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AFRTPAN

NATIONAL CONGRESS

ANC PRESS STATEMENT

The African National Congress wishes to clarify the statement put out on Sapa today, 22 April, 1991.

ANC Secretary General Alfred Nzo made the following points to Sapa:

* The ANC has not called for the resignation of President De Klerk or the government at this stage of the process. The ANC has consistently called for an Interim Government. An interim government is essential, as the present government cannot be both referee and player. There cannot be two authorities. Once the procedures of establishing such an Interim Government have been agreed upon, and the composition determined, the present government will have to resign to enable the Interim Government to fulfil its tasks. This is the sequence envisaged by the ANC to secure the transition process.

Issued by the Office of the Secretary General
PO Box 61884 Marshalltown 2307

22 April, 1991

The People Shall Govern!

TAN Tuesday April 23 1991

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A confrontation is looming between the African National Congress and the Government over the release of political prisoners and the return of exiles by April 30.

The ANC said yesterday the date agreed upon and contained in the Pretoria Minute was a deadline and demanded the release of all political prisoners and return of all exiles by then.

The Ministry of Justice told Sowetan April 30 was a target date - not a deadline.

Guidelines

The Groote Schuur and Pretoria Minutes signed by the ANC and the Government last year set out guidelines to removing obstacles to constitutional negotiations.

The Pretoria accord of last July 6 provided for the appointment of a working group comprising representatives from both sides to draw up a plan for the release of ANC-related prisoners and granting of indemnity

to those in exile.

ANC legal representative and member of the working group Mr Math-

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ew Phos* \$Â«id yesterday:
"The ANC is pessimistic.
The Internal Security Act
is still there. Also, it is the
Government's obligation
to open the prison doors
and allow all exiles to
return in terms of the
agreement.

"They could have
released all political
prisoners. We had 1 632
names, probably more, by
December last year if they
had intended going by the
schedule." Phosa said.

He dismissed as
"absolute nonsense" the
Ministry of Justice's
statement that April 30

was not a deadline.

The latest date en-
visaged for the comple-
tion of the .total task was
set as not later than April
301991.

"The Government
also agreed to amend
legislation to repeal the
Internal Security Act
which was also seen by

the ANC as an obstacle to negotiations. On April 19 the Ministry announced the approval of the release of 96 prisoners it said would be freed as soon as possible.

That brought the total to 215 of people released

in the past two weeks alone.

And also last Friday 16 more people were granted indemnity and could re-enter the country from exile. This accounted for 73 percent of applications, 3 692,

received for indemnity from undergoing military training or prosecution in terms of the Internal Security Act of 1982 or Terrorism Act.

Appeal

Ministry of Justice spokesman Major E Jones said: "The indemnity and release of prisoners is on course as contained in the accords.

"We are dealing with an average 96 000

prisoners a day and have appealed to everyone through the media, and even Lawyers for Human Rights to help in processing the release of those who qualify in terms of the agreement.

"We have received only 850 applications for release so far and some of these were of chancers, those jailed for crimes

such as house-breaking
and robbery," said Jones.

She said it was the
duty of the ANC to see to
it that its indemnified
members returned to the
country and not of the
Government.

ANC: Govt

must resign

THE African National Congress wants State President De Klerk and his Cabinet to resign, suspend the constitution and create an interim government which will rule by decree, according to Mr Benny Alexander, PAC secretary-general.

This was confirmed by ANC secretary-general Mr Alfred Nzo.

The first phase was the

removal of obstacles to talks, said Mr Nzo.

The second phase was an all-party congress, where the ANC would point out that it wanted President De Klerk and his government to resign as it could not be "both player and referee at the same time".

The government would have to suspend the constitution and create an interim government, which would rule by decree.

The Minister of Consti-

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TO PAGE 2

ANC wants govt to resign

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tutional Development
and chief government ne-
gotiator, Dr Gerrit Vd-
joen, said it now ap-
peared futile to comment
on ANC policy.

"The confusion of lead-
ership inside the ANC has
apparently reached such a
level that statements on
ANC policy are now be-
ing issued by the Sec-
retary General of the
PAC," he said.

government

FROM PAGE t

stands by its firm position
against a Constituent As-
sembly elected on a sim-
ple majoritarian basis and
also against an interim
government, amounting
to an abdication of power
by the present constitu-
tional structures.* Dr Vil-
joen vi k!

