PAPER 2, QUESTION 4
CRISIS OF APARTHEID

1. ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENTS IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Apartheid was widely criticized internationally but little was done to force the South African government to abandon its policies. Anti-apartheid groups were formed by ordinary people in several European countries. They were outraged by the human rights abuses occurring in South Africa and tried to persuade their governments to take action.

1.1 BRITISH AAM

- A group of South African exiles and their British supporters called for a boycott on the import of South African goods like fruit and cigarettes.
- The AAM campaigned to end Apartheid by means of boycotts and isolating SA from international community.
- Set up the International Defence and Aid Fund (IDAF):
  - In the 1980s the International Defence and Aid Fund (IDAF) funded state of emergency detentions
  - smuggled R200 million into South Africa/
  - created a network of donors who funded the release of political prisoners/
  - From January 1985 IDAF funded 16 551 legal matters (e.g. detentions, common law prosecutions of street activists)

1.2 IRISH AAM (IAAM)

- Founded in 1964
- One of the founders was Kader Asmal, an ANC exile - became Minister of Education
- Started sports, cultural, economic and academic boycotts.
- Gave direct support to liberation movements like ANC.
PW Botha’s Rubicon speech (1985) forced the international community into action, which embarked on various forms of boycotts, sanctions and disinvestments against the apartheid regime.

2. **BOYCOTTS**

2.1 **SPORT BOYCOTTS**

2.1.1 **IMPLEMENTATION**

- The SA rugby team visited Britain in 1970. AAM organized the 'Stop the Seventy Tour' campaign, which aimed to disrupt and stop matches. Demonstrators invaded rugby pitch, hotel door locks of South Africans were glued shut, torchlight procession was held in Coventry.
- The South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (SANROC) SAN-ROC opposed all racial sport structures and went on to advocate for the expulsion of South Africa from the Olympic Games.
- Halt All Racist Tours (HART) was a protest group set up in New Zealand in 1969 to protest against rugby union tours to and from South Africa. The high point of protest was around the 1981 Springbok Tour in which thousands of New Zealanders protested, invaded pitches, and were involved in civil disobedience to stretch police resources.

2.1.1 **RESULT**

- Most matches had to be cancelled
- The next time a South African rugby team would visit Britain was in 1996
- Commonwealth countries signed the Gleneagles agreement (1977) which banned South African sportsmen and women from world sport
- South African teams were increasingly isolated when they were barred from international competition.
• South Africa was banned from Olympic Games in 1963

### 2.2 CULTURAL BOYCOTT

#### 2.2.1 IMPLEMENTATION

- International artists – performed for non-segregated audiences only
- Artists against Apartheid formed in Britain by Dali Tambo and Jerry Dammers
- The British Actors' Union Equity forbid the use of television programmes in SA involving its members
- 1985 USA 'Artists United against Apartheid' - refused to perform in South Africa and raised money for liberation movements
- 1986 Freedom Festival in London audience of 250,000 attended - musicians expressed their solidarity with people in SA, speakers from ANC, SWAPO and British Anti-apartheid Movement addressed the crowd

#### 2.2.2 RESULT

- Isolated South Africa from the rest of the world.
- No international stars visited SA and TV programmes that could be bought by SABC were limited.

### 2.3 ACADEMIC BOYCOTT

#### 2.3.1 IMPLEMENTATION

- Scholars refused to travel to South Africa
- Publishers refused to publish SA manuscripts
- Publishers abroad refused to grant access to information
- International conferences barred South African participation
- Institutions abroad denied SA academic access/overseas institutions refused to recognise SA degrees
- Schools abroad refused to act as external examiners for thesis presented at SA universities

#### 2.3.2 RESULT

- The boycott deprived South African academics of information needed for research.
- Also deprived them of interaction with colleagues overseas.
- Institutions abroad refused to recognize South African qualifications.
- South African scholars and academics were isolated from the broader academic world.
2.4 CONSUMER BOYCOTT

Britain imported a great deal of the fruit and wool produced in SA.

2.4.1 IMPLEMENTATION

- SA experienced a recession in the 1980s
- Anti-apartheid groups encouraged the public to boycott SA products
- Irish workers refused to handle fruits from SA
- Imports of raw materials such as coal, iron, steel from South Africa were banned
- The United Nations established a Special Committee Against Apartheid, which played a critical role in imposing an oil embargo on SA.

2.4.2 RESULT

- It was a huge blow to South African farmers whose livelihood depended on the export of agricultural products.
- They were forced to try to find alternative markets.
- South Africa experienced a recession in the 1980s.

3. DISINVESTMENTS AND SANCTIONS

There was growing support for economic sanctions against South Africa, partly due to the influence, which the ANC in exile was able to exert.

