the Ghana National Committee against Apartheid.

Mr. Tambo said that the ANC made a special appeal to all oil-producing states to join in the embargo already imposed by the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members and others, and to take further effective legislative and administrative measures to ensure that their embargos were truly effective. It appealed to those governments which had hitherto refused to impose sanctions until the Security Council made them mandatory to act now. A Security Council resolution could make sanctions mandatory, but it was also the sovereign right of every country to choose to impose sanctions. One of the principal issues to which the Conference must address itself was what steps the world community should take to ensure that the Security Council discharged its proper function and brought to an end the breach of peace and threat to international security that now existed in Southern Africa. In as much as the Security Council had failed to act, members of the General Assembly should now "unite for peace," and make appropriate recommendations.

Tay Eng Soon, Minister of State for Education of Singapore said that apartheid was the clearest, the ugliest and the most systematic form of racial discrimination practised anywhere in the world today. Sustained international pressure could compel a determined and intransigent regime to give in. The international community must therefore act concertedly and quickly in exerting pressure on South Africa.

Hamed Alwan, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Iraq hoped for the adoption of feasible measures against South Africa in all fields, notably in the fields of armament and nuclear arms, diplomatic measures, oil, investments, air and maritime communications, and trade. Iraq stood resolutely with the African peoples because of its own experience as part of the Arab suffered from "a ferocious, racist regime, namely, the Zionist entity, which practised the same racist methods against the Arab people in Palestine, and is supported by the same colonialist forces which support the racist regime of Pretoria."

L.F. Ilychev, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, said that the main enemy of the African people was the racist regime of Pretoria, which posed a great threat<sup>to</sup>/international peace and security. The open support of the new United States Administration for South Africa had been justly condemned by the African people and their liberation movements. Certain Western countries eagerly protected the racist regime because they were eager to plunder South Africa's riches and to exploit the toil of its people. The Soviet Union resolutely condemned attempts to equate the national liberation struggle of people with terrorism. The Soviet Union would continue to support the demands of the African countries for effective sanctions against South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter.

Gerd Hoehne (German Democratic Republic) said that the imperialist States and corporations were equipping the South African racists with the most modern weaponry in order to secure their own economic, political, military and strategic interests in Southern Africa. He was for the strict observance of the current embargo and backed demands for strengthening that embargo. Moreover, he favoured sanctions, especially the imposition of an oil embargo. "But what is needed most is the immediate discontinuation of any kind of nuclear co-operation with the racist regime."

Beji Caid Essebsi, Foreign Minister of Tunisia, said only the greater isolation of South Africa and the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter, could lead Pretoria from the blindness of its obstinacy. With regard to Namibia, there must be a total reaffirmation, without any reservation, without any ambiguity on the part of States -- in particular on the part of those which had assumed primary responsibility in the matter -- to assure the rapid independence of Namibia, in accordance with the objectives set by the United Nations on the basis of Security Council resolution 435.

Kjeld Olesen, Foreign Minister of Denmark, said it had recently been alleged that a few Danish-owned ships, in contravention of the arms embargo, had been chartered to transport various military equipment to South Africa. Urgent investigations were immediately initiated. One of the firms in question had now been fined in accordance with the criminal law implementing Security Council resolution 418 in Denmark. The public prosecutor in Denmark found however, the fine too small and had now appealed the decision to a higher court requesting a more severe penalty. He added that the Nordic Foreign Ministers had recently agreed on a programme of action against South Africa, aimed at prohibiting or discouraging new investments in South Africa, restricting production by Nordic Enterprises in South Africa, discontinuing contacts with the apartheid regime in the field of sport and culture, and increasing humanitarian assistance for the oppressed people of Southern Africa.

Artenon Simbaniye (Burundi) thanked the representative of the Socialist Party of France for his statement yesterday affirming the new French Government's support for Namibian independence in accordance with the appropriate Security Council resolutions. Unfortunately, under the "fallacious context of closing the door to communism", South Africa had gained sympathy from certain Western Powers. But it was time for those Western States which fought against nazism in world war II and enlisted Africa's support in that struggle, to support the African struggle against apartheid, "A form of Nazism on the African continent".