

SUBMISSION BY THE UNITED PEOPLE'S FRONT ON VIOLENCE

INTRODUCTION

IT IS THE VIEW OF THE UNITED PEOPLE'S FRONT THAT THE BEST RESULTS OF ANY DISCUSSION CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED WHEN CONDUCTED UNDER A CLIMATE WHICH IS PEACEFUL AND STABLE. WE ARE THEREFORE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SPIRAL OF VIOLENCE THAT CONTINUES TO INSTILL TERROR AMONG PEOPLE AND DELAYS THE PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION IN THE COUNTRY. AS A REMEDY WE WISH TO URGE THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE TO USE THE NATIONAL PEACE ACCORD SIGNED IN SEPTEMBER 1991 AS A PRIMARY INSTRUMENT TO RESTORE PEACE AMONGST OUR PEOPLE. WE FURTHER WISH TO POINT OUT TO THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE THAT AS THE POLITICAL PROCESS OF CHANGE CONTINUES TO UNFOLD CONFIDENCE AND CERTAINTY WILL RETURN TO THE SOCIETY AND THESE WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANTLY POSITIVE EFFECTS TOWARDS PEACE. PEACE CAN THEREFORE RETURN AS WE EXPEDITE CHANGE IN THE COUNTRY.

IN THE VIEW OF THE UPF, THERE ARE NUMEROUS CAUSES OF VIOLENCE, PRINCIPAL OF WHICH ARE THE FOLLOWING:-

POLITICAL INTOLERANCE

WITHOUT POLITICAL TOLERANCE, MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANISATIONS WOULD CONTINUE TO VICTIMIZE EACH OTHER. IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY FOR THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO FAMILIARIZE THEIR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE NATIONAL PEACE ACCORD AND TO TAKE IT UPON THEMSELVES TO EDUCATE THEIR MEMBERS AND FOLLOWERS ON THE NEED FOR FREE POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

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THE EFFECTS OF APARTHEID

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE POLICY OF APARTHEID HAS RAVAGED THE SOCIAL FABRIC OF THIS COUNTRY. APARTHEID IS VIOLENT IN NATURE. APARTHEID COULD ONLY BE SUSTAINED THROUGH VIOLENT COERCION. DESPITE THE REMOVAL OF CERTAIN DISCRIMINATORY LEGISLATION, THE EFFECTS OF APARTHEID ON THE GROUND STILL SUBSIST. IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT A MASSIVE SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME BE EMBARKED UPON AS PROPOSED BY THE NATIONAL PEACE ACCORD.

THE SLOW PACE OF THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS

THE SLOW PACE AT WHICH THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS PROCEEDS INSTILLS IN THE MIND OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY A FEELING OF UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHICH DIRECTION THE PROCESS IS GOING. IT IS THEREFORE INCUMBENT UPON ALL OF US TO PROCEED AS SPEEDILY AS POSSIBLE TOWARDS A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

DISTABILISATION ACTIVITIES

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE FEELING OF A LARGE SEGMENT OF OUR SOCIETY THAT THE VIOLENCE THAT CONTINUE TO SWEEP OUR COUNTRY IS THE PRODUCT OF DELIBERATE ORCHESTRATION FROM CERTAIN QUARTERS. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN FELT THAT THERE IS A THIRD FORCE IN PLAY HERE. OTHERS DISMISSED THIS VIEW AS A FIGMENT OF OUR IMAGINATION. BUT EVIDENCE HAS, IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS, BEGUN TO EMERGE IN SUPPORT OF THIS VIEW.

THE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM IS TO ATTEMPT AS HARD AS POSSIBLE, TO IDENTITY THIS NEFARIOUS FORCE, ISOLATE IT AND REFUSE TO HAVE THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS DERAILED THEREBY BY MOVING AS FAST AS POSSIBLE TOWARDS A SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF OUR CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS.

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IN CONCLUSION, THE UPF URGES THAT THE STRUCTURES SET UP BY THE NATIONAL PEACE ACCORD BE STRENGTHENED AND THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE NATIONAL PEACE ACCORD BE MADE ENFORCEABLE AGAINST TRANSGRESSORS.

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