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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 6 November 1979 from the Chairman of the Special
Committee against Apartheid to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Declaration of the International Seminar on the Role of Transnational Corporations in South Africa, organized by the British Anti-Apartheid Movement in co-operation with the Special Committee against Apartheid and held in London from 2 to 4 November 1979.

On behalf of the Special Committee, I have the honour to request that the Declaration be published as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 28.

(Signed) B. Akporode CLARK
Chairman of the
Special Committee against Apartheid

ANNEX

Declaration of the International Seminar on the Role of
Transnational Corporations in South Africa, held in
London from 2 to 4 November 1979

1. The International Seminar on the Role of Transnational Corporations in South Africa - organized by the British Anti-Apartheid Movement in co-operation with the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid - met in London from 2 to 4 November 1979, with participants from the United Nations and its agencies, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of African Unity, southern African Liberation Movements, anti-apartheid movements, trade unions, and other organizations active in opposition to apartheid and in support of the struggle for freedom in southern Africa, as well as a number of experts, and observers from several Governments.
2. The Seminar considered various aspects of the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa, and their roles in the perpetuation of the situation in South Africa, in the context of the present stage of the struggle for freedom in southern Africa and the ever-increasing threat posed by South Africa to international peace and security.
3. Participants expressed their conviction that transnational corporations bear a major share of responsibility for the maintenance of the system of apartheid, for the strengthening of the repressive and military power of the racist régime and for the undermining of international action to promote freedom and human dignity in South Africa.
4. The transnational corporations have enabled the apartheid régime to circumvent international action by establishing an arms industry in South Africa in partnership with the racist régime, by facilitating its nuclear plans, by developing sources of energy, by the transfer of technology, and by providing capital through investments and loans.
5. They have made incessant efforts to mislead public opinion in their home countries and exerted powerful pressures to prevent the major Western Powers from any effective action to undermine apartheid, thereby supplementing the nefarious operations of the racist régime.
6. They have negated the sacrifices made by many States, especially developing States, as well as men and women of conscience in Western countries, who have thereby demonstrated their commitment to freedom and their loyalty to the decisions of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.
7. Moreover, they have enabled and encouraged the racist régime to become a menace to independent African States by its constant threats and acts of aggression.

8. The recent reports on the detonation of a nuclear device by the racist régime - with all its consequences to international peace and security - underline the grave responsibility of the transnational corporations which have made a crucial contribution to the nuclear plans of that régime.
9. Participants in the Seminar agreed that the home Governments of the transnational corporations, which have permitted and facilitated this collaboration by the corporations under their jurisdiction with the racist régime in South Africa deserve condemnation.
10. They noted with concern the continuing role of the International Monetary Fund in providing financial assistance to the South African régime.
11. They emphasized that South Africa is a country dominated by a minority racist régime committed to perpetuation of racist domination and exploitation, a régime which has been universally condemned for its crimes against the great majority of the population and for constant violations of international law and morality. The operations of transnational corporations in collaboration with or under the jurisdiction of such a régime must be seen as a matter of serious concern to the international community.
12. They totally rejected the contention that the transnationals can become instruments for the promotion of freedom and equality through their economic involvement in South Africa. They considered that such arguments advanced by the transnational corporations, and by Governments in their home countries, have been, in practice, pretexts, on the one hand, for legitimizing existing and new investments and, on the other hand, to perpetuate the system of apartheid which unequivocally denies the African people of their inalienable right to participate in the Government of their own country, in disregard of the interests of the oppressed people of South Africa and world opinion.
13. They noted that these arguments have been pressed at a time when, in the face of the advance of the liberation struggle in South Africa, the racist régime faced an acute crisis and needed capital, technology and political support in order to consolidate its power by force.
14. Many of the powerful transnational corporations have been enthusiastic accomplices of the racist régime in this period. They have, in fact, encouraged the racist régime to counter growing isolation by attempts to establish its hegemony over the whole of southern Africa.
15. In the light of the above, the Seminar gave special attention to the role of transnational corporations in:
 - (a) Developing the military and nuclear capability of the racist régime;
 - (b) Supply of oil and other strategic commodities to South Africa;
 - (c) Transfer of technology to South Africa;

(d) Assistance in promoting the foreign trade of South Africa;

(e) Provision of investments, loans and credits to South Africa.

16. It recognized the need - especially in view of the aggressive posture of the racist régime and the nuclear threat - for an urgent campaign for total sanctions against South Africa. Neither limited pressures, nor delayed measures which enable the racist régime to implement countermeasures, are adequate.

17. There must be mandatory sanctions by the Security Council, under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, and they must be universally applied and effectively monitored.

18. In view of the continued intransigence of the major Western Powers, participants stressed the imperative need for concerted action by the United Nations organs, the Organization of African Unity and the Non-Aligned Movement and all committed Governments, as well as committed organizations in all countries.

