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# ANC to visit HK to demand more sanctions

By NIALA MAHARAJ

LEADING members of the African National Congress (ANC) are to visit Hongkong in their campaign for intensified sanctions against South Africa after a United Nations report revealed that trade with the territory has quadrupled over the past six years.

Mr Jerry Matsila, head of the anti-apartheid organisation's Tokyo bureau, and Mr Eric Nolobi, an executive committee member of the Mass Democratic Movement, the largest anti-apartheid umbrella group, will visit Hongkong later this month. They plan to meet Hongkong Government officials and businessmen to push the case for upholding sanctions against South Africa.

The United Nations study, prepared for a seminar in Japan last month, shows Hongkong imported more than US\$400 million (HK\$3.1 billion) in goods from South Africa in 1988, while it exported US\$140 million. Local sources put the 1989 estimates at least 40 per cent higher. The United Nations is also disturbed by suggestions that Hongkong is being used as a trans-shipment point for importing South African goods for other Asian countries, including China.

In 1986, the multinational Total Coal International and Mr Li Ka-shing's Hutchison Whampoa established three joint ventures in Hongkong to sell South African coal in the Far East, the report reveals. Utilities companies in Hongkong use South Africa as a major supplier of low-cost coal.

Two Hongkong companies have established plants in the Transkei "homeland" in South Africa, despite government sanctions on trade, investment and travel to South Africa.

A Hongkong Government spokesman admitted in 1988 that it had not thrown its weight behind sanctions and considered them a mere "gesture".

This disturbs the ANC, as it believes Asian trade is endangering talks between the organisation and the South African Government aimed at ending apartheid. Members assert that the changes announced by the government this month have been forced upon it by the national and international actions of anti-apartheid groups.

ANC representative in Japan, Mr Jerry Matsila, says that the current "small changes" announced by the President Mr F. W. de Klerk, are aimed at relaxing international trade sanctions which have hurt the South African economy.

"It is a typical move by the Pretoria regime," he said on Friday, "to create one step forward and two disastrous steps back. De Klerk never said anything about abolishing apartheid, removing the population act, the group areas act, the neighbourhood acts, the segregation of education, etc. It is simply a ploy to divert attention from trade issues."

"These small changes he announced are irreversible, but they simply bring us back to the position of 1960, when the ANC was not banned and Mandela was free. We have to go beyond that."

He dismissed the reasons given for the delay in the release of Nelson Mandela as "nonsensical". The South African Government has stated that there have been threats on Mandela's life from both the right-wing and black nationalist groups including those within the ANC.

Mr Matsila responded: "The government is simply using Mandela's release as a bargaining card. They do not want to use this card yet, because then they will not have another one to play."

"Since when is Mandela's security a problem of the South African government," he queried. "That is a problem of the ANC, of the people of South Africa."