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ANC PRESS STATEMENT ON TRANSVAAL IFP ALLEGATIONS

The ANC rejects with contempt the allegations the IFP Transvaal leadership made this afternoon that ANC members and structures have stockpiled weapons on the Rand with the purpose of attacking hostels and Zulu-speakers.

These vicious but preposterous lies are meant to achieve a number of objectives. Firstly, they are an attempt to swell the dwindling numbers of the IFP fold with Zulu-speaking people through instilling in them a fear of the ANC and its allies. This tactic has been a leitmotif of IFP strategy since the violence was extended to the Transvaal by the IFP. It is going to fail dismally because it is such a baseless lie.

Secondly, they are designed to throw the public off the scent of the real perpetrators of violence. When IFP elements attack communities it will be assumed, they hope, that they are doing so in self defence. Coupled with the first reason, it is a clear preparation for war against the people.

Thirdly, the lies are probably seen as a way of putting pressure on the ANC to disband MK in a manner that increases the vulnerability of MK and reduces its capacity to ensure fundamental change in South Africa. Since the IFP and its allies are not in a position to point out a single incident of MK violations of the Pretoria and DF Malan agreements, the Party has no choice but to resort to outright lies.

The IFP leadership, acting completely contrary to the spirit of CODESA, has used the World Trade Centre as a venue to attack a participant organisation. At the same time it has the temerity to invoke the name of CODESA and to link its scandalous and groundless claims to the negotiation process.

The People Shall Govern!

If indeed the IFP was in possession of the information it claims to hold, including the number of firearms allegedly stockpiled, the question arises: why has it not submitted this information to the relevant authorities and to the Goldstone Commission on Violence?

This glaring act of omission suggests that the IFP is acting in bad faith and has invented these lies as a diversion which can only serve to incite people and engender ethnic conflict in the communities.

It is not unreasonable to see this propaganda as the fruition of the pact between the IFP and the AWB. Reports from Holland suggest that the pact is alive, kicking and threatening. The kind of propaganda symbolised by the IFP statement this afternoon is a known feature of fascist politics.

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