



Resolution as finally adopted on 26/9/85. 1124

**Ecumenical Commission for Church and Society  
in the European Community**

**Commission Œcuménique pour Eglise et Société  
dans la Communauté Européenne**

**Ökumenische Kommission für Kirche und Gesellschaft  
in der Europäischen Gemeinschaft**

AVENUE D'AUDERGHEM 23

B - 1040 BRUXELLES

TÉLÉPHONE 230 17 32

*Yellow copy*

INFORMATION SECRETARIAT

Postal Account: C C P 000-0031028-85

**COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE - PRESS RELEASE - PRESSEMITTEILUNG - PERSBERICHT**

**EECCS'S RESOLUTION ON SOUTH AFRICA  
\*\*\*\*\***

In response to the call made to them by the South African Council of Churches and as an expression of opinions widely held by the Churches in Western Europe, the European Ecumenical Commission for Church and Society representing the non-Roman Catholic Churches in the EEC, Switzerland and Portugal has decided to send a delegation to the European Community urging sanctions against South Africa to be implemented.

Meeting in Brussels on September 26th, 1985, the European Ecumenical Commission passed the following resolution) ~~virtually unanimously with a West German abstention on the issue of the personal boycott of South African products:~~

*with ~~no~~ <sup>no</sup> votes against and with three abstentions on the final paragraph.*

The European Ecumenical Commission for Church and Society

aware of the present crisis of South African society, a crisis that is both tragic and hopeful;

in the light of the analysis of the South African situation in the study document : "the European Community and South(ern) Africa",

- 1) expresses its conviction that the Churches of Western Europe should do all that lies in their power to assist the people of South Africa in their struggle to abolish apartheid;
- 2) declares its solidarity with those South Africans of all races who are committed to the achievement of this end;
- 3) endorses the statement of the South African Council of Churches of June 28, 1985 which accepts that the achievement of the radical and rapid changes needed to end apartheid will depend in part on increasing economic pressure on South Africa by other nations;
- 4) believes that, in accordance with this, the European Community should prepare to implement effective economic sanctions to be applied by all member states unless and until the Government of South Africa
  - i) ends the state of emergency

- ii) releases without conditions Nelson Mandela and its many other political prisoners
- iii) agrees to discuss with genuine representatives of the majority of the people the nature of the political process needed to establish a new order in South Africa in which all its people will enjoy equal rights and duties
- iv) implements United Nations policy on Namibia ending the illegal occupation of that country.

Consequently, the European Ecumenical Commission for Church and Society instructs its officers and advisors on Southern Africa, in the light of a rapidly changing situation, urgently to discuss the implementation of this policy with the relevant officials of the European Community.

Furthermore, the European Ecumenical Commission for Church and Society requests its member Churches to:

- a) stimulate a broad public discussion of the issues raised in this resolution
- b) request their financial authorities to cease to invest in enterprises which have a significant involvement in South Africa
- c) promote grass roots education on Southern Africa in their congregations which might include a call to boycott South African products as a personal sign of sympathy and solidarity
- d) give all possible support to conscientious objectors to service in South African armed forces, particularly those who seek refuge in Western Europe.

*With compliments*

QUAKER COUNCIL FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

24.10.85

Dear Stephen Lowry,

I thought you would be interested to know that as a result of an intervention specifically about the ECC, the ECCSEC adopted a resolution item about COs in South Africa. It might be worth responding to them in order to build up links for the future. Please keep in touch.

With greetings from us all,

*Sally Sadler*

Sally Sadler.

Further

Representative  
Angèle Kneale

50 Square Ambiorix  
B-1040 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel. (02) 230.49.35

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