

Foreign Policy Perspective
in a
Democratic
South Africa

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any international military blocs; peace and friendship amongst all our people shall be secured by upholding equal rights, opportunities and status for all....

The right of all the people of Africa to independence and self government shall be recognised, and shall lie the basis of 'close cooperation'. The essence of South Africa's foreign policy is to promote and protect the interests and values of its citizens. We prize our commitment to peace and to the promotion of human dignity in the far corners of the globe, but recognise that the security of our people and their yearning for a non-racial, non-sexist democracy also lies close to our foreign policy.

South Africa is both a trading and maritime nation; our international relations should actively seek to accentuate the significance of these by promoting the economic interests of all our people.

A democratic South Africa will actively promote the objectives of democracy, peace, stability, development and mutually beneficial relations among the people of Africa as a whole, as well as a Pan African solidarity. Grateful for the international solidarity which supported the anti-apartheid cause, a democratic South Africa will be in solidarity with all those whose struggle continues. South Africa's foreign relations will reflect our domestic character - a constitutional state bound by the rule of law.

THE PRINCIPLES OF SOUTH AFRICA'S FOREIGN POLICY

The events of the past few years have profoundly affected the international community. We believe, however, that the changes which have occurred have enabled us to enunciate seven principles which will guide our foreign policy.

- A belief in, and preoccupation with, Human Rights which extends beyond the political, embracing the economic, social and environmental;

A helielithztt just uml lustingr solutions to the problems ()l- lllllllim kiiir
um ()nlx' (-mne through the lmmiotimi ()l'l)em()eme)l worldwide:

- A heliei thut Justiee uml interiizttimml law should guide the relution
l)('hV(t(tH iltltlUllS;
- A heliel'thzit international peace is the goal to which all nations should
strive.

iVliere this breaks down. ilitemutionullyugret'(l peaceful mechanisms
to solve conflicts should he resorted to:

- A heliellthut our foreign p(ilit')"5h()llltl reflect the interests ()llthe c0ll-
tiiient' ()lij'tli'icu;
- A belief that South Al'riczlls economic development depends (in grow-
ing regional and internatioiml eemmmie cooperation in an indepen-
dent world:
- A heliel' that our lbreign relations must mirmr ()m' deep eommitment
t0 the consolidation ()i'u (lemoemtie South Al'riea.

The ending olhthe (Ioltl qui' helped to terminate :l series ()l'eonlliets. hut
new ones are Sltrltlt'lllg throughout the world: individually uml collective-
ly they present the international emmmmmity with new challenges. At the
smile time inereusingr glolml intertlepeiHlenee has opened up new oppor-
tunities mul new threats :l5 inequalities in international relations heeome
more ueeentuutetl.

The demise Oil the lililist-tl'est eoillliet hats enlmneetl the lnKlenleveloped
South 2lll(l the industrialized North. South Allrieu oeeupies it unique posi-
tion at this emillnenee ()ll world zlllltirs. tVe will strive to ensure that
increasingr glohitl economic ilitertlel)ell(leilee does not widen the division
between the South and the North. This goal is important because it
t(mehes upon the desire 0! our people tor iustietx lkn' human rights and
lor (lenioemey throughout the world. If. the gap between South and the
North Continues to widen. these ideals will collapse and the world will he

plunged into a new hipoi'ity As 11 001111t11 of the Smith , it is 11130 in our interest to ensure that the position of the countries of the Smith is not prejudiced iii the world ecml01111'.

Although 11 more dangerous place, the world dare not relinquish the c0111111it111e11t t0 11111111111 Rights. This has 11 Special signiieanee For South Africa; our struggle to end apartheid was 11 giohai (me and we believe that 11 change has enhanced the necessity for 111V()1'l(111'ide 11111111111 Rights e11111p11ig11. South Africa should and must play a central role in this eam-paign.

In the aftermath of the (101d 111111 1111 international cry has gone torth tor (1e111()ei'11e1. South Ah'iea will devote its energies to the 11ee()111111ish111e11t ()tithe (1e1110cratic ideals throughout the world. XVe are conscious, howev-er, that new (1(11111111ds (111 the ideal 0tdel110eraey have recently eillei'ged. 111 part, they arise From 1111 apparent rediseoveni of self - (1eterniination which in some easex undercuts the sovereignty of established nation - states. These (1ittering points of Views 1111derst1111d11hiy generate tension. Our hope is that this can he creatively settled within recognised regional and international tbi'a.

