

Major disinvestment enquiry recommended

EEC Ministers hear various viewpoints

SA faces disaster, EEC Ministers told

— by — present crisis, he said.
The Ministers, accompanied

Three European Foreign Ministers visiting South Africa recently heard differing viewpoints from a number of leading spokesmen.

Mr Jacques Poos (Luxemburg), Mr Giulio Andreotti (Italy), Mr Hans van den Broek (Netherlands) and Mr Willy de Clerq (European Commissioner for External Affairs), made recommendations to a European Economic Community summit meeting following their visit.

Newspaper reports say the Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg, the Right Rev. Desmond Tutu and the General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches, Dr Beyers Naude, told the Ministers that South African was in a state of civil war.

Disinvestment and sanctions were, they said, among the few remaining peaceful methods for bringing about meaningful change in SA.

Chief M G Buthelezi told the Ministers that the threat of sanctions had had beneficial results in SA — as had the threat of escalating violence.

“But to actually employ violence on a scale large enough to force the Government to its knees, or to actually employ disinvestment as a strategy on

a scale large enough to damage the SA economy, would be absolutely disastrous,” he said.

“I ask you who are Foreign Ministers to guard against Europe and North America overplaying its hand.”

It had to be appreciated that Zimbabwe's biggest trading partner was South Africa — which is why the country had a Trade Mission in Johannesburg.

There were more than a million Black citizens of independent states in Southern Africa working in South Africa.

The Nkomati Accord had enabled Mozambique to trade with South Africa covertly and clandestinely.

The economies of the independent neighbouring States of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Swaziland and Botswana were interwoven with the economy of South Africa.

If disinvestment took place, the citizens of these countries would suffer even more than their Black brothers and sisters and Whites in SA.

Europe, he added, should listen to mass Black opinion. They should also “observe the way our Black neighbours break every rule of the boycott

and embargo game...

Europe should also think very seriously about doing an in-depth study of the interdependence of neighbouring States in Southern Africa.

“One often hears mention of interdependence but when it is looked at closely, it will be seen that there is total dependence on South Africa by neighbouring States,” he said.

“The EEC should undertake a very serious and major enquiry into the effects of a successful disinvestment campaign and of the consequences of the economic isolation of South Africa.”

The European Economic Community could, if it wished to, do a lot to support that which was positive in SA — and condemn that which was totally indefensible.

Chief Buthelezi told the Foreign Ministers that apartheid had to be eradicated and there had to be fundamental changes to the country's political system.

“We have to create circumstances in which there is a massive redistribution of wealth through the distribution of equality of opportunity across racial barriers.

“Positive” action to help Blacks

Reports from Europe have indicated that the “troika” of EEC Foreign Ministers returned home from South Africa unconvinced that sanctions would help end apartheid.

As a result, the EEC (minus Britain) has imposed sanctions described as “symbolic”.

The EEC intends to force its nationals doing business in South Africa to apply a rigorous code of conduct in regard to Black wages, training, promotion and social conditions.

The EEC will also offer financial aid to non-violent, anti-apartheid organisations, particularly churches.

New EEC programmes will be instituted to educate Blacks and they will be allowed to study at universities in EEC countries.

The EEC plans to intensify contacts with Blacks in the political, trade union, business, cultural, scientific and sporting sectors.

It will then institute programmes of aid to help Black states in the Southern African Development Co-ordinating Conference (SADCC) lessen their independence on South Africa —

developing their own power, rail, road and shipping resources.

In addition, the EEC will seek to persuade members of its communities resident in South Africa that apartheid is wrong. Italy and Portugal, particularly, face problems in this regard.

Other EEC sanctions — the arms embargo, the oil embargo and a ban on exports of “sensitive technology” — are already in place.

The President of the EEC Council of Ministers, Mr Jacques Poos, said: “We wanted to harmonise around a set of proposals ... to endorse positive action...”

Although the EEC ministers also had talks with a delegation from the ANC Mission-in-Exile, the British government ruled out “formal contacts” with the organisation.

The UK has a consistent policy on formal contact with organisations committed to violence — whether it be the IRA, the PLO or the ANC.