3.1 DISINVESTMENTS

- This was a consequence as a result of the Soweto Uprising and the death of Steve Biko
- Sweden was the first country to disinvest in SA
- By 1984 foreign investments in South Africa dropped by 30%
- By 1980 Britain already disinvested from the Simon's Town Naval Dockyard
- General Motors and Barclays Bank pulled out of SA
- In the 1980s SAs economy struggled as investors left the country - The rand was devalued
- The effects of AAM actions began to show results - between 1985 and 1990 over 200 US companies pulled out of SA
- University of California withdrew investments of three billion dollars from SA

3.2 SANCTIONS
In the 1980s the Sullivan Principle (which implied that workers of all USA companies should be treated equally) formed the basis for the disinvestment campaign in South Africa in the 1980s

- Student protests in 1980s sparked withdrawal of the USA trading companies
- 1982 United Nations (UN) condemned apartheid and called for total sanctions against SA
- In 1985 Chase Manhattan Bank cut ties with SA
- Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) closed for 4 days - the value of the rand dropped by 35%.
- In 1985 the European Economic Community banned new investments in SA
- In 1986 the US Congress passed a law that banned all new investments and loans in SA
- Big corporations such as General Electric, Pepsi Cola, General Motors, Mobil and IBM stopped doing business in SA
- USA threatened to stop the sale of weapons to SA
- In 1986 anti-apartheid Law of USA led to some European countries and Japan to introduce sanctions against SA
- International banks lost confidence in SA’s economy
- In 1988 one fifth of British and 184 American companies withdrew from SA because of pressure from its shareholders
- The SA economy declined substantially and grew at a mere 1.1% per annum
- US Congress and American companies applied sanctions to try to force the SA govt to change its policies - they passed the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act.
- All investments and loans to SA were banned
- SA Airways planes were not allowed to land at US airports.
- The European Union applied limited sanctions, banning sale of gold Krugerrands, and import of South African coal, iron and steel.
- British supporters of the AAM boycotted Barclays Bank, which had substantial investments in SA.
- Barclays later disinvested, as did many other British-based companies.

### 3.2 RESULT

- Resulted in increased unemployment and the devaluation of the rand
- Inflation rose to 18.4%, the highest in 66 years.
- Between 1985 and 1990, 200 US companies withdrew out of SA.
- Foreign investments dropped by 30%.
- Some historians argue that it encouraged the SA economy to become self-reliant.
- There was a growing feeling of isolation among the supporters of Apartheid.
- Many historians see sanctions as one of the most important factors in bringing down the Apartheid regime.
- The decline in the economy put great pressure on the govt to change its policies.

4. **RELEASE MANDELA CAMPAIGN**

The AAM became involved in a campaign to demand the release of Nelson Mandela by the South African govt.

4.1 **IMPLEMENTATION**

- They set up the Free Mandela Coordinating Committee in 1983.
- Several artists and musicians released songs.
- In Britain and the Netherlands streets were named after him.
- His face appeared on T-shirts and campaign posters.
- Jerry Dammers and Dali Tambo formed 'Artists Against Apartheid', which organized a rock concert.
- AAM initiated a Freedom at 70 campaign in honour of Mandela's 70th birthday. A concert was held at Wembley Stadium with well-known artists such as Sting, Whitney Houston and Stevie Wonder.

4.2 **RESULT**

- Mandela's name became an international symbol of the struggle against Apartheid.
- The 70th Birthday Tribute concert highlighted the fact that many South African leaders were still imprisoned after 25 years and members of the AAM called for the British govt to demand that Nelson Mandela be released.
- As a result of these campaigns, PW Botha offered Mandela release in 1985 on the condition that he renounced violence and resistance against the South African state.
- Mandela rejected these conditions.
- It became clear that no resolution to the crisis of apartheid could be achieved while Mandela remained in jail.

5. **ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNIONS**

- The AAM imposed a trade ban on SA
- Irish Congress of Trade Unions opposed apartheid regime in SA
- Political and financial crisis in SA continued
- Western nations applied enormous pressure on SA to end apartheid
• The apartheid regime had no choice but to start negotiations with anti-apartheid organisations in earnest
• Trade unions played a major role in mobilizing the international anti-apartheid movement in many countries such as Ireland, Britain, Norway and Australia.
• They wanted to show solidarity with black factory workers and mine workers.
• Liverpool dockworkers boycotted cargoes bound for apartheid South Africa.
• Finland's Transport Workers Union imposed a ban on trade with South Africa.
• Some of the earlier boycott campaigns against South Africa were led by trade unions.
• The international trade union movement called for a boycott of South African goods and trade, disinvestment and raised funds for anti-apartheid movements.

6. FRONTLINE STATES

6.1 IMPLEMENTATION

• They met to co-ordinate their support for the liberation movement
• Because their economies were dependent on SA, it was difficult for them to impose sanctions.
• Many citizens of the frontline states worked in South African mines.
• Could not engage in military action because the SADF was far too strong.
• They allowed the MK to set up bases in their countries.
• The South African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) was formed to free the frontline states of their independence of the SA economy.

6.2 RESULT

• The MK bases in frontline states was a threat to South African security.
• The SADF launched cross border raids on ANC bases in Botswana and Mozambique - innocent civilians were killed.
• SA imposed economic sanctions against frontline states. This caused economic instability in these states.

7. BEGINNING OF THE END

Economic boycotts and disinvestments were a potent weapon as a declining economy impacted negatively on white South Africans. This situation, together with the ongoing
internal mass resistance, forced the National Party to rethink its policies and to enter into negotiations with black resistance organizations.