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8 September 1993

COMMISSION ON REGIONS 1

Mr Frans du Preez
Secretary REF : 1/11/20 /200\234
Commission for the Demarcation of Regions j

PO Box 307.
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1600

fax: 397 2211

Dear Mr du Preez
Regional Demarcation in the Northern Transvaal
Please. find enclosed the submission from the Northern Transvaal Regional Political

Discussion Forum (RPDF). The submission should be presented to the Commission and read
in conjunction with the submission presented by the RPDF in July to the Commission.

The RPDF will be contacting you soon since it wishes to present oral evidence to the
Commission, Mr Ivor Jenkins, the facilitator of the RPDF, will do this.

Yours sincerely

Richard Humphries
Consultant to the RPDF.
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The Secretary

Commission for the Demarcation of Regions

PO Box 307

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fax: 397 2211

Dear Sir

Regional Demarcation in the Northern Transvaal

The steering committee of the Northern Transvaal Regional Political Discussion Forum (RPDF) would like to reiterate its support for the proposals contained in its submission to the Regional Demarcation Commission, dated 6 July 1993. The report was titled Demarcation of regions: options for the Northern Transvaal.

At the outset we would like to point out that the RPDF consists of representatives of the majority of political parties active in the Northern Transvaal region - namely the African National Congress, National Party, Pan Africanist Congress, Democratic Party, Ximoke Progressive Party, the United Peoples Front and representatives of the Republic of Venda.

The RPDF has considered the report and proposals of the Regional Demarcation Commission released recently, specifically as they affect the Northern Transvaal. At a steering committee meeting held in Pietersburg on the 7 September the RPDF strongly reaffirmed its support for all the boundary proposals contained in its earlier submission.

These proposals amounted to the retention of the existing boundaries of the present Region G but with the addition of various towns and magisterial districts which presently form part of Region F and the Eastern Transvaal. These proposals were made on the basis of unanimous support by all participants in the RPDF. It is perhaps necessary to briefly restate its position on these various areas.

1. Thabazimbi magisterial district.

The RPDF cannot support the excision of this area from the

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â\200\230 Northern Transvaal onh the grounds that it would worsen the already dire poverty of the Northern Transvaal region and the financial resources which night be available to the future regional government for the region. The Northern Transvaal has the lowest per capita GGP of all the proposed regions; its excision would affect this economic indicator in dramatic ways. The per capita GGP for this Thabazimbi sub region is in the vicinity of R2 500. This is much higher than that of variocus other sub-regions in the northern Transvaal; these vary from R348 to some R100S5.

Further its excision would have a detrimental spillover effect on neighbouring magisterial districts and towns. The area has historically been seen ag part of the northern Transvaal and not the Western Transvaal.

As regards the areas discussed below the RPDF would like to reiterate the following general points:

(a) its insiste that the views of local communities in these areas be polled to determine their preferences as to which region they would like to form part of. This is especially so if their inclusion in the northern Transvaal is disputed by other regicns.

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(b) these communities are functionally and culturally linked to the Northern Transvaal. All the towns and areas mentioned balow are dependent on neighbouring communities in the existing Northern Transvaal for their economic livelihood.

2. Nebo/ Marble Hall/ Grobersdal/ Motetema.

The earlier submission Â¢f the RPDF argued for the inclusion of these areas on the grounds of the economic and cultural linkages which they enjoyed with communities already lliving in the northern Transvaal. We would also point out that the majority of the residents of these areas have historicallly seen themselves as linked to the Northern Transvaal and not to the Eastern Transvaal.

3. Burgersfort/ Steelpoort.

The RPDF stands by its earlier proposals. These towns are functionally linked with areas which fall into the present Lebowa and their inclusion should be seen in that light.

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4. Lydenburg/ Pilgrims Rest 1 and 2 districts.

The RPDF stands by its earlier proposals. The majority of residents of these areas have historically enjoyed cultural and other linkages with the Northern Transvaal.

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The RPDF stands by its earlier proposals. The MhalÃ© area is

already part of Gazankulu; these three areas should, on cultural grounds, be included in the Northern Transvaal.

6. The Kruger National Park.

The RPDF reaffirms its support for the inclusion of the entire \ Park in the northern Transvaal region. However this inclusion i need not be confused with the management system and structure which administers the Kruger Park. The two are separate issues. The RPDF favours the geographic incorporation of the entire Park in the Northern Transvaal but accepts that the management of the f Park could be left in the hands of a national statutory body, or [some other such similar body. |

Its inclusion in the Northern Transvaal would ensure that the financial and economic benefits of the Park would flow, in the first instance, to the Northern Transvaal region and not to other parks or authorities outside the Northern Transvaal region.

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In conclusion the RPDF has requested that it be allowed the opportunity to present oral evidence to the Demarcation Commission. Any queries the Commission might have could then be dealt with.

Yours sincerely

Cihrast e |

Ivor Jenkins Richard Humphries.
Facilitator (RPDF) Consultant.

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