



198 Broadway • New York, N.Y. 10038 • (212) 962-1210

Tilden J. LeMelle, *Chairman*
Jennifer Davis, *Executive Director*

ANC LEADER CALLS FOR MORE SANCTIONS

Excerpts from Interview with
Thabo Mbeki, Foreign Affairs Secretary
of the
African National Congress
"MacNeil-Lehrer Newshour" February 2, 1990

Robert MacNeil: Should governments like the United States now lift the sanctions they have imposed?

Thabo Mbeki: No, they shouldn't. Sanctions were imposed to end apartheid. There is still apartheid in South Africa, that's why you need negotiations to end it. There's still apartheid in South Africa and even when a process of negotiations starts, the fact that it starts does not guarantee that it's going to produce this result of a democratic society in South Africa. I think it's very important that nobody should go overboard. The fact of an announcement of the lifting of a ban on the ANC and the future release of a Mandela and all this kinds of thing do not in themselves end apartheid. And to the extent that it was necessary to put pressure on South Africa to end apartheid the pressure needs to be sustained.

MacNeil: Until when?

Mbeki: Until the people of South Africa agree to a constitution. A constitution for a democratic South Africa. This has been the history of our region. Sanctions, for instance, against Rhodesia were lifted by the international community at the point that the people of Zimbabwe agreed to a new constitution. With a similar situation with regard to Namibia, and in this instance South Africa ought not to be an exception.

MacNeil: Negotiations for a new constitution on such fundamental matters as one-man-one vote could stretch on for a very long time, could they not? In the meantime your economy would be denied foreign trade that could help it to flourish.

Mbeki: But you see that's precisely the point why the pressures have to be sustained. Because you could indeed have a situation in which the Pretoria regime plays for time, stretches out those negotiations for many years. And to stretch out negotiations for many years means you continue apartheid. You continue the suffering of the people. So the pressures need to be kept on in order to expedite this process so that then the rest of the world deals in the end with a government genuinely representative of all the people of South Africa. So that when they lend money or investments are made by private companies they know that they are acting in the interests of the people of South Africa that they've agreed.