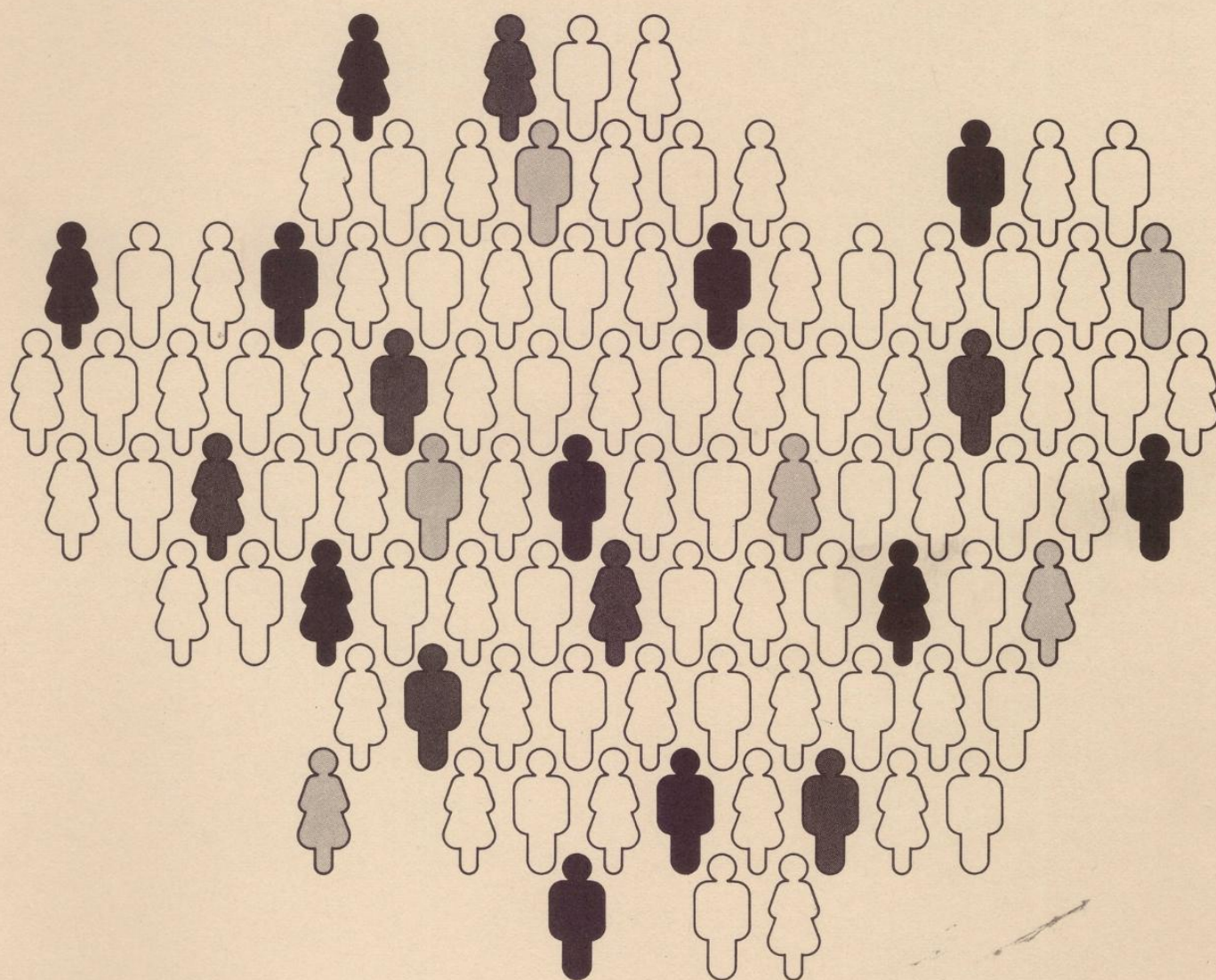


Anti-Apartheid Declaration Launch – Ceremonial Booklet



Ethnic Minorities in London

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Introduction

1 This information booklet will inform Londoners of this Council's concern about events taking place in Southern Africa and Namibia and lend strength to the international struggle for eradicating racial discrimination from society. It would also assist local authorities and boroughs to undertake similar action. Given that the Council has accorded a high priority to race relations in London, it is equally important to highlight developments which have taken place and to publicise the initiatives being pursued so that these can become more widely known, discussed, assessed, commented on, emulated by others and be further developed as a result. The undertaking of this policy by the Council has raised considerable interest leading to many requests from community organisations, institutions, anti-apartheid groups and members of the public for background information and for copies of the Declaration itself. The production of the booklet will contribute to public understanding of the situation in Southern Africa and Namibia (see Declaration Point (6)).

2 London itself is closely linked to apartheid. Many financial and industrial concerns based in the City have considerable investments in South Africa and Namibia. London also houses many members of liberation movements involved in the struggle against apartheid. As a result of this agents of the South African government are active on the streets of London seeking to disrupt and discredit these organisations. Thus the publication of the report will assist Londoners fully to understand the extent to which London and apartheid are linked and how better to break those links.

First Published in Great Britain by The Greater London Council,
County Hall, London SE1 7PB
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ISBN 7168 1455 2

Designed and produced by the GLC Public Relations Branch

Printed by Yale Press Ltd 1/2245 5m 7.84



Anti-Apartheid Policy for the Greater London Council

1 On Monday 9 January, following the proclamation on Wednesday 4 January of 1984 as 'Anti-Racist Year', the Greater London Council launched its Anti-Apartheid Declaration for London and at the same time declared London to be an 'Anti-Apartheid Zone'. This ceremonial event took place in the Council Chamber, County Hall, and was attended by some two hundred people representing United Nations Committees, African Frontline States, various High Commissions, black community organisations and political parties.

