International resistance to apartheid

Essay question

Unit 4.2
International pressure on Apartheid

Essay Question

• In spite of huge internal pressure the Apartheid state did not collapse
• Added pressure of external factors created change
• International anti apartheid movements, sanctions, boycotts, the ANC in exile all played a roll in placing pressure on the government to abolish apartheid.
International anti – apartheid movements

• After Sharpeville shootings (1960) & Soweto uprising – great awareness on international front of injustice
• Apartheid government widely criticised by Western governments and the United Nations
• Calls were made for protest demonstrations, sporting and cultural boycotts and economic sanctions
• Anti Apartheid organisations were established and countries funded the ANC (Sweden & Netherlands)
Anti Apartheid movements in Britain (AAM)

- Formed in 1959 by South African exiles at requests of Albert Luthuli – create awareness of what was happening in South Africa
- Gained support from British labour party- called for support for banned ANC
- Minister Margaret Thatcher opposed to sanctions against SA – wanted protect investments and saw ANC as threat (Cold War) because of communist influence (support/funding)
- 1965 – anti apartheid campaigners in Britain set up International Defence and Aid fund (IDAF)
- IDAF:
  - Published material to raise awareness
  - Collected funds to pay legal fees and support families of opponents
  - Worked with ANC in exile
IAAM – Irish anti apartheid movement

- Called for boycotts of SA goods
- Student protest during Rivonia trial
- Founder – Kadar Asmal, ANC exile who was a law professor in Dublin
- Supported by church leaders, trade unions, students
Activities of anti – apartheid movements

- **Increasing isolation**
- Criticised by UN (United Nations) peace keepers
- Demonstrations outside SA embassy in London
- Demonstrations outside businesses doing business with SA
- **Arms embargo** – no selling of firearms to SA
- Disinvestments of Barclays bank
- Imports (**consumer boycotts**) - Refused to buy products from SA
- **Cultural boycotts** – British Actors Union Equity would not allow any of its performers to be shown SA, British films could not be shown
- **Academic boycotts** – professors from SA refused at international conferences
- **Sport boycotts** – SA teams isolated from competition, Gleneagles agreement of 1977 called members to cut all sport relations with SA
Disinvestments and sanctions

• Growing support for economic sanctions – ANC in exile was able to exert
• United Nations established **Special Committee Against Apartheid** – imposing **oil embargo (oil not to be imported)**
• **USA sanctions:**
  - Past Comprehensive Anti Apartheid Act
  - Banned new investments, loans, SA planes not allowed to land in US, ban on SA products
  - Sold shares in SA companies – General motors, Coco Cola, Kodak
• **European Union:**
  - Banned sale of Kruger Rands
  - Imports of coal, iron and steel from SA
The **Release Mandela campaign**

- AAM called for release of political prisoners
- Many anti-apartheid supporters send letters to SA government demanded release of Nelson Mandela
- Committee was established in London— all over the world people marched, signed petitions for his release
- Renewed campaign was launched by UN to release Mandela, led by Bill Cosby
- Mandela’s name became international symbol of struggle for freedom
- UDF also demanded for his release
- Botha offered Mandela release in 1985 on conditions that he don’t resist the government – he refused released
- It became clear that no resolution can be reached while Mandela remained jailed
Role of international trade unions

• Trade unions mobilized support for AAM in many countries – Britain, Ireland, Australia
• Wanted to show solidarity (support / united) with black mine workers in SA
• Support for struggle against apartheid was promoted
• Supported ANC policies
• Called for boycott of SA goods and trade and disinvestments
• Raised funds for anti apartheid movements
Support for anti apartheid struggle in Africa

• OAU (Organisation of African Unity):
  - Used influence to have South Africa expelled from several organisations such as
    o World Health org
    o International Labour org
    o International Olympic movement
Influence of Frontline countries

- Border countries – Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania
- Strongly against apartheid, but dependent on SA economy
- 1980 – formed the Southern African Development co – ordination Conference (SADCC) to reduce economic dependence on SA
- Actions:
  - Allowed ANC & PAC to set up basis
  - Helped MK (terriost group that launched attacks against the apartheid gov)
  - Attacked SA airforce (Pretoria) Koeberg nuclear station (Cape town)
  - MK had structures throughout SA
- ANC in exile:
  - Promoted support for sanctions
  - Recognised by UN as official representatives of SA people
The effects (line of argument)

- **SA economy in recession:**
  - Low economic growth
  - Falling gold prices
  - Government dependent on loans
  - Unemployment / poverty in townships
- **Businesses concerned:**
  - Political instability
  - International image
  - Growing support for sanctions – wanted reform
- **Rubicon speech**
  - Rejected reforms
- **Led to:**
  - Banks cancelled loans
  - Value of rand dropped
  - Support for sanctions grew
- **End of 1980**
  - Bad effect on economy
  - Internal resistance grew
  - External pressure breaking down government
Road To Freedom

