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CO-SECRETARIAT

Luxembourg, 26 November 1992

Fax no. 734.08.67 (Bxl.)

N O T E

for the attention of Mr Sisa NGOMBANE,
ANC Representative, Brussels

Subject: Meeting of the ACP-EEC Joint Assembly in Botswana,
March 22 - 26, 1992

The Joint Assembly Bureau will be meeting in London on December 7/8 in order to prepare the Botswana meeting of the Joint Assembly.

As we discussed yesterday I am pleased to provide you with the following information concerning three specific proposals.

1. Hearing on developments in South Africa and southern Africa.

On March 25th from 9 a.m. it is proposed to hold a hearing on the future relationship between post-apartheid South Africa, the ACP States and in particular those in southern Africa, and the European Community. The objective would be to allow the Joint Assembly to come forward with constructive proposals including for example, a possible association agreement with South Africa. We understand that the ANC has conducted research along these lines and we feel therefore that the Botswana meeting provides the ideal opportunity for assessing our future relationship.

At this stage a preliminary list of personalities has been prepared, who could be invited to speak. We would welcome comments and advice from the ANC both on the contents for the hearing and on the list of personalities. So far the list is as follows:

South Africa

- a representative from the Ministry of Economic Affairs/Foreign Affairs
- a representative from the ANC Economic or Foreign Affairs Department (Trevor MANUEL?)
- a representative from the Employers, Mr Van ZYL SLABBERT
- a representative from COSATU, Mr Jay NAIDOO

SADC

- Mr Simba MAKONI, Executive Director

Neighbouring States

- Botswana (host country)
 - Namibia (latest signatory to the Lomé Convention)
 - Mozambique (country experiencing particularly difficult situation)
- (These countries are indicative, as the ACP may of course wish to make their own suggestions)

2. Participation of Nelson MANDELA and Frederick DE KLERK

The Co-Presidents would welcome the possibility of the participation of Nelson MANDELA and Frederick DE KLERK in the Joint Assembly. The modality of their participation is clearly rather delicate, as we discussed. It is likely that they would be asked to speak at a solemn session at a time of their own choice and not necessarily together of course. I would very much like to have a considered reaction to this suggestion from the ANC prior to the Bureau meeting in London. The South African Embassy is known to consider this favourably.

3. Mission

The ACP-EEC Joint Assembly has never formally organised a mission to South Africa in the past because of apartheid. It does however wish to contribute constructively in support of the peace process and in relation to the future of South Africa/ACP-EEC relations. The Co-Presidents consider that in the week prior to the Joint Assembly meeting, i.e. from about the 15 - 20 March, a mission could be organised to South Africa if a formal invitation was addressed to them by the ANC and by the authorities. You will recall that on 3 June this year, Mr Yusuf SALOOJEE wrote to me concerning a future mission and I suggested a draft letter to him, of which I gave you a copy yesterday. It is felt that a mission at this time would enhance the credibility of our discussions in Botswana as well as emphasising the desire for a rapprochement between the Joint Assembly and a democratic South Africa. The Bureau will consider this in London as well and it would be useful to have a response from the ANC prior to its meeting.

Best wishes

David

David LOWE