2 The Declaration, also serving to reinforce the Council's concern about events taking place in Southern Africa and Namibia, was adopted at the Council's meeting on Tuesday 20 December 1983. There can be no doubt about the Council's commitment to lead a London-wide challenge to all forms of racism and its discriminating manifestations and over the past decade it has made various moves to underline its opposition to racist practices and, in particular, the racist policies of the South African government which upholds social and racial segregation. This Declaration is similar to those made by other London boroughs and local authorities outside London (e.g., Sheffield). Support for the initiative comes from the Anti-Apartheid Movement. Many other sections of London's community have also expressed concern at different times about the role of London businesses/companies in making investments in South Africa and other activities which contribute to the oppression of black Africans in the pursuit of profits. In expressing those concerns ethnic minority organisations and anti-racist groups have urged the Ethnic Minorities Committee to persuade the Council to take action aimed at dissassociating its activities with apartheid South Africa. The Declaration thus reflects the views of many Londoners.

Anti-Apartheid Declaration Launch Ceremony

1 Prior to the Ceremony supporting letters had been received from both individuals residing in London and representatives of renowned organisations. These included:-

His Excellency Maitama Sule

Rt. Hon. Neil Kinnock, MP

Rt. Hon. David Steel, MP

Reverend Lord Soper

International Movement of Students for the Total Liberation of South Africa

LB Islington

LB Barking and Dagenham

LB Brent

LB Lambeth

Students Christian Movement

Trevor Huddleston, Anti-Apartheid Movement

Epsom and Leatherhead Anti-Apartheid Committee

Haringey Anti-Apartheid Movement

CRS (Co-op) London Region

Hillingdon Community Relations Council

Croydon Community Relations Council

Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers

War on Want

Kensington and Chelsea Trades Union Council

University of London

Worthing Trades Council

(Subsequent letters of support have been received from various individuals and organisations)

2 **Harvey Hinds** the Chairman of the Council opened the ceremony by emphasising the historic occasion. The order of the proceedings began with the Leader of the Council, **Ken Livingstone** paying tribute to **Nelson Mandela**, imprisoned African National Congress leader in the following way:

'The Council declares its abhorrence to the racist regime of South Africa and its illegal occupation of Namibia, and believes that the apartheid system of South Africa is an affront to human dignity, and a threat to world peace and harmony'.