The ANCs demand
was impractical and unttc-
ccpiuWe. the Democratic
Party leader. Dr Zacl de
Beer. said.

There was no alterna-
tive to keeping the pres-
ent Parliament and gm-
erninent in office until
they could enact a new
constitution.

The ANC told the Pan
Africanist Congress of its
plan at the Harare alli-
ance talks between the
two movements last
week.

The ANC wanted the
creation of an interim

government before any negotiation process towards a new constitution could proceed.

Mr N/o said Constituent Assembly would be the only mechanism for adopting a democratic constitution.

"For the transitional period to be overseen

properly, it must be by a neutral authority."

"You can't have two governments running parallel. That's obvious. If there is agreement on an interim government, it means that the other people must go."

Mr De Klerk's government, however, saw the process totally differently. Mr N/o said.

"When they talk about an all-party conference, their perception that that an all-party conference should be the body to draw up a constitution.

"In which case then it means...that the all-party conference would meet (and) decide on a new constitution on the basis of which elections take place.

"All along the line the process is controlled by the De Klerk government.' which to us is wrong.

Mr Nzo added: "Obviously once there is agreement on a transitional government, then

the thing that must happen is for those who are in government today should then give way to the transitional government.

"It is a standpo*

the African National Congress."

Asked whether the ANC had voiced this to Mr De Klerk and his government before. Mr Nzo said. "We have not yet reached the stage of negotiating. We have mu

reached that position yet.

â– "We are still at the position where we are saying they (the government) must clear obstacles.

"Once obstacles are cleared then these concepts will be put on the table." - Sapa.

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De Klerk confident summit

on violence will go

SonStar Reporter

PRESIDENT de Klerk is confident his scheduled Pretoria summit on violence is not in danger - in spite of negative reaction from parties on opposite sides of the political spectrum.

The ANC has issued a bolcfing statement indicating it may be reconsidering & its imtial reaction to the Government's latest peace bill and the-State President said the ANC had not given a definite rejection.

He was speaking at a media conference at Jan Smuts airport last night, shortly before jetting off on a historic trip to England, Ireland and Denmark.

Mr Pik Botha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, will act as State President for the duration of Mr de Klerk's trip.

Mr de Klerk said he held no fears that his summit would not get off the ground, adding he could hardly imagine someone opposing violence but refusing to enter into talks with the Government

He added ANC Deputy President Mr Nelson Mandela had assured him the ANC would be giving consideration to the peace summit scheduled for May 24 and 25.

At the same time Mr de Klerk said the Conservative Party's "so-called rejection" of the summit came as no surprise to him.

"They constantly refuse to participate in negotiations where the ANC is present. It would be mournful if important parties stayed away to gain political ground," Mr de Klerk said.

*1 will do my best to ensure that the major role players remain involved"

He added he did not see negotiations in South Africa grinding to a halt if the ANC's demands were not met.

Mr de Klerk was adamant the Ministers of Law and Order and of Defence, Messrs Adriaan Vlok and Magnus Malan, would be included in discussions. Where discussions on violence were in-

ahead:)

involved, these ministers naturally had to be included

He spelled out the importance of his trip to the three countries, saying his visit would not "just be about dismantling stumbling blocks", but also to instill confidence about South Africa.

His stop in England would be his first meeting with Mr John Major, Britain's new premier, and an opportunity to make contact with the private sector and foremost British businessmen.

Mr de Klerk said his visits to Denmark and Ireland were of great importance as these two countries were well-known for their strong stance against the lifting of sanctions.

And it appears this trip will be all work and no play... Mr de Klerk saying his golf clubs were staying behind as his schedule was packed with work.

"In fact, I have never played golf outside the borders of the Republic," he quipped

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ANC
to join
peace
talks?

Political

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THE ANC could still!
take part In the j

Governmettt-prop- j
osed peace summit. i

Mr Carl Niehaus, a
spokesman for the orga-
nisation's department of
Information and publicity,
yesterday said a series of
consultations were under
way regarding State Pres*
idem FW de Klerk's pro-
posed summit.

In an earlier statement,
also issued yesterday, the
ANC's Ms Gill Marcus
raised hopes of her move-
ment's possible participa-
tion.

