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NATIONAL CONGRESS

Phone: 834-5301/8, Third Floor, Munich Re Centre, 54 Sauer St., Johannesburg 2000.

JOINT STATEMENT

MEETING BETWEEN ANC AND INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY DELEGATIONS

A meeting took place this evening between National Executive Committee members of the ANC who constitute a special sub-committee to look into the Natal violence, and a delegation of the Central Committee of Inkatha Freedom Party.

This was a historic meeting and the first between such high-ranking officials of both organisations since the London meeting of 1979.

Matters discussed were in the main exploratory in nature and each party sought to understand the other party's stance whilst explaining its own,

Naturally, the issue of violence in Natal and elsewhere in the country was top on the agenda and reports of the various local initiatives to diffuse it came under the spotlight. As the matters discussed were so grave, vital and urgent, the meeting is due to continue again on 26 September, 1990.

ANC DELEGATION: John Nkadimeng, T Nkobi, J Zuraa, J Nhlanhla, G Shope(Mrs), Joel Netshitenzhe

IFP DELEGATION: F T Mdlalose, D R B Madide, E S E Sithebe, V B Ndlovu, E T Bhengu(Mrs), Musa Zondi,

N Nkchii

19th September, 1990

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Chris Hani and Ronnie Kasrils, both members of the NEC, was also noted.

The NEC noted the veritable avalanche of charges, emerging from every area that has been affected by this wave of violence, to the effect that the South African Police and the SADF have adopted a partial attitude in favour of the vigilante aggressors in almost all instances of violence. The Report of the Goldstone Commission on the March 22nd massacre in Sebokeng confirms our belief that internal departmental inquiries conducted by the Police and the Defence Force do not deserve public confidence. The ANC therefore calls for an independent judicial commission inquiry, with adequate terms of reference, to investigate the numerous charges levelled against the state's security organs.

The NEC also adopted a recommendation made by the Joint ANC-COSATU Working Committee on Violence to conduct a national campaign to achieve greater public accountability on the part of the Police and other Security Services. This campaign shall be centred, inter alia, on demands for;

- (i) The establishment of an independent review body, equipped with powers to recommend action, to investigate complaints against the police.
- (ii) The establishment of a publicly devised code of conduct for all police personnel.
- (iii) The demilitarisation of the police.
- (iv) The limitation of police arms and weaponry to those adequate for normal law enforcement and the detection of crime.

Consistent with this view, the NEC calls for the immediate and visible disbandment of the various State murder squads such as the CCB, the Askaris, Koevoet and other mercenary formations such as Battalion 32. There should be full public disclosure of the future deployment of the personnel of these units, the distribution of its assets and its arms.

The extended NEC noted the century-old migrant labour system and the degradation and humiliations it imposes on a sizeable section of the African working class. These hostels and labour compounds were

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expressly designed to isolate the migrant labourers from the urban environment in which they work by segregating them in barrack-like conditions which permit neither privacy nor normal family life. This situation of stress has inevitably contributed to feelings of aggression and hostility which have on numerous occasions been cynically exploited by elements pursuing political agendas that are inimical to the best interests of the migrant workers and their fellow workers.

The speedy elimination of the migrant labour system should be regarded as one of the priority national tasks facing us as we strive towards a new South Africa. During the intermediate period the ANC demands that all labour compounds, single sex hostels and similar compounds be converted into decent living quarters, such as flats, to accommodate those who wish to live as single persons and those who wish to live as families.

In order to get to the root causes of the violence and to secure peace among the people the extended NEC resolved to convene a meeting with all homeland leaders, including Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, to devise a joint strategy for ending the violence and measures to prevent any possible future outbreaks.

The ANC, in cooperation with its allies wiii, at the earliest possible date, also call a conference of the broadest spectrum of anti-apartheid and democratic forces with a view to discussing a common strategy to combat the forces of destabilisation and violence.

In order that they can mount effective defence, the extended NEC encourages all our people in the areas affected by vigilante violence to organise themselves for purposes of self-defence.