The changing nature of glohal society has increased the importance of the United Nations and other institutions in the search for peace. we recognise the times necessitate the redesigning of international organiza-tions. In accepting the importance ()iithis, we insist that their central role in the 11111111te111111ee ()tiinternational law dare not he devalued.

W e are conscious that Atrieas (rioh 111 position has heen 11111t111 attettt d h) the eild111r ()t the ((11d 11 111 ()111' ((111t111e11t and the tie still11 of its pew pie 11iii 110 hmgtr he subject to the1 11lg111ie s ()t supei p(111711'11111hl 1111(1 C(mthet. It will enjoy greater seiti-(leteril'lillati011. From 1111 economic per-spective, however the shift in attention 11117111 110111 Africa has grave illlpiieationsstor the further 111111'gin111isat1011 ()t'our continent.

A democratic South Aii'icak future is illextl'ieahi'l' illtel't11'illed with that of Africa. As the new and latest member ()I' the Organisation of African Unity, South Africa will have the opportunity to contribute towards the

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especially in relation to economic and social rights. The second stipulates the obligations of society towards individuals. We believe that this duality is important and creative in safeguarding human rights worldwide. We will actively participate in a range of multilateral fora . Amongst these, we regard the Commission on Human Rights and the Third Committee of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly as particularly important. We will both immediately accede to, and campaign on behalf of international conventions on the basis of need. There is a whole range of them covering important topics such as civil and political rights, economic and social rights, torture, women's and children's rights, racism and apartheid, refugees, the conduct of war and prisoner - of - war rights. When South Africa accedes to the Convention (in Civil and Political Rights) of 1966, we shall also accede to the Optional Protocol which will allow the Commission on Human Rights to receive individual applications for violations of Human Rights. In addition, we shall become a party to a number of Conventions produced by the International Labour Organisation protecting workers, indigenous people and children. As part of a general commitment to transparency in foreign affairs, the government will be required to present to the national parliament on an annual basis a list of conventions signed or discussed at the international level plus a statement on the full implications of such conventions for a domestic law. We recognise the importance of regional efforts to deal with human rights questions. Therefore, we look forward to acceding to the 1981 African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights - the Banjul Charter. Individual South Africans will be able to petition the Human Rights Commission and we will work actively for the strengthening of the African Charter. We will accept the ruling of the International Court of Justice as a statement of intent to settle all interstate disputes peacefully. We will take seriously our wider obligation on the human rights front. To this end South Africa will, co - operate fully with international human rights groups as we believe our own country should never again become the focus of international attention on human rights violations.

Human rights ('onovms will also inHumwv tlv slmpv of'ollr hilutvml rola-
tions. In this wv shall not he sylvctiuo nor. ill(1(''(1. lw ilhllid to misc
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THE ENVIRONNIENT

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nutionul vilixvn. South M l im (lure not avoid grappling with the future of
lllO mn'ironnwnt.

South Africa should ucvtpt both tllv spirit zuul tlv rH-onllnmulations of
the 1987 Bruntluml Rvport which was issnul 1)) HIV l'nitvd Nations
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'l'lu- ANC tlwrvlorv applauds llw H'commvndution of the UN (lvnvl'ul
.vasvay on HIV vstnhlislmwnt of the High lmu-l Commission on
Sustainahlv l)(wvlop('nt. This Will be an important folloxx'aup to tlv
nmvmntum rvuclwd ilt Rio. ou' are also concvmvd Hmt tlv UN (lvnvml

Assembly should expeditiously proceed with the adoption of an international convention on desertification particularly in Africa, before June 1994. People's voice will be added to Africa in highlighting the urgency of tackling this and other environmental issues.

Particular mention needs to be made of the threat to the atmosphere: it is neglected. It will do irreparable damage to the planet. A democratic government will accede to the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the 1989 Declaration of The Hague on the preservation of the atmosphere. In addition, we will support the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

This is linked to South - North relations; in these questions, our loyalty lies essentially with the South. We will, therefore, strongly support the cultivation, amongst countries of the South, of an interest in climatic questions.

We should also consider ways in which existing South Africa - based institutions involved in the AU - backed Bamako Convention on the Movement of Hazardous Wastes. This convention strengthens the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes by urging a common African position on the issue. We will not allow our country to become a dumping ground for toxic waste.

