

# World outcry over Pretoria hangings continues unabated

THE international outcry over the hanging of three ANC men found guilty of murder and treason continued unabated yesterday.

In New York, the UN Security Council, after private consultations yesterday morning, expressed "deep sorrow", while the UN Secretary-General Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar said he was "deeply shocked and saddened."

In Harare, the UN assistant Secretary-General Mr James Jonah warned that the executions would lead to "an escalating freedom war" within the next few months.

He said the decision hang the three men was "another example of South Africa's disregard of the UN and the international community as a whole."

A block away from UN Headquarters in New York, demonstrators chanted through Wednesday night outside the office building housing the South African mission to the UN, concluding around midnight (7am SA time) — when the three men

AT 7am yesterday, three ANC men convicted of high treason were hanged in Pretoria Central Prison — but protests and condemnations at the executions continued to gather momentum in the capitals of the world. RICHARD WALKER and IAN HOBBS report from New York and London:

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were hanged at Pretoria Central Prison.

A drum set the tempo as the crowd, chanting slogans such as "Blow by blow, apartheid must go", repeatedly shuffled past the building entrance. Some carried photographs of the three men. Others carried small candles. An ANC official addressed the crowd, and the event received widespread TV coverage.

Groups also demonstrated in several other cities, including Los Angeles and Washington.

A last message said to have come from the men was circulated and broadcast on some black radio stations.

In Europe, anti-apartheid activists gathered in several capital cities yesterday to

pay tribute to the three dead men.

The Netherlands anti-apartheid movement held an all-night vigil outside the South African Embassy in the Hague until the moment of the executions.

In London, police arrested nine people taking part in a 24-hour vigil outside the South African Embassy.

The world outcry over the executions has been headlined on prime-time television news and front-page reports in most West European countries in the past few days.

Among government reactions conveyed to the UN, one of the first and strongest came from Sweden, which predicted that the executions would "further strengthen the determination of the majority of the people to change the system" and would "increase international support

ment was "dismayed" that, despite repeated pleas for clemency, South Africa had gone ahead with the executions.

Belgian Foreign Minister Mr Leo Tindemans branded the hangings "another violation of human rights in South Africa."

"Belgium has consistently backed the appeals for a reprieve. These date back to October 1982 when we joined the UN General Assembly appeal, and the further bid on June 6 adopted unanimously by the UN Security Council.

In Rome, Italy's President Sandro Pertini yesterday said he "deplored and condemned" the executions.

In Stockholm, the Swedish Government expressed "Disgust" over the executions and condemned the SA Government's policy.

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"We condemn these executions," said the spokesman, who under French rules is not named. "We are crushed that the appeal to the South African conscience was not heard."

An Indian Government spokesman said: "This brutal action by the Pretoria regime represents an intolerable affront to universal human conscience."

The ANC denounced the execution of its members, while Zimbabwe, the first black African state to react to the hangings, said South Africa was cheating itself by treating "Freedom fighters as 'Mere criminals.'"

Harare's semi-official Herald newspaper said South Africa's rejection of appeals for a reprieve was possibly meant to demonstrate Pretoria's "Resolve" after the bomb blast in Pretoria.

The Soviet news agency, Tass, called the executions "Murder in cold blood" and "a flagrant violation of international law."

It went on to charge that South Africa was governed by a "Regime which has not got the slightest idea of humanity (and) has perpetrated this crime despite appeals of various governments and representatives of millions of people all over the world."

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The Dutch Government expressed its "regret" at the executions, and said: "We are afraid that the executions will not stop the violence".

The European Parliament also condemned the executions. Its President, Mr Piet Dankert, said the organisation would protest to South Africa, which he said had "refused" to listen to appeals for clemency from the European Community and the UN Security Council.

West German Foreign Minister Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher said his govern-

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"South Africa continues to defend an inhuman and immoral social system defying a massive international opinion. As long as the apartheid system remains, the violence in South Africa will go on. The executions will further strengthen the resolution of the majority of the population to change the system.

"South Africa's brutal policy also will further increase the international support for the cause of the oppressed," the Foreign Ministry release said.

A French Foreign Ministry spokesman said in condemning the hanging the South African Government "Ridicules the values it believes it represents." RDM 10/6/83

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The United States, in sharp contrast to its position last year, on Wednesday night joined other members of the UN Security Council in seeking a halt to the executions.

Hanging the trio would "aggravate the situation in South Africa," the Security Council declared in a unanimous vote.

Throughout Wednesday, a stream of protests and appeals arrived at UN headquarters. They ranged from a belligerent message from East German Foreign Minister Mr Oskar Fischer to an emotional one from Indian Premier Mrs Indira Gandhi, acting as chairman of the 101 nations of the Non-Aligned Movement. Declaring her "deep sorrow," Mrs Gandhi lodged her appeal "in the name of humanity."

The three men "were carrying out the noblest duty of people anywhere, that is, to fight for their right to freedom," she said.

The US support for the appeal contrasts with last year, when its officials argued that the three had caused loss of life and could not be considered in the same light as other condemned South Africans the international community had supported.

Some diplomats saw in this the first modification of policy in anticipation of next year's presidential elections, when the black vote is expected to be more important than in the past.

The Security Council appeal was the third on behalf of the three men in eight months, an unprecedented action. South Africa treated all with the same disdain it has shown since the first such appeal, in April 1979, on behalf of Solomon Mahlangu, who was executed the next day.

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