Addendum El

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DMC/PRESS STATEMENT/24 FEBRUARY

CODESA PRESS STATEMENT: 24 FEBRUARY 1992

We dare not turn our back on history

We are gathered here at CODESA to find a way towards a new democratic South Africa. The door is open to all political groupings to join us in the knowledge that they are free to advance any view consistent with democracy in our effort to reach a just negotiated settlement.

It is only through the process of frank discussion and negotiation that a peaceful road can be found to build a future in which all our people can work together to create a life of peace, justice and security for all.

It is only through this process that we can begin to seek an answer to satisfy the just aspirations of our diverse peoples in their quest to assert and to protect their cultural, language and religious rights.

We declare that there is no unbridgeable gap between unity and diversity. All of us here are committed to seeking a route of individual freedom; a route without domination of one group over another within our common border.

There is no other way for South Africa to find its rightful place among the comity of nations in our interdependent world.

There is no other way to avoid a future of turmoil, unending strife and economic collapse for every inhabitant of our land.

All South Africans - black and white - stand at the crossroads. The negotiation process is not just an option; there is no alternative. The choice before us is either to participate in it or to move inexorably towards the nightmare of chaos and civil war. -
We dare not turn our backs on history. We appeal to all in our land who value the future of themselves and their children to support the process of negotiation that has been started at CODESA.

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KODESA MEDIAVERKLARING: 24 FEBRUARIE 1992

Ons durf nie ons rug op hierdi kiedkundige oomblik draai nie

Ons vergader in KODESA om die pad na â\200\231n nuwe, demokratiese Suid-Afrika te verken. Die deur is oop vir alle politieke groeperinge om by ons aan te sluit, in die wete dat hulle enige voorstelle versoenbaar met die demokrasie kan maak in die soeke na â\200\231n regverdige, onderhandelde skikking.

Dit is slegs deur â\200\231n proses van reguit praat en onderhandel dat â\200\231n vreedsame weg gevind sal word om â\200\231n toekoms te bou waarin al ons mense kan saamwerk om vrede, geregtigheid en sekuriteit vir almal te verseker.

Dit is slegs deur hierdie proses dat ons kan begin om antwoorde te soek om die , ; geregverdigde aansprake van ons verskeidenheid van volkere te bevredig in hulle strewe om.â\200\235 hulle kulturele-, taal- en godsdiensregte te vestig en te beskerm.

Ons verklaar dat daar nie â\200\231n onoorbrugbare kloof tussen eenheid en verskeidenheid is nie. Almal van ons is verbind daartoe om die pad na die vryheid van die individu te vind; â\200\231n pad sonder die oorheersing van een groep oor â\200\231n ander binne ons gemeenskaplike grense.

Daar is vir Suid-Afrika geen ander manier om in die interafhanklike wÃ©reld waarin ons leef, sy regmatige plek in die galery van nasies in te neem nie.

Daar is ook geen ander manier om â\200\231n toekoms van wanorde, aanhoudende konflik en ekonomiese verval vir elke inwoner van ons land te voorkom nie.

Alle Suid-Afrikaners - swart en wit - staan by â\200\231n kruispad. Die onderhandelingsproses is nie maar net â\200\231n opsie nie; daar is geen alternatief nie. Die keuse wat ons konfronteer, is om of daaraan deel te neem of om onafwendbaar op â\200\231n afgrond van chaos en burgeroorlog af te stuur.

Ons mag nie hierdie geskiedkundige oomblik die rug keer nie. Ons doen â\200\231n beroep op almal

in ons land wat hul eie toekoms en die van hulle kinders op die hart dra, om die proses van onderhandeling wat by KODESA begin is, te ondersteun.

Uitgereik deur die Voorsitter van die Bestuurskomitee van KODESA, mnr. Pravin Gordhan.

Goedgekeur deur die Bestuurskomitee van KODESA op â\200\231n vergadering op 24 Februarie 1992.

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