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ANC RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT DE KLERK AWARDING MR STUART WEAVING
THE ORDER OF GOOD HOPE

The African National Congress is appalled at the gross insensitivity of President De Klerk to award the Order of Good Hope to Mr Stuart Weaving, ostensibly for his "contribution towards the well being of the people of South Africa". Over the past twenty five years Mr Weaving earned the dubious distinction as one of the staunchest international supporters and promoters of apartheid.

During the PW Botha era, when thousands of anti-apartheid activists were incarcerated and tortured in South African jails and detention centres, Mr Weaving did not once raise a word of concern.

Instead he and the Friends of the Springbok continued to promote South Africa as "one of the best and friendliest countries".

President De Klerk claims that he has built a "new" National Party which shed apartheid and racism. It is remarkable that he continues to consider a well-known international promoter of racism, such as Mr Weaving, worthy of the NP government's highest award to citizens of other countries.

The black people of South Africa, remain victims of National Party arrogance and racism, know that there is no truth to non-racial windowdressing, and offers of a place in the sun, of the so-called new NP.

The fact that the National Party considers persons such as Mr Weaver worthy of special recognition only confirms this.

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The People Shall Govern!

The NP cannot be prevented from handing out awards to their apartheid friends. The ANC would, however, urge President De Klerk not to insult the people of South Africa by trying to create the impression that the Order of Good Hope is presented to Mr Weaving' on behalf of all South Africans. This is a blatant misrepresentation, similar to President De Klerk's claim in the USA that he is the leader of all South Africans. One hoped that the ridicule with which this claim was met by newspapers such as the New York Times and the Washington Post would have prevented President De Klerk from making the same mistake again.

However it seems that the NP is slow to learn, just as they are slow to change or shed friends who acted as apologists for apartheid.

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