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TO: The Commission on
the Demarcation/
Delimitation of Regions

DATE/DATUM: 2/7/93

ORIGINALS: ~~TO FOLLOW~~ NOT TO FOLLOW
OORSPRONKLIKES: ~~VOLG~~ VOLG NIE

FAX NO:
FAKSNR.: 011-3972105

NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW THIS PAGE:
AANTAL BLADSYE NA HIERDIE BLADSY: 2

SUBJECT: Proposals relating to the Boundaries of
ONTWERP: Regions

MESSAGE:

FROM: J. Paley

To the Commission on the Demarcation/Delimitation of Regions

PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE BOUNDARIES OF REGIONS:-

1.0 The Planning Regions:-

There seems to be general consensus that the planning regions should serve as the basis for the new "second tier" government regional boundaries..

The planning regions distinguish between two kinds of areas:-

- (a) metropolitan areas
- (b) other areas.

Only one metropolitan area is recognised - the PWV.

2.0 Urbanisation:-

Broadly speaking, the urbanisation process is the most important socio-economic challenge facing South Africa for the foreseeable future.

In the past, South Africa sought to prevent the process by "propping up" the farmers, enforcing the pass laws, creating labour based administrations in the rural areas (the SGT's and TBVC states) and attempting to induce industry to move out of the metropolises. These expensive efforts not only failed but deprived the metropolises of vital resources needed to adapt to their roles as the true engines of the SA economy.

The trek of the rural people "to the cities" has largely been confined to the four metropolises:-

- (a) The PWV
- (b) The Cape Town/Paarl functional region
- (c) The Durban functional region
- (d) The Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage functional region.

The migration, settlement and employment patterns in the metropolises differ substantially from metropole to metropole. Nobody realistically believes that the planning and development of the infrastructure and social services of the metropolises can be dealt with by a single central government. To split these duties between a "regional/provincial" government and a "metropolitan" government or, even worse, "regional/provincial", "metropolitan" and "local" governments is a recipe for disaster.

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Should the planning regions as presently drawn serve as a basis of "second tier" administration, only the PWV is assured of a rational infrastructure and social service structure. The other three metropolises would be condemned to an unco-ordinated division of power not much different from the present in the area of the economy which can ill-afford a luxury of that kind.

Their problems will be addressed partly by a "provincial/regional" administration representing the vastly different interests of the rural districts and small towns which may frequently "pull against" the interests of the metropole, its newly urbanised population and the commerce and industry which must be established in the metropolises if South Africa is to be viable in the short term and prosperous in the long term.

- * It is vital if the metropolises are to thrive that they be given the maximum autonomy to cope with their own problems in a rational administrative manner.
- * Not only the PWV but also the other three metropolises should be given full regional status with complete control over the local authorities, education, welfare etc in their region.

3.0 The Boundaries of Metropolitan Regions:-

I can only speak with some authority on the possible metropolitan boundaries of Greater Durban. The boundaries of the Port Natal/Ebhodwe JSB appear reasonably adequate in both the west and south. The northern boundary is not a rational metropolitan boundary as it embraces vast tracts of agricultural land for which no metropolitan government should be responsible. The most likely areas of expansion of the Durban metropole are likely to be to the south and the west and there appears no good demographic, legal or economic reason for including the northern rural territories in the metropolitan region.

It can be reasonably anticipated that the four metropolises will continue to expand and that any boundaries drawn today will prove to be inadequate in a relatively short space of time.

- * The central administration should retain the power to extend the boundaries of the four metropolitan regions as and when the metropolises expand to meet demographic and economic realities.

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JM PALEY, BA, LLB

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Status: Legal Adviser, City of Durban.
25th June, 1993

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