We believe that the United Nations should be particularly strengthened to contribute effectively to dealing with environmental issues. In sum, our policy on the global environment:

a. Seeks to support effective standards on the environment and to back these with sound international environmental law. (Implementation will be given to an Agenda 21 for South Africa;

a. Will ensure the coordination of environmental and economic and environmental decision-making international institutions, especially financial ones;

9. Believes that sustainable development should become the corner stone of global policy;

o tYill svvk t0 strengthvn the role of' national. rvgionul and continmital
non - gowrnnwntal organisations (- (mccnu- (l with these issuvs us well
as promote :lgreaterawareness 0i()nvimnmnmul issues in internation-
ill linzmciul ()rgunisutimis such as tlu- H'm'ld Bank and IMF.
WI! lwlivvv that all citizens ()li South Africa present and l'litlm'. haul) the
right to :l sale and healthy (iin'ironinvnt and to u lilo ()tiwvll bring. As
part (it an cllbctive environmental management SyStCHL a democratic
South Ali'icu will embrace a holistic approach and encourage trade
unions, cm'imiimental organisations. and C(mmiinities to play llll active
role in ensuring emimnmvntul protection iii the public interest.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

W'e have at special relationship with the peoples of Southern Africa. all of
whom have suffered imdvr zipziitheid.

XVhile South Afi'icais peoplv experienced discrimination and repression
at home. the peoples of other countries loll victim to hurlmric destabili-
sation polivivs which left Hourly 2 million people (lozidi (lisplucvd millions
mom and inllctcd damage vstimutod ill 8 (55 - hillion (m thv economies
of. nvifrhlnmring countries.

The region sustained us (luring our strugglv and our (lvstim' is inter-
twined with the region; our pouplvs lwlmig with ouch ()tlwr. Southvm
Africa isi tlwrolbnx a pillar upon which South AliiiiL-ais lkii'vigii policv
rests.

(Ilosor regional co - operation and economic integration alter apzutheid
will honvltit tlw vntirv region. DPllllllllg the terms, conditions and princi-
l)le 011 which this should ho constructed is of. fundamental importance.

XVv are lirmh' committed to the promotion ()tigroum' unitV among all the
peoples of tho African continent and within the Southeni Aliiczm region
in pzuticulur. W'e are currently fully involved in deliberations hoth ()lE the
Southern Atrium Development (Iommimitx' (SADC), and the Eastern
and Southern African Prctbrentiul Trade Are'a (PTA)

A democratic South Africa will be an integral part of the process defining the principles of equity, mutual benefit and peaceful co-operation to which the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and Southern African regional organisations subscribe. These principles should underlie the reconstruction of Southern Africa after apartheid. More specifically we are of the view that:

a The construction of a new regional order must be a collective endeavour of all the free peoples of Southern Africa and cannot be imposed either by extra-regional forces or any self-appointed regional power; Militaristic approaches to inter-regional security and co-operation should have no place in the reconstruction of Southern African regional relations. These should be rooted in a peace-based, development-orientated approach to regional co-operation;

A democratic South Africa should therefore explicitly renounce all hegemonic ambitions in the region. It should resist all pressure to become the dominant regional power at the expense of the rest of the sub-continent; instead, it should seek to become part of a movement to create a new form of economic interaction in Southern Africa based on principles of mutual benefit and interdependence.

We are conscious of the need for any plan or programme seeking to promote greater co-operation and integration in Southern Africa to take account of the acute imbalances in existing regional economic relations. These make it essential for any programme which aims at promoting closer regional economic relations to be carefully planned and phased to avoid exacerbating existing imbalances.

South Africa should avoid using regional co-operation or integration as a vehicle for the one-sided promotion of its immediate interests. Instead, it needs to recognise that balanced and mutually-beneficial co-operation and integration can be of considerable significance to the efforts of a democratic South Africa to place its economy on a new growth path.

