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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Concerted international action for the elimination of apartheid

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

SWEDEN

[Original: English]

1. In Sweden's view, the policy of apartheid means both a violation of fundamental human rights as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a grave threat to international peace and security. Sweden's policy against apartheid is thus based on two crucial elements in our foreign policy: on the one hand, an endeavour to promote respect for human rights and, on the other, a conviction that conflicts should be settled by peaceful means.

2. The aim of Sweden's South Africa policy is to contribute to the abolition of apartheid and its supersedence by a democratic non-racial society with universal suffrage for all South Africans. As a means of bringing this about, Sweden has for a long time been advocating mandatory sanctions, decided upon by the United Nations Security Council. In Sweden's view, such sanctions are the most effective means available to the international community in order to force, by peaceful means, the South African Government to adopt the necessary measures that would lead to the total eradication of the apartheid system. All States are under an obligation, according to the Charter, to apply measures of that nature, which are a sine qua non if measures are to be effective.

3. In Sweden's view, it is now urgent that the international community takes its responsibility for the abolition of apartheid in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the Charter. The Security Council has in this respect its given role and its responsibility by virtue of its function pursuant to the Charter to maintain international peace and security.

4. Pending such a decision by the Security Council, Sweden has taken, unilaterally and jointly with the other Nordic countries, a number of steps in accordance with the joint Nordic Programme of Action against South Africa. This Programme, which was adopted in 1978, was revised and extended in October 1985 with a view to further reducing the Nordic countries' economic and other relations with South Africa. The revised Programme also means a substantial increase in aid to the victims of apartheid, to the liberation movements, to the front-line States and to the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC). The following unilateral Swedish measures have been adopted, among others.

Investment, loans and related matters

5. As far back as 1979, Sweden introduced legislation prohibiting investment in, and loans to, companies in South Africa and Namibia. In April 1985, this legislation was tightened and extended to include a ban on financial leasing and on loans to the South African Government and its authorities.

Transfer of technology

6. In July 1986, all assignment and lease of patents and manufacturing rights to South African and Namibian companies were prohibited.

Trade, export promotion and related matters

7. Since 1967, no State credit guarantees have been granted for export to South Africa. Public funds may not be used for the promotion of trade with South Africa.

8. In May 1985, the Government issued a recommendation to public authorities and institutions to the effect that they should refrain from procurement in South Africa.

9. In October 1985, the Government issued a recommendation urging Swedish companies engaged in export to or import from South Africa to seek other markets and suppliers with a view to reducing trade with South Africa. The Government also called the attention of the companies to Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia, which was adopted by the United Nations Council for Namibia in 1974, and recommended that they respect the stipulations contained therein.

10. In January 1986, an act entered in force entitling municipalities and country councils to impose a boycott on goods and services of South African origin as an act of solidarity directed at the apartheid policy.

11. A system for the licensing of all imports from South Africa to Sweden as well as of all exports from Sweden to South Africa was introduced in June 1986.

Agricultural products

12. In January 1986, imports of agricultural products originating in South Africa were prohibited.

Krugerrands

13. In December 1985, the import of krugerrands was prohibited.

Coal and uranium

14. In bills in 1981 and 1983, the Government stated that no coal and uranium from South Africa and Namibia should be purchased. The Government has also had talks on this matter with the companies concerned.

Oil

15. Sweden is not an oil-producing country and does not export any oil to South Africa. Swedish shipping companies have not been involved in recent years in the conveying of oil or oil products to South Africa.

16. For some years, Sweden has been giving financial support to the Shipping Research Bureau at Amsterdam, which is monitoring oil deliveries to South Africa.

Transport and communications

17. Jointly with Denmark and Norway, Sweden terminated in June 1985 its air agreement regarding air services with South Africa. As a result, the Scandinavian Airlines System closed down its air service to Johannesburg in September of that year.

18. In October 1985, the Government issued a recommendation to Swedish shipping companies to the effect that they should refrain from sailing to South Africa and, as far as possible, satisfy the shipping needs of South Africa's neighbouring States via ports outside South Africa.

Arms embargo

19. Exports of munitions and related material to South Africa were prohibited following the United Nations embargo against South Africa, decided upon by the Security Council in November 1977. The legislation was extended in April 1985 to comprise data-processing equipment, related software, and cross-country vehicles and fuel intended for the South African military and police authorities, or for their account.

20. Imports of military equipment from South Africa were prohibited in November 1983.

21. The penalties for persons violating the Swedish legislation on the arms embargo were made more stringent in January 1986.

Military and nuclear co-operation

22. Sweden has no military co-operation with South Africa.

23. Exports of equipment and technology in the nuclear sector, in general, require the approval of the Government. Such approval is out of the question as long as the apartheid system persists. A de facto ban on such exports thus exists.

Contacts in sports, culture and science

24. In the 1978 Nordic Programme of Action against South Africa, it was recommended that sports and cultural contacts with the apartheid régime in South Africa should be brought to an end. When the Programme was revised in 1985, the scientific field was also formally included. The intention is that contacts in these three fields should cease.

25. Jointly with the other Nordic countries, Sweden introduced in 1982 regulations requiring compulsory visas for South African nationals.

26. In 1982, the Government issued guidelines for contacts by Swedish authorities and institutions with South Africa in the above fields. These guidelines were tightened substantially in June 1985.

Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation

27. Sweden has studied the question of the termination of the existing agreement with South Africa for the avoidance of double taxation. As termination of the agreement would only lead to increased tax revenue for South Africa, no such step has been taken.

International development assistance

28. In the 1986/1987 fiscal year, SKr 2 billion (\$US 1 = SKr 7.2), or about 43 per cent of Sweden's total bilateral assistance, is appropriated for southern Africa. Of that amount, SKr 1.55 billion is set aside for commitments in the countries of southern Africa (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) as well as for aid to SADCC. Another SKr 200 million will be provided for humanitarian assistance in the region, of which SKr 52 million is earmarked for the African National Congress of South Africa and SKr 59 million for the South West Africa People's Organization. The remaining SKr 89 million will be channelled via national and international non-governmental organizations.
