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New hope that IFP, Bop govt will sign declaration

By Esther Waugh
Political Reporter

Codesa's management committee has agreed on an addendum to the negotiating forum's crucial Declaration of Intent, raising hopes that the Inkatha Freedom Party and the Bophuthatswana government will now agree to sign the document.

The two delegations refused to sign the declaration at Codesa 1 in December.

The proposed addendum states that no provision in the declaration favours or precludes the adoption of any particular constitutional model — whether it be federal, unitary or confederal.

The IFP had voiced strong concerns about the declaration's apparent emphasis on a unitary future for South Africa.

The addendum states that the declaration does not prevent any delegate from propagating that the powers between a central government and the re-

gions be separated.

Codesa management committee chairman Pravin Gordhan said the addendum was a signal to groups not taking part in Codesa that the management committee was amenable to removing obstacles to enable them to take part.

Codesa represented the only process able to bring together all the parties wanting a peaceful settlement, he said.

The management committee was gathering information on groups which have applied to join Codesa and would make a decision "well before" Codesa 2 takes place next month.

An application by the Basotholand National Party of Lesotho to join the talks had been refused, he added.

On the possible participation by the Zulu king and other traditional leaders, Mr Gordhan said a committee investigating the matter was "fairly confident" it would be resolved within the next two weeks.

After considering various options, the management committee on Monday decided that Co-

desa 2 would be held on May 15 and May 16. The full sitting of Codesa would consider reports from the management committee and the working groups, he said.

Mr Gordhan also announced that a seven-person multiparty Codesa team would observe the British general elections as guests of the British government.

It would be a valuable experience for delegates at South Africa's negotiating forum to observe free and fair elections, he said.

The group, led by Mr Gordhan, includes Peter Hendrickse of the Labour Party, N J Mahlangu of the Intando we Sizwe Party, Dr Frank Mulaluse of the IFP, Professor Selby Ripinga of the Inyandza National Movement, the National Party's George Bartlett and Janet Love of the Codesa secretariat.

The management committee has also agreed to establish a gender advisory committee to advise on the gender implications of the terms of reference of each of the five working groups.

1/4/92

Proposals not 'majoritarian' says ANC

THE ANC yesterday denied its proposals on a constitution-making body amounted to "simple majoritarianism".

The organisation has proposed that a proportionally-representative constituent assembly, based on one-person-one-vote elections, draw up a new South African constitution.

The government, in its proposals on Monday on a constitution-making body, said a one-person-one-vote election would "put the cart before the horses by starting off with a simple majoritarian system which is actually the goal or desired outcome that some parties seek to achieve by the negotiations."

"The elected majority will swamp the constitution-making process and that is where negotiation will end," the government said in its proposals to Codesa.

"The irony of the situation is that while we in the ANC firmly believe that the principle of free elections and majority rule lies at the heart of democracy, we do not support what has been called simple majoritarianism for South Africa," the ANC said at Codesa yesterday, after tabling its most detailed proposals yet on the body and procedures for drafting a new consti-

tion.

The ANC said its proposals differed in major respects from simple majoritarianism.

More than 15 months ago, the ANC had declared its support for the system of proportional representation.

"We did so for two basic reasons: One, it enables the diverse range of currents in South African society to be accommodated without reference to groups and, two, it avoided the problems of delimiting constituencies in a country divided by group areas." — Sapa.

Codesa to form Gender Committee

CODESA's management committee (MC) has agreed to establish a Gender Advisory Committee (GAC), composed preferably of women, which will advise working groups on gender implications of decisions taken by the convention.

MC chairman Mr Pra-
vin Gordhan told a news
conference at the World
Trade Centre near Jo-
hannesburg that the de-
cision to establish the
body followed careful
consideration of rep-
resentations from orga-
nisations and indivi-

duals, as well as recognition of the vital role of women in the negotiation process.

"It will be a sub-committee of the MC, and its primary function will be to look into the terms of reference and agreements of working groups, and the decisions of the MC, and advise on their gender implications," he said.

The GAC would consist of one representative from each participating organisation at Codesa and would be "composed preferably of women". — Sapa.

Interim rule 'must be quick'

By Esther Waugh
Political Reporter

It is in the Government's interest to have a transitional government in place as soon as possible, says Foreign Minister Pik Botha.

Such a government would end uncertainty, reduce violence and help attract foreign investment, he said yesterday.

Preconditions

However, the Government told Codesa last week that the implementation of a transitional government — a two-chamber parliament, according to the Government's proposals — could be implemented only if four preconditions were met.

One of the preconditions was that violence was solved before an interim government could be established.

It told Codesa it was imperative that "the question of political violence in general and the bilateral understandings in paragraphs 2 of the Pretoria Minute and the DF Malan Accord are solved decisively".

Mr Botha's statement yesterday does not indicate that the Government is prepared to forfeit an end to the violence before an interim government can be agreed to.

Government negotiator and Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development Dr Tertius Delpont last night told The Star that the Government still insisted on an end to violence before an interim government could be established.

Such a government

could help to further stabilise the climate.

Mr Botha, who was addressing the weekly Government press briefing on Codesa, would not commit himself to a time-frame for the implementation of an interim government, saying it depended on the removal of "obstacles".

He pointed out that fundamental differences, including the question of power-sharing, still existed between the Government and the ANC.

The Government had received a mandate from whites to negotiate power-sharing and if there was a deviation from this mandate, the Government would have to go back to white voters, Mr Botha said.

Responding to criticism that the Government's proposed upper House would give minorities a veto right, Mr Botha said the Government was opposed to granting whites or any racial minority a veto in the transitional phase but wanted to protect political parties.

Tested

He denied that the Government wanted to exclude the homelands from a transitional government.

In terms of Codesa's terms of reference, the will of the citizens of the TBVC states about reincorporation into South Africa had to be tested and the issue of their citizenship resolved first before an interim government was appointed, Mr Botha said.

The Government was not opposed to the reincorporation of the homelands but they could not be forced into such a move, he said.

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