

**FBIS-SOV-88-201**  
**18 October 1988**

**TASS Analyst on Soviet Policy Toward South Africa**  
*LD1210165688 Moscow TASS in English 1641 GMT*  
*12 Oct 88*

[Text] Moscow October 12 TASS—By TASS political news analyst Sergey Kulik:

The Soviet Union has been living in the conditions of perestroika and glasnost for the third year now. Those are our internal matters. But strange as it might seem at first glance, perestroika has somewhat changed our attitudes towards the South African realities as well.

That has in no way affected the two cornerstones on which our policy in Africa has always rested.

The first one is solidarity with and support for the peoples in their struggle for national liberation and, consequently, against racism.

The second one is our invariable aspiration to have friendly relations with all African nations grouped in the Organisation of African Unity.

How to put into life these constants of our African policy in the conditions of perestroika is another matter. Perestroika brought forth new political thinking along with the principle of "disarmament for development."

By applying this principle to African conditions, one should not turn a blind eye to the fact that free Africa is compelled to allocate large sums on defence in the face of the threat emanating from South Africa aggressors.

The establishment in the future of a democratic, free South Africa would undoubtedly give an impetus to the development of the entire continent and would alleviate to a certain extent its plight.

But what will happen if the armed conflict in southern Africa is whipped up further, while the dismantling of the regime seems to be possible only through armed struggle?

One should not forget that large quantities of diverse weapons have been accumulated there over the past decade, that South Africa is standing at the doors of the nuclear club.

Under these conditions, the continuation of a military conflict in which there can be no winners in fact amounts to mutual destruction.

Someone who is not well versed in all nuances of new political thinking may ask at this point: "How all that tallies with the struggle against apartheid and racism? What about the peoples's right to liberation war?"

The Soviet press gives answers to these questions.

We ought to remain realists and understand: As long as apartheid exists and 30 million South Africans are denied political rights, it is untimely to speak about the possibility of a comprehensive settlement in southern Africa.

The racist regime cannot be a "good neighbour." But it would be an irreparable mistake to let go the emerging possibilities of stage-by-stage normalisation.

The solution of the Namibian problem currently being tackled at the talks conducted by Angola, Cuba, South Africa and the United States and the untangling of the Angolan-Namibian knot will undoubtedly create more favourable conditions for struggle against apartheid.

By encouraging the process of political settlement in the South African subcontinent, the Soviet Union does not "turn away" from the developing countries, as some claim.

On the contrary, the USSR puts its entire prestige of the great power on the scale of small nations by continuing all-round assistance to them and providing support for their legitimate demands.