Mr Livingstone then read out the Anti-Apartheid Declaration expressing the Council's opposition to apartheid.

3 The Chairman of the Council, **Harvey Hinds**, was then invited to present a manuscript copy of the Declaration to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, **Javier Perez de Cuellar**. This was received

by **Mr Enugu S. Reddy** (Assistant Secretary General) who delivered a message on his behalf as follows:

'I warmly commend the decision of the Greater London Council to launch an anti-racist year and to proclaim Greater London an 'anti-apartheid zone'. It is entirely appropriate that this decision is being implemented at the beginning of what has been designated by the United Nations as the Second Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination'.

'By virtue of its history, vitality and cosmopolitan character, London engages the interest of millions of people all around the world. As a hub of world communications and a leading centre for the expression and interchange of international opinion, it can make a potent contribution to the promotion of respect for human dignity, regardless of race. The action of the Greater London Council has, therefore, more than a demonstrative value; it can lend strength to the international struggle for eradicating racial discrimination from human society throughout the globe. I send you my sincerest wishes for the success of your campaign in this great cause'.

4 A second copy was received by **Mr Solly Smith** (Acting Chief Representative of the African National Congress (ANC) in the United Kingdom) on behalf of **Mrs Winnie Mandela**, who was under house arrest and therefore unable to attend. Mr Smith then read a message from **Mr Oliver Tambo**, President of the ANC as follows:-

'The scourge of racism continues to affect millions of people across the face of the globe, nurtured and encouraged by social systems that feed on inequality, injustice, war, contempt for human dignity and hostility to the fundamental right of every individual to enjoy the respect of his or her fellow humans, regardless of colour or nationality.

We are certain that during their year against racism, all Londoners, men and women alike, drawing inspiration from the indelible contribution to the salvation of humanity, will once more transform into right redoubts for the victory of the cause of equality, friendship and peace among the peoples.'

5 The Vice-Chair of the Council's Ethnic Minorities Committee, **Paul Boateng**, then called on the following guests to read messages in support of the Declaration:-

Mr Shapau Kaukangua (Chief Representative, SWAPO)

H.E. Ambassador A.H. Adan (Representative, UN Special Committee against Apartheid)

H.E. Mr A.B. Nyaki (High Commissioner for Tanzania and Spokesperson in London for the Front Line States)

H.E. Mr G.M. Mamba (High Commissioner for Swaziland and Vice-Doyen of the African Diplomatic Corps in London)

Mr E. Barwa (First Secretary, Indian High Commission)

Mr Hugh Craft (Director International Affairs Division Secretariat)

Ms Joan Lester (Vice-President Anti Apartheid Movement)

6 Selected extracts from some of the speeches are as follows:

Addressing the ceremony on behalf of the three United Nations bodies, Mr Adan (Somalia) described the Declaration as 'historic'. He recalled that the Special Committee against Apartheid had encouraged anti-apartheid action by local authorities and that many local authorities in the United Kingdom, the United States and other countries had taken such action.

He continued

'We value such actions because the local authorities are close to the people and most responsive to public opinion. The decision of this city, Greater London, to declare itself 'anti-apartheid' is significant. Your Declaration is an excellent model for action by local authorities. We hope that your example will be followed by other cities and the Special Committee against Apartheid will take action to draw it to the attention of cities all over the world.'

He commended the work of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, which is observing its twenty-fifth anniversary this year. Describing the grave situation in Southern Africa and calling for comprehensive sanctions against South Africa, he continued.

