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NORSK ARR A.S

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The final time table for the visit of Nelson Mandela to Norway says that he will only have time for the participation in popular arrangements in Oslo on our National Day - May the 17th.

This of course creates some limitations due to the traditional unrolling of the celebration of the National Day, but at the same time it gives a positive basis with May 17th as our day of freedom.

Unfortunately It seems that Mandela arrives in Oslo too late for being the guest of honour that we wanted him to be in connection with the big parade of the . National Day. A torchlight procession as a broad popular tribute to Nelson Mandela in the evening of May 17th is on the other hand impossible due to both practical and other reasons.

This however does not mean that we must leave out a broad popular tribute that Nelson Mandela and the cause he represents deserves. We must only adjust ourselves to the very day on which it must take place.

We therefore propose that we take contact to the leadership of the sixth formers in Oslo. in Norwegian "Ftussen" . to discuss with them an arrangement in the afternoon around 4 pm. in which the sixth formers of Oslo should be the core of a tribute of the youth to Mandela and to the ideas of freedom. This arrangement may also be broadened by cooperating actively with the LNU (the umbrella body of the Norwegian youth organizations) in general and the pupils organizations N68 and YLI in particular.

Where to have such an arrangement and what should be the exact

. programme and organizational framework of it. must be discussed a bit later.

For more reasons it should be a striking and short event, lasting for some 30 minutes. We are convinced that such an event could be a very successful and dignified manifestation in the afternoon of (precisely) May the 17th.

The celebration meeting in the evening of course also must be adjusted due to the fact that it is the National Day. We therefore strongly recommend that the meeting is arranged with two different parts;

LO (Norwegian Trade Unions) has booked the great hall of Folkets Hus

(the People's House) for the arrangement, and that is of course the right place as well for a celebration meeting of this kind. We propose to start the meeting at 6 p. m.

The first part should be the official celebration meeting, and last for a maximum of 2 hours (from 6 to latest 8 p.m.). This time limitation is now even more important because of the fact that it is the National Day.

The main speech of Nelson Mandela should then last for some 25 minutes, and in addition the prime minister or the minister of foreign affairs should make a shorter speech of welcome.

Beside of that we effectively have to limit the number of persons to use the rostrum for making separate speeches. As we earlier have proposed. both the solidarity movement (Felleeradet). the National Trade Unions (LO), the Norwegian Church and the Norwegian Employer's Federation (NHO) in the one or the other way i should be able to "have the word". in addition we should also think about the National Sport Association (Norges Icfettstorbund). that has been standing firm on a positive decision on boycott.

As far as NHO is concerned, we know that some friends act negatively. That we understand. it one primarily is concerned with the past. We however now mean that the most important thing is to look forward. When a democratic South Africa is to be built. we regard it to be political right in connection with the visit of Nelson Mandela also to positively commit the business life of Norway as far as the future Norwegian economical cooperation and support to the new South Africa is concerned.

We have therefore thought about the idea that eventually LO and NHO jointly could be the host for the celebration meeting.

To limit the time for speeches we still think that the way of interviewing some of the representatives and show it on the big screen in the Hall should be used. If we accept 6 - 7 persons to enter the rostrum, we will not be able to keep to the necessary time schedule. and the celebration meeting should also not have an interesting content.

It is most important to find a good chairman for the meeting. We propose Mr Arve Telleisen from Artists against apartheid as a right person for the task. And very well as a chairman with the fiddle.

During the official part we will not have time for more than 3 - 4 cultural contributions. and these contributions must both fit with the political content of the arrangement and have a most broad appeal to a public of different ages.

Some proposals here are:

- The folkrock; singer Biørn Eidsvåg with a large choir (why not a combination of the Oslo Gospel Choir and 3 - 4 socialist choirs ?)
- The vocal quartet Ballade with Lillebjørn Nilsen, Birgitta Grimstad, Ase Kleveland and Lars Klevtand (as alternative the song quartet of Guitarkameratene)
- The poet Jan Erik Vold

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The second part of the celebration meeting (from about 8 pm.) should be a more unofficial part where among others activists from the solidarity work for the last 25 years can find together (and a National Day - party for those who want to stay for some hours). Nelson Mandela and his company will hardly stay for this part. There should be nice live band music and some few shorter contributions by artists.

As for the mobilization and PR work we refer to our previous note. although the plans must be somehow adjusted because of the National Day. We also think that the sale of entrance tickets partly must be done via a great number of organizations and partly via the Poet-Ticket system.

As far as the practical and organizational work of preparation is concerned, we find it necessary to underline that this now must be conducted very efficient. It is good to have a broad discussion on the general ideas and principles with different organizations and groups, but when the framework is fixed, there must be a very limited committee or working group that together with the ANC office has the responsibility for the fulfilment of all the tasks. Norsk Arr. is still ready to act as a professional secretariat for this committee if so is wanted.

Oslo, April the 7th . 1992

Norsk Arr.

Trond Jensen