

Maputo: "Increasing Pressure for Sanctions" Against South Africa

Maputo in English for abroad 1100 gmt 3 Jul 86

Excerpts from commentary:

The situation in South Africa is becoming more tense by the day as the government continues its attempts to quell mass revolt by increasingly savage repression...

The authorities have turned their back on all attempts to persuade them to change their ways. When the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group tried to launch a dialogue between South Africa's white rulers and the black majority, Pretoria's response was to bomb three Commonwealth African countries. The South African government has made it clear that it will not listen to reasoned arguments. In this context, it is hard to see what the European Community expects to achieve by sending a mission to South Africa, once again in pursuit of dialogue. It is not surprising that black leaders in South Africa have declared that they will have nothing to do with the European emissary, Sir Geoffrey Howe. The views of these black leaders and of the world anti-apartheid movement were summed up a few days ago by Malcolm Fraser, the former Australian Prime Minister and Co-Chairman of the Eminent Persons Group. The mission, he said, was one more effort to delay and to find an excuse to avoid effective action [sentence as heard].

The question now, however, is how much longer the Western governments opposed to sanctions can continue to avoid this effective action. As the repression in South Africa intensifies, revulsion is growing among people all around the world. Public pressure for sanctions is increasing in the West. In addition, instability in South Africa is making the country less and less attractive to international capital money. The rulers of South Africa can no longer be sure, as they were until recently, that sanctions will never be applied. (Maputo in English for abroad 1100 gmt 3 Jul 86)