

BMR 102/0097/31

Fonds voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking

Fonds pour la coopération au développement — Fund for development cooperation — Fondo para la cooperación al desarrollo — Fundo de cooperação ao desenvolvimento

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ANC
c/o Sisa Ngumbane
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Dear Sisa,

The fact-finding mission of Flemish social partners (see brief outline in annexe 1) that I mentioned enjoys more interest than I initially expected. Ten participants from universities, trade unions, NGO's will participate in it (see Annexe 4). We have received high level support from within the trade union movement for this mission. The Christian Workers' Movement - an umbrella body (the largest in the country) consisting of the christian trade union movement, women's, youth and other social organisations - has delegated its president, Mr Theo Rombouts, to the participating group. Furthermore, the international secretary to the Belgian Socialist Trade Union Federation (FGTB/ABVV) Jos Janssens, and the vice-president of Wereldsolidariteit (ACW-linked NGO) will be part of the mission. Other participants include the director of the Higher Institute for Labour (Catholic University of Leuven - interest in education), the Secretary General to the Socialist Health Insurance Organisation, a representative of the largest farmers' association in Belgium, the secretary of the Justice and Peace Commission.

The mission of politicians, however, has been postponed due to a political crisis which led to early elections. That mission will most probably take place at the beginning of December.

The major object of these missions will be to "evaluate progress towards a non-racial democracy" using the UN Declaration on Apartheid as a yardstick. We agree with Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa, that such critical evaluation is of vital importance in this transition phase. I would like you to have a look at my list of suggestions. I am in the process of distilling a programme that is somehow ballancing various concerns:

- the general concern of coming to terms with the socio-economic legacies of apartheid,
- and of formulating recommendations to various Belgian constituencies, government departments,
- the concern to balance academic expose, political opinion, and "exposure" to some striking aspects of the South African reality.

There are some specific concerns that are related to the participants' interests or backgrounds:

- labour, labour related issues, trade unions,

- the state of the economy, economic policy options by various organisations
- health
- education
- land

When in South Africa in July, I already had a first contact with Cde Saki Makozoma, who welcomed the initiative and suggested a procedure whereby I would contact the Brussels ANC office as well as keeping him informed on the programme and demands towards the ANC. I hope that you can assist us both with your comments on the programme and in the practical preparations, i.e. communicating with the ANC in Johannesburg.

Thanks to the assistance of Paul Jourdan of the NUM we already have a first meeting on 11/11 - 9.30 with the Department of Economic Planning (Max Sisulu). <I still have to confirm this in writing> We also would appreciate to include Mr Thabo Mbeki in the programme. Since this is the first fact finding exercise from Belgium, and since particular attention will be given to its findings, we also hope that the ANC President Nelson Mandela and/or Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa will meet the delegation.

Annexe 1 summarises some of the persons and organisations that I would like to include in the programme to have a balanced fact finding operation. Annexe 2 summarises briefly the purpose of the project South Africa 2000. Annexe 3 provides you with the names of the participants.

I intend to follow this procedure:

- contact in writing SACBC (Jude Pieterse), NUM (Paul Jourdan), Kagiso Trust (Erik Molobi, Steve McGarry, Achmat Dangor), Jean De La Harpe, Shirley Moulder, IDASA (David Screen), ANC-Brussels Francois Bill for their **comments and suggestions**
- make first contacts by phone from Brussels
- on 3/11 I will most probably arrive in Johannesburg from where I can continue preparations until Saturday 9/11.
- I am cooperating with Merle Jawitz who will assist me in Johannesburg: 011-7264868.

We welcome the ANC's suggestions and assistance to this fact finding operation which, we hope, will contribute to the struggle for a democratic and non-racial South Africa.

yours,

Jan Vanheukelom - Africa desk

FOS

secretary to South Africa 2000

Annexe 1
Core programme - SOUTH AFRICA 2000

- Sunday 10/11: arrival - British Airways: 8.35, Luxavia: 7.15
hotel - 10.30 am briefing secretariat
13.00 - 18.00 first exposure