19. They agreed on the crucial importance of the activities of anti-apartheid groups, trade unions, political parties, parliamentarians, religious and legal bodies, student and youth groups and others in countries collaborating with the South African régime in enlightening public opinion and in launching public campaigns for disengagement from South Africa.

20. Participants saw such action as an essential duty by the international community in assisting the oppressed people of southern Africa and the national liberation movements in abolishing racist tyranny. It is also a contribution to peace and security in southern Africa and the world.

21. In this connexion, participants in the Seminar welcomed the timely initiative of the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid - with the endorsement of the Organization of African Unity and the Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries - to convene in 1980 an International Conference for Sanctions against South Africa.

22. They welcomed the firm actions taken by certain committed Governments, such as Nigeria and the United Republic of Tanzania, against transnational corporations which have flagrantly violated international opinion in their anxiety to support the racist régime. They noted with appreciation the actions of the Governments of Norway and Sweden in stopping new investment and loans, and supporting a programme of sanctions.

23. In the light of the above, participants agreed on a number of proposals for action as follows:

1. Military and nuclear

(a) There must be an urgent international campaign to implement and strengthen the arms embargo against South Africa by prohibiting:

- (i) Licences and transfer of technology to South Africa;
- (ii) Supply of any military equipment, or equipment for military use, or components thereof, including particularly electronic and communications equipment, aircraft, four-wheel drive vehicles, etc.;
- (iii) Involvement in arms manufacture in South Africa;
- (iv) All nuclear collaboration with South Africa.

(b) In this connexion, special attention should be paid to legislation and regulations by Governments in implementation of the arms embargo.

(c) All anti-apartheid groups should establish close contact with the Special Committee against Apartheid, the Centre against Apartheid, the Sanctions Committee of the Organization of African Unity, and the Centre on Transnational Corporations of the Non-Aligned Movement in Havana, in their campaigns and supply them with all available information in order to enable them to promote co-ordinated action by all appropriate bodies.

2. Oil

The Special Committee against Apartheid and the OAU Sanctions Committee should be invited, in co-operation with the anti-apartheid groups and other organizations and experts concerned, to launch studies, seminars and campaigns for an effective oil embargo against South Africa.

3. Finance

(a) Participants recognized that a campaign to end the flow of finance to South Africa must be co-ordinated internationally.

(b) Special attention must be focussed on:

- (i) External financing of South Africa's nuclear programme and Sasol oil-from-coal projects;
- (ii) Termination of credits by the International Monetary Fund to South Africa;
- (iii) Expulsion or suspension of South Africa from the International Monetary Fund and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade;

- (iv) The Eurobond market loans to South Africa;
- (v) Boycott by the United Nations and other international organizations and by Governments and organizations of banks with links to South Africa;
- (vi) Financing of apartheid by pension funds, through transnational corporations as intermediaries, and possibilities of trade union action with regard to those funds.

4. Other campaigns

(a) Co-ordinated campaigns must be launched against key transnational corporations which assist South Africa in military and nuclear fields and in the petroleum industry, against banks and financial institutions which make loans to South Africa, and against those which provide other crucial support to the racist régime. In this connexion, participants referred to corporations such as:

Steag, Seimens, General Electric, IBM, ICL, Philips, Sulzer Brothers Creusal-loire, Rio Tinto Zinc, Spie-Batignolles, (Nuclear engineering and electronics);

Citicorp, Deutsche Bank, Credit Suisse, Swiss Bank Corporation, Union Bank of Switzerland, Barclays Bank, Standard Bank, La Compagnie financiere de Suez, Societe generale de Belgique, (Banking and finance);

Shell, BP, Caltex, Mobil, Total (Oil);

Metall-Gesellschaft, Linde, Fluor, Raytheon, L'air Liquide (Sasol oil-from-coal projects);

General Motors, Volkswagen, Leyland (Automobile industry);

ICI, Hoechst, Bayer, Hoffmann La-Roche, Ciba-Geigy (Chemical industry);

British Steel Corporation, Klockner, United States Steel, Koor (Steel industry);

(b) Campaigns must also be conducted on the following issues:

Ending of all assistance by Governments and international agencies to transnational corporations profiting from apartheid;

Exposing the full implications of the Sullivan principles and the EEC and other codes of conduct in the context of the racist policies of apartheid;

Import of specific commodities from South Africa such as coal and uranium.

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5. Media

Participants attached great importance to the need for exposing the influence of transnational corporations operating in southern Africa on news media in other countries and their control over such media, as well as the operations of some news media as transnational corporations with interests in South Africa.

6. Co-ordination

In order to ensure maximum co-ordination in campaigns, research and other action, a centralized clearing-house of information should be established, after full consultation with the liberation movements, to assist all Governments and organizations committed to sanctions against South Africa.
