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South Africa-De Klerk, 3rd Ld-Writethru,0441  
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By GREG MYRE

Associated Press Writer

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) - President F.W. de Klerk called Friday for the "end of an era" by repealing all major apartheid laws. Right-wing white lawmakers stormed out of Parliament in protest as the president spoke.

Thousands of blacks and others marched outside Parliament and in cities across the country to demand the immediate abolition of apartheid and formation of a multiracial government.

De Klerk, in the speech opening the new session of Parliament, said the government would propose scrapping the last three major pillars of apartheid -- the Group Areas Act, the land acts and modifying the Population Registration Act in preparation for its abolition.

"The repeal of these last remaining discriminatory laws will bring us to the end of an era, an era in which it was sought to deal with the reality of a diversity of peoples ... by means of discriminatory coercion," he said.

"However, the removal of discrimination and coercion does not alter the reality of the existence of a variety of peoples and communities," he said.

De Klerk's speech triggered a walkout among outraged lawmakers of the pro-apartheid Conservative Party, the official opposition party. Conservative Party lawmakers interrupted de Klerk's speech, walking out of the chamber as the parliamentary speaker roared, "Order, order."

De Klerk, pausing during the walkout, appeared unperturbed and continued with his speech. State television said it was the first time in South Africa a party had walked out in protest during the opening of Parliament.

"All the people of our land shall participate at all levels of government on the basis of universal adult franchise," de Klerk said.

However, he rejected calls for a multiracial interim government. He said the white-led government would remain in power until a new constitution is negotiated with the African National Congress and other opposition groups.

De Klerk called for scrapping of the Group Areas Act, which segregates residential areas along racial lines, the Land Acts regulating land ownership rights along racial lines and the Population Registration Act, which makes South Africans register in separate racial groups.

He said the registration act would be phased out as a new constitution is put into place.

"Should Parliament adopt the government's proposals, the South African statute book will be devoid, within months, of the remnants of racially discriminatory legislation," he said.

De Klerk's National Party controls Parliament and repeal of the remaining apartheid laws during the upcoming session appears certain.

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As de Klerk spoke, at least 10,000 protesters calling for the end of the white-minority government marched peacefully through Cape Town as part of nationwide protests by black opposition groups. Many protesters wore the ANC's black, green and gold colors.

ANC leader Walter Sisulu and other anti-apartheid activists marched at the front of the chanting column as heavily armed police stood watch. Protesters carried placards calling for a constituent assembly to form a new multi-racial government.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela was to lead the march, but did not appear because of doctors' concerns that it would be too tiring for him.

Thousands of blacks stayed away from work Friday in Cape Town, Johannesburg and other cities as part of an ANC campaign for the immediate end of apartheid.

Authorities in Cape Town and Johannesburg said many blacks appeared to be taking part in the absenteeism, but had no figures.

De Klerk's speech, coming one year after he stunned the world by promising to end apartheid, represented another major step towards his promise of sharing power with the black majority.

But scrapping the last of the apartheid laws does not resolve the country's black-white political conflict. De Klerk has stressed a new power sharing constitution will have to be negotiated before the government gives up power, but he did give few details of the system that he envisages.

He said the government would offer a plan to take the country into a future without apartheid where blacks and whites would share political power.

De Klerk said during negotiations, which are expected to take up to two years, there would be "transitional arrangements" that would give black opposition groups "a voice in the formulation of important policy decisions."

**END**





# PRESS

## RELEASE

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### DE KLERK STILL WANTS TO BE REFEREE AND PLAYER

Commenting on FW De Klerk's speech today, Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, President of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, said :

I welcome the impending repeal of apartheid laws. But I am deeply concerned at the fact that no repeal of the Internal Security Act - the key instrument of political repression - is intended. This casts a shadow over the peace process. It will prejudice the prospects for a genuinely democratic transformation of South Africa.

Thousands of political prisoners and exiles, opponents of apartheid, will be gravely disappointed that nothing was said today about speeding up the processes to allow them to take full part in the debate about the country's future. President De Klerk has agreed to their release and return, and he has not fulfilled his promises.

In short, Mr De Klerk has not addressed the concerns of the ANC and the international community about removing the obstacles to negotiations.

It is also most regrettable that President De Klerk has spurned the very reasonable proposals made by the ANC, churches and other democratic forces for a Constituent Assembly to draw up a new constitution, and an interim government to oversee the transition.

Mr De Klerk is still trying to be both referee and player in the negotiating process.

In Mr De Klerk's proposed Manifesto, the South African authorities appear to have accepted most of the basic principles of the Freedom Charter. But their reluctance to remove the obstacles to negotiations and their refusal to allow the process of change to be democratic underline the need for continued international pressure.

I therefore call upon the British government and the whole international community to intensify pressure on the South African regime to remove the remaining obstacles to negotiation, and to recognise that the more democratic the process of negotiations, the better will be the prospects for real freedom and lasting peace.