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maak PHILLIPS SECRETARY WORKING GROUP 2 -CONSTITUTIONAL

Earthlgfe Africa Surban is spearheading a campaign for tha  
right Eo know. This follows attempts by Earthlife Africa to  
obtaing data regarding pollution issues from the authorities,  
due tcf collusion between thea autheritias and industry we were  
unablagtq obtain data.

Bcuth Pfrica has no Freedom of [nformation CÂçlauses, mor a  
Bill Rights that inciudes Human Rights, Workers Rights ar  
Envirafmantal Rights in tha praesent constitution, this needs  
to rveckified.

In order to engure tnrat the environment is ineluded im the  
proce we have initiated a series of meetings to inform the  
publi and to seek support of the broad community. At thea  
first Meeting heid on 20 February 1992 held in Durban, the  
concepkl of taking the Canpaign to Codesa wae eandersed. It was  
also cided that the final submission must bs andorsad at a  
future) meeting to se held in late March early April. This must

be done to ensure that the process is democratic and that we have a mandate for each demand or submission.

We are basing our campaign on the American Freedom of Information Act and the UNCED Principle 11 of the Stockholm Declaration of 1972. To facilitate debate we have chosen the following extract as a foundation for a Discussion document

"Recognition by state of their responsibility to ensure an adequate environment for present as well as future generations is an important step towards sustainable development. However, progress will also be facilitated by the recognition of, for example, the right of individuals to know and have access to current information on the state of the environment and natural resources, the right to be consulted and to

not throw this away, paper can be composted, or better still, recycled

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participate in decision making or activities likely to have significant effect upon the environment and the right to legal remedies and redress for those whose health or environment has been seriously affected."

This is in the process of being networked with organisations, and we hope to have an answer by mid March. Due to time constraints placed on us by Codesa we request that you allow this democratic process to continue, and will allow us time to continue with this important aspect of the development of a new constitution for South Africa.

The campaign has the support of the following organisations in principle

The Industrial Health Unit (IHU), Chemical Workers Industrial Union (CWIU), Library and Information Workers Organisation, Durban Civic Forum, Berga Residents Association, LEAF, Environmental Law Association, Institute of Environmental Law, SARA, Richards Bay Pollution Liaison Committee and the Merewent Ratepayers Association.

We hope that the above information meets with your requirements and we look forward to your reply.

Yours in the struggle for a clean and just environment,

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BRYAN ASHE  
Coordinator  
Earthlife Africa Durban