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"ANC Accepts Federalist State"

- Mast significant breakthrough since beginning of the negotiations

-_Political center keeps contracting

- ANC wants to speak with the Afrikaaner People's Front

The participants of the negotiations on the constitution, which have been continuing for several months in the World Trade Center near Johannesburg, have been looking with great confidence toward the future since 18 May. On this day, the ANC dropped its demand to make SA into a unified state. It accepted a federalist state with powers for future regional governments that are anchored in the Constitution.

At the same time, the ANC declared that it agreed to having all questions connected with this issue decided by the multi-party negotiation forum rather than by an elected constitutive assembly. Within conference circles, both of these decisions were judged to be the most significant breakthrough in the entire negotiation process of the past two years.

On the same day, the ANC passed a resolution which gave the responsible technical committee the starting signal to formulate recommendations regarding the structures, powers, and tasks of the future regions. ANC Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa said that the negotiation process has developed "dramatically". "We are showing those who still have doubts, that we are serious about making rapid progress," said another member of the ANC delegation to the negotiations.

Minister for the Constitution Roelf Meyer said about these developments that they mean that a date can be set for the planned general elections when the negotiating forum - an expanded form of the negotiation council with binding resolutions - meets for its session on 3 June.

The ANC's decision for a federal SA may also have a positive effect on those participants in the negotiations who represent population groups that are interested in self-determination. These include the IFP, the Republic of Bophuthaswana, and the Afrikaaner People's Union, which have so far considerably delayed the negotiation process because of their unfulfillable aspirations to autonomy.

Only recently, a "committee" of four retired generals, headed by the former chief of the S. African Defense Forces, General Constand Viljoen, founded the Afrikaaner People's Front, which unites about 20 right-wing parties and groups, including the Conservative Party and some right-wing extremist splinter groups which are judged to be militant.

The main aim of the Front is officially the formation of a power base for self-determination. The member organizations of

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the Front reject a division of power between black and white and instead demand - together with the Afrikaans- speaking colored S. Africans the creation of a separate white state. m ; T)... alw- V M3 1 3'1 1'" ?a'

Although the right-wing extremists are radical and militant in their assemblies; Viljoen has been making it increasingly clear in talks that the new People's Front wants to prevent bloodshed through negotiations. In his own words, he is striving not for a military but for a political solution which will be fair to all segments of the population. The Johannesburg "Star" summarized the current developments in the right wing as follows: "If Viljoen is supposed to be the Lenin of the right wing, it will be a very moderate revolution."

President de Klerk warned the right-wing extremist forces not to delay the negotiation process. The government is determined, he said, to use all of its power to secure the territorial integrity of SA. The government declared its readiness to enter into discussions on the issue of self-determination but it opposes a unilateral territorial secession using military force. De Klerk also opposed the mass actions and riots by left-wing black extremists which have led in recent weeks to an escalation of violence. He warned that this kind of action, which is aimed at undermining the negotiation process and preventing a government of national unity, could lead to civil war.

The political forces that form the middle of the political spectrum in SA - including the ANC and the National Party - are moving ever closer together in view of the increasing radicalization of the left and the right wings.

An ANC working group is discussing possibilities for ensuring that "our members don't play into the hands of the right-wing extremist counterrevolutionary forces". According to a leading ANC member, ANC adherents often incite the violence committed by right-wing extremists. For this reason, the working group will try to work out an internal code of behavior that will be able to prevent this.

The ANC's initial steps in this direction have already become clear. The motto "Kill the Boers, kill the farmers" which was declared by Peter Mokaba, President of the ANC Youth League, and which angered the right-wing extremists, is not appropriate at this time, and the use of it at public events will be reconsidered, according to a joint declaration of the ANC and its Youth League. The controversial motto does not correspond to the ANC's official policy, said S.G. Ramaphosa.

The ANC decided on a further emergency measure, i.e. entering into a dialogue with right-wing organizations, especially the Committee of the Generals and the Afrikaner People's Front, in order to find a peaceful solution for the country in the interests of SA.

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"Mandela in Bonn"

The President of the ANC, Nelson Mandela, was in Bonn for a one-day visit on 10 May. In a talk with Chancellor Helmut Kohl which lasted about an hour, Mandela explained the progress made in the multi-party negotiations for a new constitution and lobbied for Germany's continued support of the democratization process. At a press conference afterwards, Mandela said that the agreement reached on 7 May in Johannesburg "sets the participants in the constitutional negotiations to hold general elections no later than April 1994 is a "breakthrough" for the solution of the problems in SA. Jx_ . _/_ _ \$3: _

Departing from the pattern of his first Visit to Germany in June 1990, Mandela called this time on German firms to invest in SA. Foreign investments, he emphasized, are of decisive importance for the country's economic recovery and the reduction of unemployment. He reassured the investors that a government led by the ANC would not nationalize their holdings in SA and that profits could be transferred freely. Mandela also met with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, MPs Karl-Heinz Hornhues and G nter Verheugen, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney who happened to be in Bonn) and later on in Frankfurt with former German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.