- International repercussions – 1985, President Regan had issued an order imposing limited sanctions on South Africa. The following year Congress would enact even tougher laws (overriding Regan’s veto) banning new investments, loans and imports of certain South Africa products. The European community imposed sanctions of their own also.
- South Africa had experienced almost a decade of slow growth and high inflation by the end of the 1980s and there was widespread pessimism that the government could turn this around; sanctions only deepened this doubt.
- Many influential white South Africans concluded that as apartheid required repression and repression brought about unacceptable economic damage, apartheid needed to go, sooner or later. A dialogue began to emerge between the two sides.
- Election of Frederik Wilhelm de Klerk – catalyst for change. He became the leader of the National Party in Feb 1989 & then President of South Africa in August.
Road to Freedom

- De Klerk recognized that nothing would really change as long as apartheid was still in place and that the government’s position would not improve with time.

- By February 1990, the government had lifted the ban on opposition groups, including the ANC & UDF; had refrained from breaking up nonviolent protest; released political prisoners and permitted exiles to return; and finally lifted the state of emergency and restrictions on the press. **February 11th saw a very iconic moment**, that being Nelson Mandela walking out of prison, finally free after 27 years.

- Democratic elections were scheduled for April 1994, and a new, non-racial parliament would be charged with writing a new constitution, of which would secure integration of the townships into rest of the country, that individual rights were guaranteed to all, and that minority parties were given seats in central cabinet.

- Following the elections of 1994 the ANC won more than 60% of the vote and the parliament elected Nelson Mandela as South Africa’s president.
CIVIL RESISTANCE in the 1970s TO 1980s in SOUTH AFRICA:

THE CRISIS OF APARTHEID IN THE 1980s

“The contributions of the Anti-Apartheid Movements was the final nail in the coffin of the Apartheid government.”

Do you agree with this statement?

Substantiate your answer with relevant historical evidence.

Introduction
Candidates must indicate whether they agree with the statement or not and supply a short reasons to substantiate their point of view.

You will always agree that the International resistance did contribute in ending apartheid!

Background
PW Botha – president
Introduced reforms – Tricemenal parliament – did not include all races (excluded blacks)
Led to sustained internal pressure
Rubicon speech – international world awaiting for PW Botha to end apartheid
Announced that apartheid will stay unchanged
This led to international pressure in the forms of boycotts, sanctions, disinvestments and the release Mandela campaign to end apartheid

ELABORATION (BODY)
- (1) The Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) in Britain aimed to end Apartheid through boycotts and isolating SA from the international community.
  - They held demonstrations outside: the SA Embassy in Britain and against companies who did business with SA
  - The result of this action: Barclays Bank sold their holdings in SA
- (2) IAAM initiated sport, cultural, academic and economic sanctions that isolated SA internationally
  - Sport Boycotts:
    - AAM prevented SA from participating in international competitions:
    - The Gleneagles Agreement called on commonwealth countries to cut all sporting ties with SA
    - SA was expelled from the International Olympics
  - Cultural Boycotts:
    - British and American musicians refused to perform in SA
  - Academic Boycotts:
    - SA academics were barred from attending international academic conferences
  - Consumer Boycotts:
    - The general public was urged to boycott SA products
- Disinvestment - Chase Manhattan Bank cutting its links with SA
  - The European Economic Community banned new investments in SA in 1985
  - 1986 America banned all new loans and investments in SA
  - Large companies like General Electric, Pepsi Cola, IBM, General Motors and Mobil closed their operations in SA
- Sanctions - In 1977 the UN banned the selling of weapons to SA
  - In 1973 OPEC imposed an oil embargo against SA
  - The USA refused to buy SA agricultural products, iron and steel
- The USA banned direct air travel between the countries

- **Release Mandela Campaign** - They held a star-studded concert at Wembley to demand the release of Mandela

- International trade unions called on the Anti-Apartheid movements to boycot SA goods and to support sanction and disinvestment initiatives.
- The Frontline states allowed ANC to establish bases and military training camps in their countries.
- From here the ANC was able to step up MK raids and intensify the armed struggle.
• By the late 1980s the SA economy was on the verge of collapse
• Sanctions and disinvestment led to increased unemployment and poverty
• This led to increased internal resistance
• All this made it very difficult for the NP to survive in power
• It was thus the combination of internal and external pressures that would lead to the downfall of Apartheid

Any other relevant answer.

CONCLUSION
Candidates must tie up their argument with a relevant conclusion. [50]