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 tVt- 119ml to take into account the intvrosts of. 11H' rest ()l. the region.
 Increasing our trade with tho rvgrion zlll(l wi(l(-r ('(mtiiwnt should not he
 ill tlw ('xpmlsc ()l' industrial (lM'vlopmmmit inl 0r trutlv lwtwvmi. ()thvr
 (-onntriys ()lvthv region. The lung - tvrm iitvrvsts (ill South Al'riL-un econ-
 omy will host hr smvxl by an approach to i'vgimml c0 - operation and
 integration which seeks to promote huluncml growth zllltl (lmvlopnwnt.
 Trude opportunities will be much greater in a region which is growing. A
 (-0 - ()pvmrix'v stance within the region will he most conducive to longr -
 term acceptance as trade or project partners hy our neighbours.
 Similar principles should govern the scurch l'tir ways to transform
 exploitative and socially undesirable lbutnrts ()l. the cc-(mmny such as
 migrant luhonr. This system has liven rvpmtvtll'x' condemned as (lotri-
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 tries haw hvcomv critically (lvpomlvnt (m it ltir vmploymnt untl lbrcign
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 ish approach to the issue. It czumot make unilutm'ul changes to at system
 which ull'vcts thv whole rvgrion without takingr zu-t-(mnt ()l'tho intvn'sts ()ly
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 lwcomv u mmmnlwr ()ll SAIXT. W' will similarly ('xplmx' thv possiliilitv ()li
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 appropriate institutional lmsis lbr (lvvponing mutuztllv lwnvliciul 2lnd
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 At thv sumo tinw wv ltwour discussions with other momlwrs ()l. the
 Soutlwm Ali'icu (Instnms Union (SACU) and tho (Iommon Monetzml'
 Arm ((WIA) t0 itlvntilw' the changes in those organisations which will
 enable tlwm t0 hvcomv vehicles for the promotion of mutuallx' lwnvticial
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XVe should also consider ways in which existing South Africa - based institutions involved in regional issues, such as research and scientific work, are transformed into truly Southern African institutions answerable to regional bodies. Believing that a future democratic government should undertake to respect the rights of Southern African workers, we hail the initiative of the Southern African Trade Union Coordination Council (SATUCC) to (re)affirm the 21 Regional Charter of Fundamental Workers' Rights. Workers in neighbouring countries will thus enjoy the same rights as South African workers to join any union of their choice.

Given that the foundation of all South African policy must be human rights, we will co-operatively and urgently explore the creation of a Southern African Convention of Human Rights. Regional Commission and Court of Rights will assist in the achievement of effective policing, and of a Regional Mutual Security structure, to enforce and protect human rights.

AFRICA

The ending of apartheid was a joyous moment in the history of our continent. Africa sacrificed much during the course of our struggle. Our people - refugees and the liberation struggle - were offered food, shelter and facilities to enhance the common endeavour to put an end to racist tyranny and oppression.

With fellow Africans we share a vision to transform our continent into a free, peaceful and united continent which is empowered to make an abiding contribution in all fields of human endeavour - particularly in the sphere of international relations.

Accordingly, we joined the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) with the prime objective to help the organisation in realising its goals of deepening the unity of Africa's diverse peoples and cultures and advancing their common well-being.

South Africa has much to offer the rest of the continent. But we believe

that the rvst ()ithv (-mitinvnt has much to ()iiiv South Africa. W'o wiii tiy U) slippivnu-nt this two - way process by increasing ()Iir trading iinks with African C(mntrivs. XVv rotognisv that some steps in this (iirvctitm haw alrvady taken place. V'Vv would not however. want to use the strength ()i' ()m' (wmmmic links as a mvans t0 (ixtvmi PFPSSIII'O on individual African countries or use (mr trading position to secure special rvcognition tor gowrnmvnt policies within South Africa.

W'o arv in favour ()iipmmoting hoth c0 - operation and rvgionai (mmmm-ic intvgration in Africa. This step will yield iwnviits in its own right and strengthen the (intiro continvnt in its vxtcmi economic relations. XXI) recognise that scourity questions llll(l(TI)iIl (TOIIIOIiliC (mos. Accordingi) we commit ourselves to tho mtahiishnwnt of. a process of. confidvnev - huiidingr (m the continent. XVC wiii takv a particular intorost in the nev d t0 (iowiop a capacity for regional peace - kovping and peacv - makingr so that we arc able to (imi (m a regional hasis with any potmniai tor C(mtiict. A democratic South Africa will participate in (lmviopmvnts in this area. XVI arc (imply (- (mcvrnvti with thv increasingr marginalisation ()ti Attica. th hoim'v, howmm: that much of this is important as illustrated hx' the ibilowing:

Tiw ('(mcmiti'ation ()l' tiw giohai (TOIH HHV into tradingr blocs has undcrsvorvd protectionism, not in Africa hut in the North:

Dopi't'ssvd iiltn'nationai ('(mmmditv prices haw (inrichvd. not Ah'ica. hut thv North;

the shilt in iiltn'natimiai iin'cstnwnt pattm'ns haw vncourach husi-nvsx not in Ahitat hut in the North;

Mounting,r (ichts has hmwfitvd institutions, not in Africa but in the North.

