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12 February 1982

Madam,

The Special Committee against Apartheid is organizing an "International Conference on Women and Apartheid" at the Conference Hall of the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium, from 17 to 19 May 1982, in co-operation with the International Committee of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa and Namibia.

..... I enclose a copy of the press release on the Conference.

On behalf of the Special Committee, I have great pleasure in inviting you to participate in this important Conference.

I would appreciate an early indication of the acceptance of this invitation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Yusuf Maitama-Sule', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Yusuff Maitama-Sule
Chairman
Special Committee against Apartheid

Mrs. Maria de Lurdes Pintassilgo
Presidencia da Republica
Lisbon
Portugal



United Nations Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York



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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND APARTHEID TO BE HELD IN BRUSSELS 17-19 MAY

The Special Committee against Apartheid will sponsor an International Conference on Women and Apartheid in Brussels from 17 to 19 May.

The Conference is intended to promote broader awareness of the struggle of women of South Africa and Namibia, as well as world-wide assistance -- humanitarian, educational and political -- to the oppressed women of South Africa and Namibia and their national liberation movements, as well as to the front-line States.

The Special Committee has emphasized that such assistance is more imperative and urgent than ever before because of the grave and deteriorating situation in the region caused by the increasing repression and the repeated acts of aggression of the Pretoria regime.

The provisional agenda for the Conference is as follows:

1. Review of the situation in southern Africa, with particular reference to the repression of women in South Africa and Namibia and their participation in the struggle for national liberation, taking into account the extreme danger to peace and security in the region and to world peace; effects of the militarization and nuclearization of South Africa; and effects of acts of aggression against neighbouring States
2. Consideration of the effects of apartheid:
 - (a) On working women in rural and urban areas and their participation in trade unions;
 - (b) On women in the bantustans; and
 - (c) On children
3. Means to publicize the plight of women in South Africa and Namibia, and their struggle for national liberation

(more)



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4. Means to promote greater assistance for the women in South Africa and Namibia, with special reference to projects of the women's sections of national liberation movements, for refugee women and children, for training women cadres and for the needs of the liberation struggle
5. Action to demonstrate solidarity with women under apartheid and support for the struggle for national liberation
6. Adoption of Declaration and recommendations.

Participants in the Conference will include representatives of the organizations of the United Nations system, several other intergovernmental organizations, front-line States, national liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia, women's organizations and other non-governmental organizations, and a number of special guests.

Before the Conference, a special mission, led by Jeanne-Martin Cisse, Minister of Social Affairs of Guinea, will visit the front-line States to consult with Governments and national liberation movements and to prepare a report on the needs for assistance, particularly for projects for refugee women and children from South Africa and Namibia.

The Special Committee has expressed the hope that women's organizations all over the world will organize national conferences, exhibits and other events to mobilize public opinion, as preparatory to and in follow-up of the Conference. It decided to invite voluntary contributions from Governments and organizations towards the costs of the Conference.

The Conference is being organized in co-operation with the International Committee of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women of South Africa and Namibia, established in August 1981 in consultation with the Special Committee. It is composed of the following members:

President, Mrs. Cisse, Minister of Social Affairs of Guinea;

Mrs. Coretta Scott King, President, Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change, Atlanta, Georgia, United States;

Dr. Hortensia Busi de Allende, former First Lady of Chile and Co-Chairman of the Latin American Anti-Apartheid Committee;

Mrs. Freda Brown, (Australia), President of the Women's International Democratic Federation, Berlin, German Democratic Republic;

Mrs. Valentina Treshkova, Chairman of the Soviet Women's Committee;

Mrs. Krishna Sahi, Member of Parliament of India;

Mrs. Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium), Member of the European Parliament;

(more)



Mrs. Lajosnee Duscheck, President of the National Council of Hungarian Women;

Mrs. Constance Le Duc, Chairman of the International Affairs Department, Ligue des Femmes de Quebec, Canada; and

Secretary, Mrs. Edith Ballantyne, Secretary-General, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Geneva.

On 17 December 1981, the General Assembly authorized the Special Committee against Apartheid to organize conferences, seminars and missions for the purpose of intensifying support of women and children oppressed by apartheid (resolution 36/172 K).

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

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