'This year, as you know, marks the centenary of the occupation of Namibia and of the infamous Berlin Conference which carved up the continent of Africa. The continued racist domination of the southern part of Africa represents not only a menace to Africa, but also an inescapable challenge to humanity. By proclaiming the anti-racist year and by adopting the anti-apartheid Declaration, the Greater London Council has made the choice for the freedom of Africa, for friendship with the independent States of Africa and the Third World and, indeed, for a world order in which all the people will enjoy

their inalienable human rights, irrespective of race or colour.

'We recall that it was here that the first Pan Africanist Congress in 1900 proclaimed prophetically that 'the problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the colour line'. You have now proclaimed your determination to confront this problem and co-operate with Africa and the United Nations the efforts to destroy the colour line. We commend the Greater London Council, and through you, the good people of London, for your commitment in support of freedom, justice and human dignity'.

7 A message was also submitted to the Chairman of the Greater London Council by His Excellency **Mr P.V. Nararasimha Rao**, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India, as follows:-

'The proclamation of the Greater London area as an Anti-Apartheid Zone is an event of great symbolic significance. Coming on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the launching of the British Anti-Apartheid Movement, this action represents an important stage in the efforts of the world community to boycott South Africa for its continued adherence to the evil system of apartheid.

'India's commitment to the struggle against apartheid and for racial equality everywhere is well-known. It was in 1913 that Mahatma Gandhi attended the All-Races Conference in London which set the tone of his subsequent struggle against racist oppression in Southern Africa. Today, the struggle continues under the brave leadership of Nelson Mandela and other political figures. Their example inspires people all over the world. Their sacrifices will not be in vain.'

8 His Excellency **Mr A.B. Nyaki**, High Commissioner for Tanzania and representative of the Frontline States included in his speech:

'The Declaration's significance goes far beyond the boundaries of London. We hope that other cities and local authorities in this country and beyond will emulate this fine example of international solidarity with, and support for, the just struggle of the long suffering people of South Africa and Namibia. The Declaration embodies a set of measures which, if carried out, will contribute towards alleviating their suffering and bringing nearer the attainment of their freedom and human dignity. On their behalf and that of the GLC, I would like to express our gratitude to your fellow Councillors and to the citizens of London for this valuable support. Its timing is particularly

welcome. Inside South Africa the regime has intensified its terror against the population. In Namibia in addition to increasing its terror against the population it has also abandoned the United Nations Plan for independence. Only the incredibly naive believe that the regime has any intention of implementing the Plan. Elsewhere in Southern Africa its growing arrogance and defiance is felt by everyone as its acts of sabotage, subversion and aggression against its neighbours spread throughout the region and beyond. As we meet here today Angola, whose territory was invaded and occupied since 1981, is engaged in repelling yet another but bigger force of South African invaders.

'The seriousness of these acts and the danger they cause to the peace and security of the region and therefore of the world is clear for everyone to see. Yet some of the major Western powers have not been able to muster more than a few feeble voices of protest. Most reprehensible is their attitude to the invasion and occupation of Southern Angola. By failing to condemn the invasion and to call for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of South African troops from Angola these powers have rendered meaningless even their feeble noises of protest and condemnation. And by encouraging and promoting discussions under duress and thereby deliberately equating victim with aggressor they have created doubts in our minds about their real intentions.'

'It is refreshing to see the citizens of London not only refusing to betray humanity but also willing to make sacrifices in the cause of fighting apartheid. We salute them and thank them for their support for our cause.'

Other distinguished delegates from the United Nations present were:

H.E. Ambassador Paul Lusaka (President, UN Council for Namibia)

H.E. Ambassador A.G. Koroma (Chairman, UN Special Committee on Decolonisation)

H.E. Ambassador B.C. Mishra (UN Commissioner for Namibia)

9 The Leader of the Council then addressed those present on the implications of the Declaration for London and on how it committed the Council to publicly denounce the system of apartheid, to persuade others to do likewise, to raise awareness of the links between London and South Africa and the perpetuation of racism and exploitation to get others to do likewise (e.g., the

London Boroughs) and to disinvest whenever practicable.