This is not to say that poor and muimnocratic gowrnnwnt has not Char-actonsod Africa ()vm' tho past thrvv decades. But the emerging global

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economic circumstances are not conducive to the development of democratic cultures in African states. We believe that Africa is once again the victim of the new and grossly unjust global system. Accordingly, we believe that it is of critical importance to highlight the debt issue. The service payments of developing countries now exceed all resources flows from developed countries; there is, therefore, a net transfer of resources from South to North. Unless the issue of debt relief is dealt with more sympathetically an intolerable burden will continue to be placed on future generations of impoverished people in the South.

There is a complex and politically - rich region in North Africa. Our long association with them suggests that we will be able to develop strong links.

As a littoral state, 21 democratic South Africa intends to give serious attention to Indian Ocean questions including exploring the possibility of developing mutually beneficial trade and cultural relations. South Africa has a long series of historical links with other Indian countries. We strongly support negotiations for the Indian Ocean to be declared a Zone of Peace (IOZOP) as this is central to the regions security. We would also encourage the promotion of a regional personality by the improvement in the communications across the Ocean. We will seek observer status to The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and full membership of the 1985 Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Co - operation (IOMAC) which provides a framework for dealing with marine resources and environmental issues.

MIDDLE EAST

A democratic South Africa accepts the importance to the world of peace in the Middle East. We welcome the peace agreement and various accords between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a first step towards the creation of a Palestinian state and a lasting peace. We welcome too, the steps currently underway to bring wider peace to the region. We understand the importance of a sound and mutually beneficial relationship with the Arab League, the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), and other important cultural and religious

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trade and financial relations in ways which preserve the integrity of policy formulation. We are concerned, however, that the interests and needs of the South have had only a marginal influence on decisions taken by these institutions and will work to strengthen the voice of the South in multilateral organisations and to promote their democratisation. We believe that the international trading system as presently constituted needs close scrutiny and reform. We are concerned with the policies of some of the advanced countries and the uneven process of trade liberalisation. This must not become a process in which the countries of the South open up their economies only to confront tariff and non - tariff barriers in the market places of the North.

We are concerned with both that a failure to finalise the Uruguay round of GATT may lead to a further round of damaging protectionism in the North, and by the general failure of these negotiations to take adequate account of our own interests as well as those of others in the South.

We will vigorously encourage foreign investment in accordance with our goal of promoting growth and development. We will seek to foster foreign investment by establishing a climate of political stability and certainty without sacrificing our autonomy. Economic growth will require transparent and consistent economic policies.

We will cultivate a strong partnership with civil society, in promoting the country's international economic linkages. We encourage non - governmental, community - based organisations, and trade unions to become involved in a continuous dialogue on the most opportune ways to ensure that South Africa becomes an important player in the international economy.

THE CHALLENGE OF MULTILATERALISM

The pace and scope of global change has improved the prospects for multilateralism. Increasing economic interdependency, the fragility of the planetary system and the rapid increases in technology have underlined the necessity to approach many international questions from

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Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). We will take our cue from the definition of refugees in the 1951 Convention on Refugee Problems in Geneva which was accepted by the UN in 1969.

SECURITY AND DISARMAMENT

Security and defence issues fall within the realm of foreign policy where they intersect or are affected by: the relations between states and international law. New approaches to security and defense should be developed in the context of the policies on regional and international relations. Security is not only limited to military matters; it has important political, economic, social and environmental dimensions. Additionally the security of the state is dependent on meeting the social, cultural, political, economic and human rights needs of its people. Enduring security can be achieved through national and regional efforts to promote democracy; respect for human rights; sustainable development; social justice and environmental protection.

