Sp. 148. Tillaga til þingsályktunar [140. mál]

um viðskiptabann á Suður-Afríku.

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Alþingi ályktar að fela ríkisstjórninni að setja viðskiptabann á Suður-Afríku.

Greinargerð.

Pað er yfirlýst stefna íslenskra stjórnvalda að draga úr viðskiptum við Suður-Afríku og mótmæla þannig hinni ómanneskjulegu kynþáttaaðskilnaðarstefnu stjórnvalda hvíta minni hlutans þar. Einnig hafa orðið miklar umræður víða í þjóðfélaginu um nauðsyn þess að Íslendingar tækju einarða afstöðu heima fyrir sem á alþjóðavettvangi gegn aðskilnaðarstefnunni og láti þar athafnir fylgja orðum. Hafa stéttarfélög og ýmis önnur félagasamtök og hópar lagst á þá sveif.

Engu að síður er það staðreynd að viðskipti okkar við Suður-Afríku fara nú aftur vaxandi, einkum innflutningur varnings þaðan. Þó þessi innflutningur frá Suður-Afríku sé tiltölulega lítill hluti heildarinnflutnings landsmanna er það ekki magnið sem hér skiptir máli, heldur spurningin um afstöðu og siðferðismat og jafnframt nauðsyn þess að saman fari orð og athafnir.

Pví miður virðist ljóst að umræður og áróður gegn suður-afrískum vörum duga ekki til. Jafnvel yfirlýst stefna stjórnvalda og tilmæli þeirra breyta ekki því að aftur sígur á ógæfuhliðina. Viðskiptahagsmunir og gróðavon virðast ráða ferðinni og ber það ekki göfugt vitni þeim verslunaraðilum eða fjölmiðlum sem höndla með eða taka við auglýsingum um suður-afrískar vörur. Stjórnvöld eiga tvo kosti, að fylgja fordæmi annarra Norðurlandaþjóða og setja viðskiptabann á Suður-Afríku eða draga til baka fyrri yfirlýsingar um andstöðu við aðskilnaðarstefnuna og aðgerðir til að sýna þá andstöðu í verki.

Flutningsmenn þessarar tillögu leggja eindregið til að fyrri leiðin verði farin og ríkisstjórnin sjái til þess að öllum formsatriðum verði fullnægt þannig að unnt verði að setja á viðskiptabann sem fyrst.

Fylgiskjal I.

Úr skýrslu sérstakrar nefndar gegn kynþáttaaðskilnaðarstefnunni frá 42. allsherjarþingi Sameinuðu þjóðanna.

(Um aðgerðir Norðurlanda.)

- 71. During the period under review, Norway, Sweden and Finland adopted comprehensive and mandatory measures against South Africa. In March 1987, the Norwegian Parliament adopted the Norwegian Act on Economic Boycott against South Africa and Namibia. The Act, which took effect on 20 July 1987, imposed comprehensive economic sanctions against South Africa, such as a general ban on imports from and exports to South Africa, a ban on oil transport to and from South Africa by Norwegian tankers, a ban on the transportation of goods or passengers to and from South Africa either by Norwegian or South African vessels; and a ban on the granting of services, loans and credits, investments, the transfer of patent or production rights, and tourism promotion in South Africa. However, the Act does not include a ban on the resale of cargoes of Norwegian tankers whose final destinations are determined at sea after the start of the voyage. 50/
- 72. In March 1987, the Swedish Government introduced in Parliament a trade sanctions bill, which had the support of all the major political parties. The bill, which was later enacted into legislation, imposed a ban on all trade, with a few exceptions, with South Africa, including that passing through third countries, and a ban on the loading, unloading, transport or reception for storage of prohibited goods, as well as the means of transport and transport equipment and of services through third parties. The legislation took effect as of 1 July, and 1 October 1987 would be the deadline to end all trade with South Africa. The Act does not, however, call for disinvestment. At the time of preparation of the present report, the Swedish Government was considering the possibility of extending the Act to Swedish-owned subsidiaries outside Sweden. 51/
- 73. In June 1987, the Finnish Parliament adopted a law which prohibits all imports from and all exports to South Africa (see S/18961/Add.3).

Atkvæðaskýring, flutt af Íslands hálfu fyrir hönd Norðurlanda, á 42. allsherjarþingi Sameinuðu þjóðanna, við 33. dagskrármál, kynþáttaaðskilnaðarstefnu ríkisstjórnar Suður-Afríku.

Mr. President.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland. The Nordic countries have consistently condemned the apartheid policy of the South African Government as a violation of fundamental human rights and fundamental freedoms as laid down in the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In the view of the Nordic countries, apartheid also constitutes a serious threat to international peace and security. Consequently, the Security Council should adopt as soon as possible effective sanctions against South Africa as a means to achieve a peaceful abolition of apartheid. Mandatory sanctions adopted by the Security Council are the most effective instrument to this end.

In accordance with the existing joint Nordic programme of action against South Africa the Nordic countries will further strengthen their efforts to contribute towards the abolition of the apartheid system by peaceful means. They will intensify their work to achieve decisions as soon as possible on effective sanctions by the United Nations Security Council. Pending such sanctions the Nordic countries have adopted a wide range of unilateral measures against apartheid.

The Nordic countries consequently strongly agree with the main thrust of the draft resolutions before us. However, some of them continue to raise difficulties with regard to important questions of principle to the Nordic countries. I shall briefly describe them:

First, the Nordic countries consider universality as a basic principle with respect to the United Nations organizations, and we cannot, therefore, accept any formulation that puts this principle in doubt in particular.

Second, peaceful solutions to conflicts is a fundamental principle enshrined in the very Charter of the United Nations. Therefore, we cannot accept that the United Nations endorses the use of armed struggle.

Third, the Nordic countries deplore the continued practice of selectively singling out individual countries and groups of countries as responsible for the policies pursued by the South African Government. This practice — most evident in the draft resolution on relations between Israel and South Africa — makes it all the more difficult to achieve international concerted action in the struggle against apartheid.

Fourth, certain formulations would encroach upon constitutional freedoms and rights of Nordic citizens and private organizations. This applies in particular to certain parts of the International Convention for the Prevention of Apartheid in Sports. In view of the strict and active policy of the Nordic countries against sport contacts with South Africa, the Nordic countries regret that they cannot fully endorse the draft convention.

Fifth, because of the strict adherence of the Nordic countries to the provisions of the Charter we must reserve our position with regard to formulations which fail to take into account the fact that only the Security Council can adopt decisions binding on Member States.

The situation in Southern Africa had drastically deteriorated during the past year. The responsibility for this situation rests with the South African Government and its policy of apartheid. But the world community has moral as well as legal obligations according to the Charter of the United Nations. The international community should urgently increase its economic and humanitarian assistance to SADCC and to individual countries and persons that are victims for South Africa's aggressive policy. We must all voice our strongest condemnation of apartheid but also strive to agree on a concerted international action of effective concrete steps to rapidly achieve the abolishment of apartheid.