10 The successful ceremony concluded with thanks to all participants and a viewing of an exhibition on the implications of Apartheid supplied by the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

Future Action

Under the specific points of the Declaration the Council is committed to implement certain initiatives and actions relevant to its departments (e.g., close monitoring of the Superannuation Fund Investment Policy through the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Superannuation Fund Investment Joint Consultative Panel).

Other proposals include:

- Increasing awareness through organisation of appropriate events
- To discourage the buying of South African products by Londoners
- The setting up of a sculpture of Nelson Mandela at the Royal Festival Hall
- A blue plaque in recognition of Sol Plaatje
- Supporting a National Parliamentary Lobby on the theme (Southern Africa – the Time to Act' on Wednesday 21 March, Anti-Racist Day. This included film shows, exhibitions and bookstalls at the House of Commons and a major public evening meeting at Friends' House, Euston with speeches by Oliver Tambo (President ANC), Dame Judith Hart, and Paul Boateng (GLC)
- Providing support for anti-apartheid groups and events
- Participating in the Steering Committee on Local Authority Action Against Apartheid.
- A rally on Saturday 2 June against apartheid and the South African Prime Minister, P.W. Botha's visit to Britain (this included an Anti-racist concert and an exhibition entitled 'Signs of Apartheid' in the Royal Festival Hall).
- Celebrating anniversary occasions with anti-apartheid organisations, etc.

Greater London Council



*At a meeting of the Greater London Council held at The County Hall, SE1
on Tuesday 20 December 1983 the Council adopted a*

DECLARATION presented by the Greater London Council as an expression of its opposition to apartheid and its commitment to the cause of freedom in South Africa, to pay tribute to Nelson Mandela and all other prisoners of apartheid, and in recognition of the struggles and sacrifices of the African National Congress of South Africa and South West African People's Organization of Namibia and others to liberate their peoples.

The Council declares its abhorrence of the racist régime of South Africa and its illegal occupation of Namibia. The Council believes that the apartheid system of South Africa is an affront to human dignity and a threat to world peace and racial harmony.

In accordance with these views the Council will, within the limits of its legal powers, campaign to end all links between the Council and the apartheid régime of South Africa, utilizing all social, political, economic and legal measures that are at its disposal. In particular it will, whenever possible and appropriate, having regard to the Council's legal powers and duties, pursue vigilant practices to —

- (1) Cease the purchase of any goods originating from South Africa and Namibia;
- (2) Withdraw all investments held by the Council in companies with South African interests or companies with investments in South Africa and Namibia;
- (3) Ensure that the Council is not officially represented at any function attended by representatives of the South African Government, South African embassy, the "Bantustans" or trade missions and refuse to meet or receive any official visitors from South Africa and Namibia;
- (4) Campaign against investments and loans held by companies in South Africa and Namibia, discourage all economic links between Greater London and apartheid South Africa and Namibia and promote better relations with the developing economies of the 'Third World';
- (5) Withhold use of leisure facilities from any sporting or cultural event involving South African and Namibian participants who are known to support the concept of apartheid;
- (6) Promote public understanding of the situation in southern Africa and encourage the positive teaching of the history, culture and struggle for self-determination of the South African and Namibian people and in particular the role of women in this struggle;
- (7) Encourage the naming of streets and buildings after prominent opponents of apartheid, and the commemoration of historic connections between the southern African liberation struggle and London, including the unveiling of blue plaques in honour of such connections;
- (8) Discourage the advertisement of South African products at public sites and facilities, including London Transport and British Rail; and
- (9) Ensure that the Greater London Enterprise Board and other Council agencies pursue policies consistent with this Declaration.

The Council hereby declares the Greater London area to be an 'Anti-Apartheid Zone' to complement its Anti-Racist Declaration, and undertakes in co-operation with the Anti-Apartheid Movement to discourage the people of Greater London from buying South African products, to organize appropriate events to publicize and implement the adoption of this Declaration and to encourage all other London boroughs to do likewise.



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