

African National Congress

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DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

PRESS STATEMENT ON AN ALLEGED MEETING BETWEEN Dr NELSON MANDELA, Mr F.W.de KIERK AND CHIEF MINISTER M.G. BUTHELEZI

The ANC categorically repudiates reports of a meeting involving, exclusively, Messrs Mandela, de Klerk and Buthelezi as mischievous and unhelpful. The reports, given prominence by newspapers such as The Citizen, are calculated to revive the discredited concept of a troika form of leadership in the affairs of South Africa. The ANC has repeatedly expressed its opposition to the concept of a troika and will not be inveigled into any situation that seeks to legitimise it.

The National Peace Accord has agreed to convene a meeting of all the signatories of the Peace Accord in which parties will hopefully revitalize the Accord. This decision was taken despite attempts by the Government and the IFP to reduce the National Peace Accord to a meeting of the troika of leaders. Since the decision to convene a meeting of all the signatories the Government and the IFP, aided and abetted by certain sections of the media, have sought to project the meeting as the convening of a meeting of the troika. This distortion is contrary to the spirit of the National Peace Accord and endangers the Accord. It is also insulting to other signatories whose participation is denigrated and sacrificed at the altar of the troika.

The ANC reiterates its opposition to the concept of the troika as peddled by the Nationalist Government, the IFP and their allies. Those who promote it must know that all they will achieve is a muddying of the waters with respect to the Peace Accord and the negotiation process.

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General amnesty: 'Govt and ANC held discussions'

By Brian Stuart

CAPE TOWN. — Discussions have already been held between the government and the ANC on a possible general amnesty, so that members of armed units may freely give evidence at a Goldstone Commission of inquiry into the activities of these units.

The government has endorsed the concept of an amnesty, which would apply to all combatants, whether state officials or members of the ANC's Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), PAC's Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA), the KwaZulu Police or Right-wing armed groups.

Mr Kobie Coetsee, Minister of Justice, disclosed at a Press conference yesterday that while in South Africa, UN envoy Cyrus Vance had brought about a meeting between Mr Coetsee and the ANC's Thabo Mbeki.

The purpose of the meeting was to identify those "elements" which should be the subject of a general amnesty. This included people still held in prison for common law offences, as well as exiles who had not yet returned.

It would cover state officers and members of

other units, whether MK or Right-wing groups, he said.

"The plan has been approved by government, and we can now proceed with the negotiations with the ANC. We are now in a position to move ahead," said Mr Coetsee.

Without disclosing specific details, Mr Coetsee referred to a "comprehensive package" of acts which could be dealt with by way of general amnesty.

To questions about whether an amnesty would apply to "the Barend Strydoms and the McBrides, Mr Coetsee said he was hesitant to mention names. But the principle should apply to all.

The amnesty proposals, made by Mr Justice Richard Goldstone, follow on the recommendations by Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, United Nations Secretary-General.

They are linked to what would be a comprehensive investigation by the Goldstone Commission of the actions of all armed units in so far as they are related to the climate of violence.

Referring to the UN

Security Council report as a whole. Mr Pik Botha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, said it had been hoped that the Security Council would by now have reached consensus on the Vance report, but this had not yet happened.

"As far as the South African Government is concerned, having thoroughly studied the report, we have come to the conclusion that it is acceptable.

"We agree with the tone of the report as a whole, and in general with the various observations and recommendations of the secretary-general, based on the Vance report," said Mr Botha.

The recommendations fell into four main categories, affecting the Goldstone Commission, the National Peace Accord, the presence in the country of international observers, and a return to negotiations.

While the government accepted the report, many aspects of it were subject to negotiation and to agreement between all the major political players.

Regarding the Gold-

stone Commission, the government took all its recommendations seriously, and had already implemented a number of them.

Mr Botha said the proposed investigation into the involvement of all active armed units in the violence was accepted. But it was an issue that would have to be discussed with other parties, as well as with Mr Justice Goldstone.

It was recommended that senior personnel should be seconded to help the Goldstone Commission, which the government accepted in principle.

The government also endorsed proposals that all Goldstone Commission reports should be made available within 24 hours to all signatories of the National Peace Accord.

UN recommendations proposed a total ban on the display in public of dangerous weapons. This was a "delicate" matter, which would have to be discussed further with Mr Justice Goldstone.

The government also fully agreed with the UN that the hostels issue was an urgent one. However, there were two opposing sides involved in the issue, and the National Peace Accord structures would be asked to help resolve the issue.

Also supported was the UN statement that a code of conduct for mass demonstrations could do much to control violence. The call for leaders of political parties to take steps to stop their supporters from committing acts of violence echoed calls already made by State President De Klerk.

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