I will share the perspective of the Panel on Disarmament and Security Issues with respect to the security: The Panel argued that countries have become increasingly interdependent and common problems transcend national borders as never before. States can no longer protect their citizens through unilateral military means. They share an interest in joint initiatives and should begin to organise their security policies in co-operation with each other. Regional security in Southern Africa will be pursued through adherence to international law, the peaceful settlement of disputes and common security arrangements and region-wide disarmament.

We believe that the threat or use of force by one state against another is an unacceptable instrument of foreign policy. It follows that resort to armed hostilities between states represents a failure of foreign policy.

As a member state South Africa will endorse international resolutions concerning Article 2 (4) of the United Nations Charter. These are the

Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes; the Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and (Co-operation Among States; and the Declaration on the Inadmissibility Of Intervention in Domestic Affairs of States.

There are only two exceptions to the prohibition on the use of force by states; international peacekeeping operations and the right of self-defence against armed attack, as laid out in the United Nations Charter and interpreted by the International Court of Justice.

A democratic South Africa will become a signatory to the Geneva Convention and Protocols, and will in all respects abide by international law with respect to the conduct of its affairs.

A democratic South Africa will be committed to resolving disputes with other states through peaceful means. In partnership with its neighbours, South Africa will promote the establishment of regional fora and systems for crisis prevention and management, and the facilitation, mediation and arbitration of conflicts.

A democratic South Africa will actively pursue the establishment of common security arrangements in Southern Africa in order to build mutual trust, share information and develop a co-ordinated approach to such issues as disarmament, cross-border trafficking in small arms, foreign military involvement in the region and refugees. South Africa will further promote the adoption of confidence and security - building measures and the formal ratification of a non - aggression treaty in Southern Africa.

We are open to proposals for the establishment of institutions to promote regional security co-operation. We strongly support efforts to promote increased military co-operation between the states of the region. And we favour the creation of an interstate Committee for Defence and Security which could be incorporated into the existing structures of the SADC. This will help to create a climate of peace and security in the region which is based on a co-operative and non-militaristic approach.

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Our concern for arms control will also extend to the chemical field. We will actively assist the International Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in its efforts to develop a comprehensive Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Such a treaty, we believe, should be absolutely and universally applicable to the production, possession and use of these weapons. We should also work to assure the prohibition of biological weapons.

International efforts to control conventional weapons will also occupy our attention. Through our renewed membership in the United Nations, we will intensify our role in the United Nations Export Control Regime on Conventional Arms Transfers. Without prejudice, particularly our obligations, we will explore the modalities of suitable arms control regimes for the continent.

We recognise that previous South African regimes have developed an indigenous arms manufacturing capacity. This industry is a matter for the South African Government.

Our position on arms exports should be governed by the following important considerations: the standards of responsible global citizenship and the requirements of South Africa's wider foreign policy goals will have priority over considerations of the arms manufacturing industry within the South African economy;

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP

Our political past meant that South African people were unable to fulfil the responsibilities of the membership of international organisations. We will reflect our rich heritage of links with many parts of the world. A democratic government will continue international ties to the benefit of all South Africans.

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tion and experience thus needs to be built on in constructing a new foreign SGI'VLCG.

The ending of apartheid and the emergence of a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa will enable the C(1)lnt1')' to establish legitimate links with countries across the face of the globe.

Our freedom of movement in this regard, however, will be restricted by economic and individual policy considerations. It is unlikely that South Africa will be in a position to establish a representation with every country as budgetary constraints will militate against this.

Our policy Conference of December 1991 noted that:

The foreign policy of the democratic South Africa will be primarily shaped by the nature of its domestic policies and objectives directed at serving the needs and interests of its people."

Essentially, therefore, decisions about levels and form of representation will be informed by our basic quest to advance our socio-economic and political interests.

THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE

This stands at the centre of South Africa's foreign policy. We believe that the country needs a professional diplomatic service which will be independent from the narrow confines of party politics. We believe too, that as far as possible, the activities of the foreign service should be open to public scrutiny and public accountability. We will encourage an open, questioning culture within the Department of Foreign Affairs. Only this can engender a robust exchange of ideas which, ultimately, will produce sustainable policy positions.

We have taken careful note of the recent experiences which have shaped diplomatic services in other parts of the world. In particular, we are concerned that our professional diplomats should not live a privileged life. They must master a range of managerial skills; without these, we believe, the modern diplomat, and South Africa, will be handicapped.

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With thanks to
Friedrich Erbert Stiftung
December 1994
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