

**STATEMENT BY THE NEGOTIATING COUNCIL
ON THE OCCASION OF THE TABLING OF THE
COMMISSION ON THE DELIMITATION/DEMARCATIION OF REGIONS
MONDAY 2 AUGUST 1993**

The Negotiating Council appointed a Commission on the Demarcation/Delimitation of Regions on May 28, 1993. The Commission commenced its work on June 8, 1993, with the instructions to table its report to the Negotiating Council in six weeks time.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Commission and the Co-Chairpersons in particular for undertaking and fulfilling this immense and crucial task which is integral to resolving the problems of transforming a South Africa from its current order to a democratic one.

The Commission was required to make recommendations on the demarcation/delimitation of SPR's in South Africa, realising that regional boundaries will be relevant to the electoral process, as well as to the structures of the constitution.

As the Commission report notes, the question of demarcation/delimitation of regions is a complex one. "The unique circumstances of various countries make it very difficult, if not virtually impossible, to formulate rigid and fixed norms and principles upon which the demarcation of regions should be based South Africa (also) has to approach the process of demarcation with its own particular circumstances in mind and apply international lessons creatively to local problems." (p10)

The Commission report provides a valuable point of departure which we believe will enable participants in the negotiating process to address the question of demarcation/delimitation of regions in a concrete and constructive manner. Without doubt, participants in the Negotiating Council will have their own views about this matter. We believe that the report will facilitate structured discussion and enable decisions which would move the negotiation process to arrive at a negotiated settlement.

The Negotiating Council is pleased by the ability of the wide cross-section of competent and diligent South Africans, to execute the brief of this Council within the strenuous time frame. In particular, we place on record our fullest confidence in the professionalism and integrity of the Commission members and of their technical staff.

The Negotiating Council notes that the Commission's report includes two minority reports, as well as the comment of the Commission on these minority reports. It is unfortunate that one of these reports disagrees with the Terms of Reference as decided by the Negotiating Council and with the process adopted by the Commission itself.

With the view to expediting a negotiated resolution of the conflict in South Africa, we urge participants and the public to focus their attention on the specific recommendations contained in the Commission's report.

With the tabling.....

With the tabling of the report at the Negotiating Council, this report now becomes available for public comment and provides a vital foundation for discussion on and conclusion of this important element of the Constitutional Process. We are confident that participants will now be able to address the recommendations in a constructive and positive manner that enables the process to resolve with optimal consensus a vital aspect of the regional question.

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**DRAFT STATEMENT BY THE NEGOTIATING COUNCIL
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The Negotiating Council is pleased by the ability of the wide cross-section of competent and diligent South Africans, to execute the brief of this Council with such objectivity and efficiency. In particular, we place on record our fullest confidence in the professionalism and integrity of the Commission members and of their technical staff.

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