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GREAT HOPES FOR THE PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT

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It is with a giddy feeling that we, the organizers, have noted the strongly escalating interest in the People's Parliament Against Apartheid. The growing wave of applications and international attention have drowned our original planning for a People's Parliament of normal dimensions.

Even if the Convention Centre at Stockholm's Folkets Hus can swallow large scale congresses, for considerations of space we have been forced to limit the number of delegates from each organization. Ensuring that the organization of the People's Parliament functions is a major task. (That it shall not be an overwhelming one has become our hope, now immediately prior to its opening, while hundreds of details remain to be dealt with.) The Swedish United Nations Association and the Isolate South Africa Committee will, however, do their utmost to guarantee that everything functions as it should.

INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION

It is a pleasure to welcome so many prominent figures in the struggle against apartheid as our guests. ANC, SWAPO, the UN and the international anti-apartheid opinion consider that the People's Parliament

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has a strategic importance greatly in excess of its role as a national Swedish manifestation. Now when the liberation struggle in southern Africa enters a critical phase, popular movements around the world are confronted with the task of pursuing solidarity work to a decisive breakthrough.

Sweden does not seek strength by means of powerful alliances but, instead, our active neutrality policy opens unique possibilities in the international work. Sweden is a small country but, internationally viewed, we have strong popular movements. These popular movements must utilize the entire opinion-forming power of their worldwide contact network if we are now to succeed in massively increasing the external pressure on South Africa.

The Swedish United Nations Association has taken the initiative within its world federation to unite UN associations from all continents in a forceful expression of opinion and in a commitment to intensify the struggle against apartheid. For its part the Swedish United Nations Association has also assumed responsibility for supporting the formation of United Nations associations in Africa. For this work we can obtain certain resources from SIDA (The Swedish International Development Authority), but in order to ensure success serious involvement is required from our United Nations associations, districts and national organizations.

JOINT PLATFORM

That those who daily struggle against oppression and degradation in South Africa and Namibia attach great importance to the fact that we in the little country far up in the north arrange a People's Parliament Against Apartheid places great responsibility on all delegates to the Parliament.

First, all of the delegates should endeavour to be well prepared. The People's Parliament comprises three intensive and important days. All experience indicates that there is never enough time when working