

5. AFRICA

Gorbachev Receives ANC Leader

Moscow home service 1130 gmt 4 Nov 86

Text of report (SU/8408/i):

A meeting took place today [4th November] between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Tambo, President of the African National Congress of South Africa, the ANC, who has arrived in the USSR at the head of an ANC delegation. Welcoming the ANC President, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev expressed solidarity with the courageous struggle of the South African patriots against the inhumane system of apartheid and said that in the Soviet Union the ANC was viewed as expressing the genuine interests of the people of South Africa and as the recognised leader of the national liberation movement in that country.

The ANC President sincerely thanked the CPSU and the Soviet people for their invariable support for the struggling people of South Africa. He told of the situation in the RSA, which was typified by a profound crisis for the apartheid regime. Noting the unprecedented scale of mass anti-racist demonstrations, he stressed that the patriotic forces of South Africa, led by the ANC, set themselves the aim of creating a united democratic state where no place would remain for racials and where equal rights would be guaranteed for all citizens, regardless of the colour of their skin.

The CPSU General Secretary said that such a position met with complete understanding in the Soviet Union.

Tambo welcomed the USSR's efforts aimed at a radically improving international situation and gave a high appraisal of the Soviet leadership's responsible and principled stand at the meeting in Reykjavik.

The leaders of the CPSU and the ANC expressed their common opinion that a just political settlement in southern Africa could be achieved. What was needed for this was to put an end to the aggressive actions of Pretoria against independent African states, ensure the granting of independence to Namibia in accordance with the well-known UN resolutions and remove the system of apartheid from South Africa - the primary cause of conflict in the region. They called on everybody interested in a peaceful and free future for the peoples of southern Africa to make their contribution to the joint search for a way to solve these tasks. The participants in the meeting confirmed their solidarity with the frontline African states and SWAPO, condemned the so-called "constructive engagement" of the US administration with the South African racials and its interference in the internal affairs of Angola through its support for the puppet bands of UNITA.

With a sense of deep sorrow Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Tambo paid tribute to the bright memory of Samora Machel, prominent figure in the national liberation movement, Chairman of Frelimo Party and the President of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

Concluding the talks, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev asked Tambo to pass on greetings and a sense of solidarity to Mandela and other political prisoners languishing in racist jails. He wished the ANC new successes in its just struggle.