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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

PO BOX 31791
Lusaka, Zambia
Telephone: 219656/7
Telex: 45390

WORD OF WELCOME TO DELEGATES

Compatriots,

Allow me, on behalf of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress, and indeed my own behalf, to express my heartfelt joy in welcoming you, fellow South Africans, to this our second home, land of the great Zambian people.

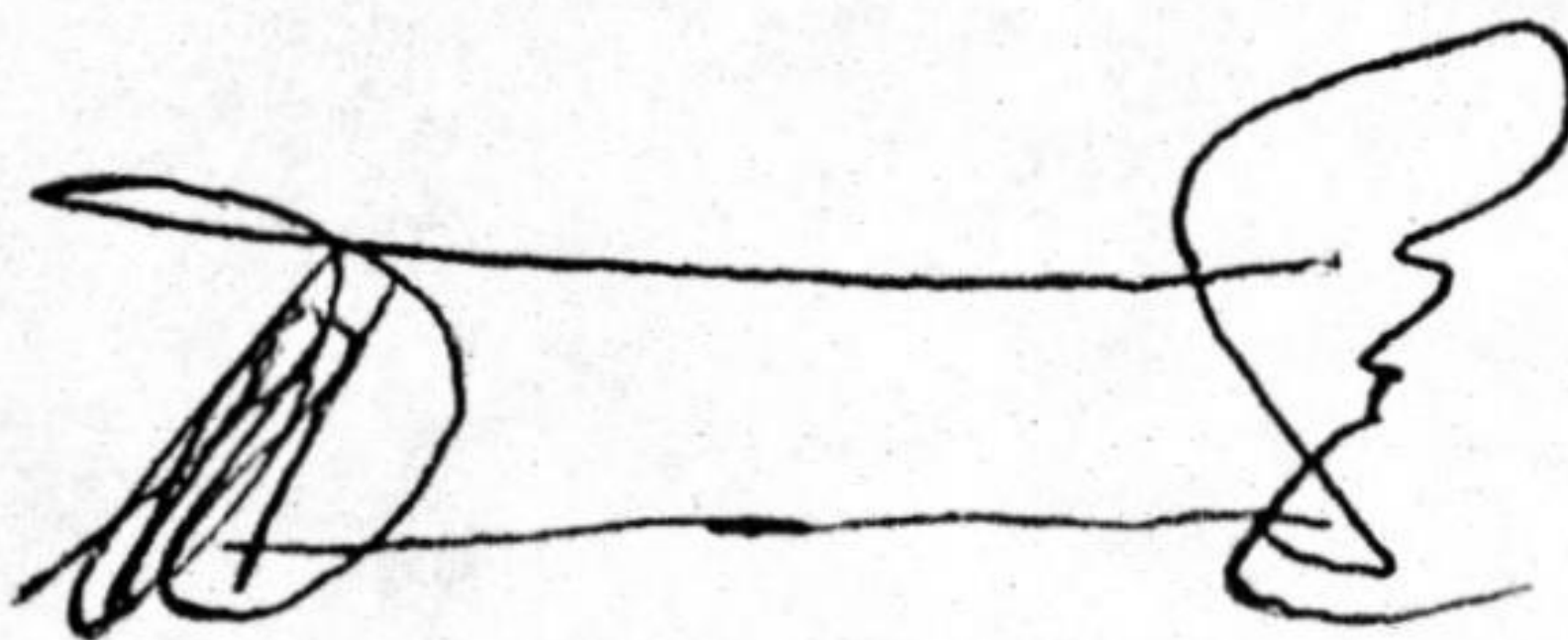
Your arrival here in the Zambian capital could not have been a more eloquent testimony to our shared passionate love and deep concern for the future of our common motherland. Is it not rather ironic that we have to meet so far away from home? But often in great historic moments, men and women who loved their countries have been moved, as we are here, to tear down artificial barriers in eventful journeys of discovery. At epoch-making times such as ours, many a people have embraced around a common umbilical cord. For it is this common root, tying us all to the motherland, that no one can ever take away from us.

Compatriots, the problems tearing the soul of our country apart should not and cannot be beyond the combined will of all of us. We can and indeed must rise to our responsibilities. Our country

cries out for peace and justice. It is we South Africans, black and white, who can deliver her from agonising pain and suffering. Your presence here can only reinforce this conviction that has sustained us, over the long years, away from all those we love and cherish. Our faith in the greatness of our people, their ability to see beyond deception, has finally been vindicated.

Welcome amongst your own. May you enjoy your stay here, as we deliberate together over the way forward to a democratic, non-racial and peaceful South Africa.

Yours in the Struggle,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a series of loops and strokes, representing the name O.R. Tambo.

O.R. Tambo
President

Thu, Jun 29, 1989.