The meeting instructed the NEC of the ANC to seek an early summit with the South African government to discuss the gravity of the situation and to bring to the government's attention our profound anxieties regarding the future and integrity of the peace process. In this regard, the NEC is instructed to demand that the government take the necessary measures to put an end to the activities of all irregular, pro-apartheid armed groups and forces such as the

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African National Congress Press Release. 20th September 1990.

The National Executive Committee of the African National Congress, met in extended session from Tuesday 18th September until shortly afternoon today, 20(h September.

The extended NEC meeting, which included representatives of COSATU, the UDF, members of the Interim Leadership and representatives of all sixteen regions, was convened as a matter of urgency to review the ANC's strategic and tactical perspectives in view of the current wave of violence that has visited so much death, injury and misery on the African townships of the Reef.

The meeting received an extensive report from the Joint National Working Committee on Violence, comprising representatives of the ANC, COSATU and the UDF; and discussed a Strategy Document prepared under the auspices of the Political Committee.

The meeting noted that while the South African government is evidently committed to political change in South Africa, it is becoming clear that it would prefer that change occurs on terms most favourable to itself. In pursuance of that objective, the government has adopted a two-track policy which, on the one hand, accepts the need to negotiate a settlement of our country's problems while, on the other hand, devising stratagems to weaken the ANC and other democratic formations.

The government has,consequently, adopted a laissez faire attitude towards the violence in Natal and in the Transvaal with the hope that it will generate a climate of insecurity, fear and terror and thus make a decisive majority of our people more amenable to an authoritarian regime.

The ANC condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the violence that has been unleashed against the people of the townships in Natal and the Transvaal by the combined forces of elements of the security services and Inkatha vigilantes and emphasizes that the ongoing violence poses an immediate threat to the entire process of peaceful

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vigilantes, right-wing paramilitary formations and the covert armed wing of Inkatha.

During its final session the meeting received news of the successful exploratory meeting, held in Durban on the evening of 19th September, between members of the NEC and members of the Central Committee of Inkatha. The NEC welcomes this development and congratulates the participants, from both organisations, for the excellent work they have commenced.

The meeting concluded by sending a message of greetings to Comrade President O.K. Tambo and expressed its collective confidence that his continuing recovery will enable him to attend the forthcoming ANC National Conference scheduled for December 1990.

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transition. Though the ANC has a profound and unwavering commitment to in peace our country, we warn the South African government that, unless the government is seen to be taking appropriate measures to apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators of this violence, it will have to assume full responsibility for the derailing of the peace process .

It was the unanimous opinion of the NEC that the measures announced by State President De Klerk on Wednesday 19th September and those threatened by General Erasmus of the South African Police on Saturday 15th September, are designed to abridge the civil liberties of the African population on the Reef, repress legitimate political activity, reintroduce the State of Emergency by guile, and not to bring an end to the violence or track down its organisers and instigators.

We are obliged to draw the attention of the South African people and the international community to the act of bad faith committed by State President De Klerk in his most recent actions. It is a matter of record that pursuant of the adoption of the Pretoria Minute, a joint Government / ANC Working Group was established to devise mutually acceptable principles for the implementation of a cease-fire. Among the numerous tasks with which this Working Group was charged was the disposition of the arms and other weapons in the possession of the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto weSizwe. The State President has deliberately undermined this Working Group by pre-emptively criminalising the possession of such weapons. We cannot but interpret this as a measure directed against the ANC and its underground military structures. It does nothing to build mutual confidence between the ANC and the government.

The meeting unanimously condemned the continued detention of members of the ANC and the democratic movement, including our colleague, Comrade Mac Maharaj, under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act. We shall hold the South African government accountable for any harm or injuries these comrades incur while in its custody. The attitude of the government with regard to these anti-apartheid fighters and leaders contrasts sharply with the concern it displays in relation to detainees of the White ultra-right. The refusal of the South African government to extend indemnity to Comrades