

Parkveien 45

Med forbehold om endringer
SPERRET til 15.5. kl. 1700.

Statsminister Gro Harlem Brundtland.

Hilsningstale på mottakelsen i Parkveien 45 - 15. mai 1987 i
anledning årsmøtet i International Defence and Aid Fund (IDAF).

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you all to this reception on the occasion of the annual Conference of the International Defence and Aid Fund. It is not the first time that IDAF meets in Norway. Eight years ago IDAF met in Oslo. The Norwegian Government appreciates this opportunity to welcome you again and sees this as a proof of the close cooperation between the Fund and Norway.

The International Defence and Aid Fund has since its establishment in 1964 performed a remarkable service in assisting political prisoners and detainees and their families against the inhuman system of apartheid, and in making the outside world aware of the true state of affairs in South Africa. This is becoming increasingly important as the state of emergency continues and the harsh censorship measures are maintained.

The situation in South Africa gives rise to serious concern. The result of the "whites only" elections last week was a bitter disappointment to all of us who work for a non-racial and democratic South Africa.

Events have strengthened our belief that the South African Government will only abolish apartheid when it feels it has no other choice. The case for economic sanctions against South Africa is a strong one. We deeply regret that the calls for comprehensive and mandatory sanctions by the world community have once again been met by vetoes in the UN Security Council this Spring.

The Norwegian Government, and the other Nordic Governments, are now implementing unilateral measures which will bring about a Nordic trade boycott against South Africa.

In Norway, the Law on Economic Boycott against South Africa and Namibia to combat apartheid entered into force on 20th March this year.

However, it is of the utmost importance - and indeed our policy that the boycott measures taken by Norway and other countries against the apartheid regime be matched by equally important active support for the trade unions, churches and other community groups inside South Africa. We will support these forces that work tirelessly for peaceful change in their country, as well as the organisations and liberation movements that have been forced to continue their activities in exile. We fully realize that South Africa's neighbours are in a very difficult situation owing to Pretoria's destabilization policy, and it is our responsibility to assist them in the best possible way.

Norway has supported IDAF for a number of years and I have the pleasure to announce that our contribution to IDAF for 1987 will be NOK 5 mill.

I wish IDAF, its president, Archbishop Huddleston, and the IDAF delegates a successful conference. The struggle against the inhuman system of apartheid must continue until that day when we can all meet together in a free and democratic South Africa and IDAF has proved itself redundant.