

JOINT STATEMENT ON THE AAFPSO KHARTOUM CONFERENCE

ISSUED BY

THE PAN-AFRICANIST CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICA (PAC)  
ZIMBABWE AFRICAN NATIONAL UNION (ZANU)  
NATIONAL UNION FOR TOTAL INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA (UNITA)  
MOZAMBIQUE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE (COREMO)

Dear Sir,

On January 18th, 1969, an "International Conference in Support of the Liberation Movements of the Portuguese Colonies and Southern Africa" is to be held in Khartoum, Sudan.

We understand that you have been invited to send an observer to this meeting. If this is correct, and if you have accepted this invitation, we are sure that you did so in good faith, believing that the Conference is indeed designed to unify and coordinate the struggles of the liberation movements of the Portuguese colonies and Southern Africa.

We therefore believe that you will be glad to learn the true motivation and purpose of this so-called international conference and its sinister implications for that part of Africa which is still under colonial rule and white domination.

The Conference is sponsored by the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation and the World Peace Council. Both are the International mouthpieces of the Soviet Union and its lackeys in Eastern Europe.

AAFPSO, especially, is notorious for its splittist activities in Africa and Asia. It has consistently excluded from membership those liberation movements which have refused to accept Soviet orders on how the struggle should be conducted in their respective countries.

Movements, which jealously guard their organisational and ideological independence, and which take instructions only from the struggling masses they represent, have consequently been excluded from this Conference. We refer to the signatories to this statement: the Pan Africanist Congress of South Africa (PAC); the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU); the National Union for Total Independence of Angola (UNITA); and the Mozambique Revolutionary Committee (COREMO). It is therefore a manifest absurdity that certain European countries have been invited to AAFPSO to help to preside over the destinies of struggling peoples in another continent.

The splittist activities of AAFPSO reached their climax in the acrimonious AAFPSO Conference in Nicosia, Cyprus, three years ago. Various organisations were forced to withdraw, leaving an emasculated AAFPSO. It now consists only of those movements which faithfully take the line handed down from Moscow. Such is the tragic history of AAFPSO.

AAFPSO has been dead for the last two years. It is now being exhorted to serve as a cover for and an instrument of Soviet foreign policy. This policy is inextricably bound up with the Soviet object of containing liberation movements in the interests of Moscow's detente with US imperialism.

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Just as AAFPSO left the Arab people to their fate during and after the Middle East war last year, so it is now calculated to control the liberation struggles of the Portuguese colonies and Southern Africa in order to further Soviet cooperation with the US for their joint domination of the world. It is patent that the anti-imperialist plank in the platform of our respective movements is anathema to the Kremlin.

The African National Congress of South Africa is the main apologist of the Soviet Union and its mouthpiece, AAFPSO. It is the most vocal about united fronts and unity, when at the same time it is loath to unite with its brother organisation in its own country. Surely, if one cannot organise unity in one's own country, how can one organise it elsewhere?

In its quest for unity, the PAC passed a resolution at its Moshi Unity Conference in 1967, in Tanzania, calling for exploratory talks with the view to the formation of a united front to wage a sustained revolutionary struggle in South Africa. This resolution was warmly proclaimed by the Liberation Committee of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). Needless to say, the ANC has not responded to this call.

On the other hand, the ANC is eager to form united fronts, or rather unprincipled combinations, in other countries. We refer to the ANC-ZAPU amalgam in Zimbabwe where the ANC has driven a wedge between ZANU and ZAPU and thereby prevented the two Zimbabwean movements from uniting for an effective revolutionary struggle.

Both the PAC and ZANU are recognised by the OAU, while UNITA and CORE C enjoy the growing confidence of many African governments who give them every assistance. The organisers of the AAFPSO Conference pretend to speak in the name of the OAU by excluding our movements. It is plain, none the less, that, under the inspiration of Russian imperialism, they are now acting contrary to the well-known OAU efforts to unite such movements as the ANC and PAC in South Africa, and ZAPU and ZANU in Zimbabwe.

The treacherous role of the Soviet Union is also evident in Mozambique to which the Portuguese government had invited two members of the editorial board of the Soviet Union newspaper, "Pravda", to visit the north of the country in the so-called "terrorist zones". This invitation was duly accepted in March, 1965. And last year Portugal expressed her willingness to forge new relations with the East European countries, diplomatically, culturally and commercially.

In Angola the divisive role of the Soviet Union has led to the fragmentation of the liberation movements in that country. Here Moscow has been giving assistance to the MPLA movement for three years in the Cabinda area; but without tangible results. The struggle appears to have been called off with the discovery of oil in that part of the Portuguese colony.

This Conference can neither be regarded as a move towards unity nor speak on behalf of the oppressed masses of Southern Africa and the Portuguese colonies. Those who have been invited as observers will not be given an authentic picture of the situation.

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Since the Soviet betrayal in the Middle East and her recent invasion of Czechoslovakia, no liberation movement or progressive organisation can align itself with the Kremlin and still maintain its dignity and independence. We are dealing with a chauvinistic and arrogant state which sends tanks into a sovereign country, claiming that it has no power to decide its own future. Yet the Kremlin is at the same time claiming to help oppressed people to gain their independence.

We do not wish to involve you in the problem of Southern Africa - this is, after all, the business, in the first instance, of the movements representing the African sub-continent. Even so, we do believe that it is important to acquaint you with the issues at stake and to disclose the ramifications of this Conference.

We will gladly furnish you with more information and meet you for such further clarification as you may desire.

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