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WOMEN ,S LEMRUE

h 113 MORAINLUIH TO : ANC WOMENWS LEAGUE RECWS FROM : SECRETARY GENERAL (W/L)

DATE : 24/03/93

SUBJECT: WOMEN AND NEGOTIATIONS: PROTEST ACTION \$MWWM\$\$\$MWM\$\$M\$W\$\$M\$W\$\$MMWWX\$\$MM\$WWM\$M\$MM\$MMMWW\$\$W\$#M# INTRQDJJCTION' Comrades, NOW IS THE TIME for the women of our country to force the political leadership to take us seriously. If we do not seize this moment our future is bleak. We have seen it in many countries, we must ensure it doesnlt happen to us. Find enclosed:

- 1. A list of names of leaders of political parties who rejected the ANC proposal on the inclusion of women in the Negotiating Council on 18th March 1993.
- 2. A diagram of the structure to be adopted by the Negotiating Forum on lst April 1993 at the World Trade Centre.

  QAQKGROUND; The ANC proposal for the formation of a Gender

  Advisory Committee was implemented before CODESA II. On evaluation the

major weakness of the GAC was the fact that it remained a sidcwshow whose input could never be guaranteed to inHucnce the central negotiations.

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Forward to a United, Non- sexist, Non- racial, Democratic South Africa

- The ANC NWC meeting of 17th March 1993 endorsed a proposal from the  ${\tt ANCW/L}$  NBC and ANC Negotiations Commission that:
- a. A Gender Advisory Committee of women from the 26 parties be formed.
- b. The GAC members should become part of their parties delegations as second advisors in the Negotiating Council.

When the ANC made the proposal at the Facilitating Committee meeting of 18th March 1993, it was supported by the SACP and the NIC/TIC. The proposal was rejected by the leaders of most of the political parties on the list attached.

## PROTEST ACTION'

- 1. The ANC Women's League is inviting all South African women of all races and walks of life, from different political, religious, cultural and any other persuasions to come forward and demonstrate their resolve to fight for their rights. We must demonstrate at the World Trade Centre at the opening of the next session of the Negotiating Forum on 1st April 1993.
- 2. The ANC Womenis League regions must initiate actions in keeping with their specifics. It is suggested that the regional actions should take place on 2nd April 1993. The Negotiating Forum would still be in session.
- 3. Regions are invited at their own cost to bring women to the World Trade Centre action on 1st April 1993. Make sure you are at Shell House by 7H30am in order for us to move towards the World Trade Centre by 8H00am
- of some of the leaders in this country." NOW IS THE TIME FOR WOMENIS EMPOWERMENT"  $\,$

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Venda Government 5 Makhuvha
Ximoko Progressive Party E Ngobeni
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VIOIVIE__ ZAGUE
Dear
You are cordially invited to join the ANC Womenis League, its allies and'
friends in a bid to
SEIZE the DAY!
The Action: Demonstration to protest exclusion of womcnis
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representation from the multiparty negotiating council

The Venue: The World Trade Centre

The Date: April 1 1993

The Time: 9.00 am

If you care about the future of the majority of people in this country, the women" .BE THERE! This is no April Fools Day joke. Our future is dependent upon our actions.

The protest at the World Trade Centre, timed for the meeting of the multiparty forum, is the first step in a campaign by women to demand representation by women in the negotiating council.

We do not believe men from 26 parties can solve the problems of this country on their own.

The ANC proposal that women advisors join the 26 men in the multiparty forum was rejected out of hand at the World Trade Centre on March 18. Men jecred and booed at the prospect of women advising in the political decisionmaking process.

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Are we going to let these mt-n decide our future?

 ${\tt NO!}$  We are calling on the women of South Afriea to take immediate action and to demand a voice for the majority now.

We are demanding:

tk that a representative voice of women - from all political parties - be heard within the inner chambers of the negotiating council.

- :k that women participate in the structures that will decide issues on behalf of our country.
- 3h that women participate fully and decisively in making laws that relate

to our health, our security and all gender-related issues.

- We want to be able to walk safely in the streets at night
- We want rape to stop immediately
- We want control over our own bodies
- We want control over our environment
- We want health facilities for our children
- We want gender-sensin've education and training
- We want non-discmninatmy laws and employment practices
- We want our women leaders to speak on our behalf

Men are not able to articulate our demands. They have never acted in women's interests; the history of civilisation is exactly that: HIS

STORY.

It is unlikely that the 26 men now representing the different political parties in South Africa at the multiparty forum will try to change history.

So let us change history. Now is the time to challenge this decision by the men to exclude us and force them to let us weak. After all:

A wommfs place is in parliament...