

ANP/204/0030/1

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL
MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS
1998-11-16 <i>h/</i>
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
DEPT. OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DOCUMENT NUMBER : 98EI09110601

CLASSIFICATION : CONFIDENTIAL

FILE NUMBER : ML/1/UN/CHR/H7

TO : THE MINISTER MINR

COPIES TO : DEPUTY MINISTER ADJM
DIRECTOR-GENERAL DIRG

THROUGH : MR AS MINTY DDGM X1502 *asm 16/X1*
: DR AL SHARPE CDSO X1510
(In view of the fact that next year will be an election year, and the conference will last five days, it may be advisable to rather delegate the Head of Mission in Geneva to attend. ALS 11/11/1998)

: MR MS MONAISA DHSM X1960
(Signed : 1998/11/10)

: MR TLF STEYN MA891 X1457
(Signed: 19981106)

FROM : MR DR MOLONYANA MA893 X1460

DATE : 6 NOVEMBER 1998

STATUS : FOR ATTENTION PLEASE

SUBJECT : **SA PARTICIPATION IN THE HAGUE APPEAL FOR PEACE CONFERENCE IN THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS ON 11 - 15 MAY 1999**

18 NOV 1998	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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Documentation:

- A. Letter from Mr William R Pace, Secretary-General of the Organizing Committee for the Hague Appeal for Peace 1999 to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, dated 22 September 1998.
- B. Background document on the Hague Appeal for Peace 1999.

- C. United Nations General Assembly report of the Fifty-Second Session, Agenda item 146(b), dated 15 October 1997.

1. ISSUE

Invitation to the Minister of Foreign Affairs to participate in the Hague Appeal for Peace Conference in The Hague.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Minister indicate whether he would be willing to attend the conference which will be held from 11 - 15 May 1999 in The Hague.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Organizing Committee for the Hague Appeal for Peace has invited South Africa to participate in its end-of-the-century conference which will be held from 11 - 15 May 1999 in The Hague, The Netherlands.
- 3.2 The Conference will be the first in a series of such conferences. The Conference is also timed to coincide with the hundredth anniversary of the First Hague International Peace Conference.
- 3.3 The Conference will bring together a wide range of initiatives, citizens and organizations to develop substantive global strategies for the reduction of conflict and the peaceful settlement of disputes.
- 3.4 The Conference will address the same three issues that were set at the first International Peace Conference

of 1899, updated to address contemporary conditions. They are:

- strengthening humanitarian law and institutions;
- the armament question; and
- the peaceful settlement of disputes, including conflict prevention and peace building.

In addition to these three topics, emphasis will be placed on the "root causes of war" and "advancing a global culture of peace". The overall goals of the conference are to -

- (a) assess the successes and failures during the last century;
- (b) identify the lacunae;
- (c) present proposals for the next step; and
- (d) develop strategies, coalitions and timelines for progressing forward.

All the proposals and strategies are to be merged into "The Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice in the 21st Century".

- 3.5 UN General Assembly resolutions 51/159 and 52/154 note the work of the many governments which comprise the "Friends of 1999" convened by the Russian Federation and the Netherlands. The resolutions encourage competent United Nations organs, programmes and specialized agencies, the Secretariat, as well as other international organizations and treaty monitoring bodies to cooperate and consider participating in the conferences and the activities focusing on the Hague themes.

- 3.6 The Department will soon be giving attention, in consultation with other departments, to the establishment of a National Committee on International Humanitarian Law, which impacts on the subject of this conference.