She said the move-
ment had not rejected the
proposal outright, but that
it would study it as more
details became available.

Consulted

She said the ANC's al-
lies, such as the Congress
of South African Trade
Unions and the South Af-
rican Communist Party,
would have to be consul-
ted on the issue.

Media reports last
week said the ANC had
rejected outright the pro-
posed peace summit ex-
pected to be held in
Pretoria on May 24 and

May 25.

In last week's statement, De Klerk said the Government could not quell the continued violence in the country on its own.

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Leaders

He said it needed the help of other leaders and organisations.

The ANC had earlier called for the appointment of an independent commission of inquiry into the violence.

In its initial response to De Klerk's proposals, the ANC said they did not address the question of violence as raised in the movement's open letter to the State President.

The organisation added that its national executive committee would respond "in full in due course" to proposals of a peace summit.

Inquiry

A draft Bill providing details of the commission of inquiry proposed by De Klerk is expected in Parliament this week.

Before leaving for Europe at the weekend, De Klerk confirmed that he had discussed the proposals with ANC deputy president Mr Nelson Mandela.

De Klerk said Man-

dela had given the undertaking that the ANC would study the proposals. He said Mandela did not reject the summit outright. â€ˆâ€ˆâ€ˆ

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Ivor Powtll

SADF undercover agent Nico Basson went into hiding this week after he was charged under the Protection of Information Act.

His dramatic disappearance came after the Sunday Star published his claim that the Government ran an Info-style campaign to boost its policies, using funds allocated for "special projects".

This week police officers armed with search warrants swooped on the Sunday Star offices.

Charles Leonard and I were forced to hand over notes of interviews with Mr Basson. We did so under protest. Police also took me to my home in Johannesburg to fetch a tape recording of an interview with Mr Basson.

Receipts were issued for the material seized.

Mr Basson telephoned the Sunday Star shortly before he went underground. and said: "There are strange things going on. I can't talk now. but I'll let you know when I can."

On Friday a message was conveyed that he was "safe".

In Interviews with the Sunday Star." Mr Basson claimed he had slanted facts in favour of the SADF while he was on the SADF's payroll in Nami-

bia for 13 months.

The Namibian allegations were published by the Sunday Star four weeks ago, after Mr Basson had won an undisclosed out-of-court settlement from the SADF for breach of contract and back pay for his Namibian activities.

Last week the SADF was asked to comment on Mr Basson's Info allegations - and the charge against him followed almost immediately.

Instead of commenting, SADF spokesman Rlaan Louw announced that Mr Basson had been charged under the Protection of Information Act - and said publication of the interview would also be illegal.

â– But lawyers acting for the Sunday Star were adamant that publication of Mr Basson's Info allegations would not be an offence. In addition, they said, publication would be in the public Interest.

Earlier. Mr Basson provided names of several journalists he alleged were connected with publications which ran articles favourable

to the South African Government _____

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SADF 'info^spy

â€œ From Page 1

"In a nutshell, the SADF has radically departed from its task of defending the country's borders against enemy attacks. It has been transformed into a propaganda monster which controls the lives of millions through political indoctrination," Mr Basson said.

"Over a period of years I became aware of communications structures within the

Army and beyond it which are geared to sending the political

particular direction."

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â€¢ A network of Journalist-

Â£S't'itb on im-

portant South African newspapers and other publications.

JA'1'Â«Uan force unit in the "under the control of Military Intelligence. Saltie (SA Lej-rtroepe Informasie Jienneid), Is officially used for preparing in-house publications, but Mr Basson claimed many of its members had been

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goes into hiding

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recruited by Military Intelligence to work as agents in civilian media-related jobs.

â€¢ Propaganda units within Military Intelligence whose job it was to spread disinformation.

â€¢ Front companies covertly sponsored by the military's secret projects payroll to disseminate pro-Government propaganda.

â€¢ Supposedly independent political organisations funded by the SADF propaganda network as part of a divide-and-rule strategy to act as a buffer

against liberation movements.

â€¢ Current affairs propaganda magazines and pro-Government political books secretly funded by taxpayers' money.

Mr Basson also said a select group of right-wing Americans with South African Government contacts had written reports for publications connected to both the SADF and the Government.

One of the Military Intelligence Info campaigns had been to smear the image of Winnie Mandela, said Mr Basson.

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