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**CONSTITUTIONAL
ASSEMBLY**

THEME COMMITTEE 3

DRAFT REPORT 4

**INTER-GOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS**

**BY THE
TECHNICAL ADVISORS**

21 AUGUST 1995

Embargoed until 10h00 Mon 21/8/95

**THEME COMMITTEE 3
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT**

REPORT : PARTY SUBMISSIONS : ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

This report is modelled on four issues that seem to be covered by all political parties who have made submissions on intergovernmental relationships. While it attempts to be brief, it also endeavours to capture some of the detail that accompanies some of the submissions. Some of the submissions deal with issues that are not directly, or even indirectly canvassed by the other political party submissions.

On such issues it is difficult to determine whether there is agreement or contention among the party submissions. An example is the submission of the African Christian Democratic Party which focuses on the size of the civil service. It advocates a smaller, skilled, motivated and efficient civil service and suggests that in this manner there will be a reduction of duplication and unwieldiness. What is not clear from the submission is whether a smaller civil service facilitates intergovernmental relations. On the other hand, the African National Congress sees the senate as one of the intergovernmental mechanisms that should be constitutionalised while other submissions do not deal with this matter.

It appears from the submissions, in general, that all political parties appreciate the fact that in a multi-tiered government system the need exists for mechanisms which will ensure that there is consultation, co-operation, co-ordination and smooth interaction among the various levels and sections of the system. Agreement is missing regarding the question whether intergovernmental mechanisms should be constitutionalised. There does not appear to be consensus as to which mechanisms should be constitutionalised, which is not a major issue when one considers the fact that some party submissions propose that intergovernmental mechanisms should be allowed to evolve.

Intergovernmental Relations : Report on Party Submissions

Issues	Agreement	Contentious	Further clarity
<p>1. The importance of intergovernmental mechanisms in a three-tier system of government.</p>	<p>1. To an extent, parties accept the importance of intergovernmental relations. 2. ACDP - They are important for the sound communication channels between government sectors & levels & are vital to ensure a healthy functioning of government. 3. ANC - Emphasises the principle of co-operative governance. All state organs should act in concert to the benefit of the people & nation building. 3. DP - They are of critical importance & aim to promote co-ordination & consultation. 4. NP - Mechanisms, structures & procedures are imperative so that the different levels of government liaise on the basis of equality. 5. PAC - There is a need to create a framework on intergovernmental relations. 6. CPG - The need for inter-governmental relations is obvious, & they should receive constitutional recognition & be mandatory on all tiers of government.</p>		<p>1. ACDP - Favours having objective-orientated specialist sections in a single sector of government, who can draw on particular expertise should this be required. 2. PAC - Although it accepts the three-tier system of government, it advocates a central government with a strong executive president. Provinces should be headed by administrators. The relationship between the central government & the provinces should be regulated by commissions such as the Commission on Provincial Government which should make recommendations on provincial problems, the Financial & Fiscal Commission & the Commission on Local Government. Not clear how important it sees the mechanisms under that kind of arrangement, considering that when government is centralised, the need for intergovernmental mechanisms is reduced. It sees some of the intergovernmental mechanisms as important.</p>

Issues	Agreement	Contentious	Further clarity
<p>2. Objectives of inter-governmental mechanisms.</p>	<p>1. ACDP - To ensure that government levels talk to one another & lesson conflict & waste.</p> <p>2. ANC - The promotion of cooperation between levels of government, including the local government level, & between the various provincial governments. Also the promotion of joint policy-making where it is necessary to prevent lack of co-ordination, the reduction (to) additional costs of government, the prevention of the adoption of mutually destructive policies, norms & legislation in the various provinces, the stopping of the perpetuation of regional distortions & disparities in resources, etc.</p> <p>3. DP - The promotion of co-operation, consultation & co-ordination among the various levels of government.</p> <p>4. NP - The facilitation of inter-dependence, co-ordination & co-operation - but not to subjugate provinces.</p>	<p>1. ANC - There should be a duty on different levels of government to co-operate.</p>	<p>1. ACDP - It sees the emergence of the need for intergovernmental mechanisms as a sign that there is something wrong in government & as a sign that it must go back to the drawing board.</p> <p>2. PAC - Although it does not deal with the objectives of inter-governmental relations, this party's submission implies an acceptance of the objectives given in the second column.</p>

Issues	Agreement	Contentious	Further clarity
	5. CPG - The objective is to facilitate co-operative, consultation & co-ordination among various levels of government with the aim of serving the people of SA.		

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Issues	Agreement	Contentious	Further clarity
<p>3. Should inter-governmental mechanisms be constitutionalised?</p>	<p>1. All parties agree that the principle of intergovernmental mechanisms should be constitutionalised.</p> <p>2. NP - It proposes that some mechanisms which are already provided for in the Interim Constitution should be constitutionalised but the rest should be left to evolve.</p> <p>3. DP - Proposes that at few mechanisms should be constitutionalised but that others be left to evolve voluntarily.</p> <p>4. ANC - Some mechanisms, but not all, should be constitutionalised. However, elaborate details on inter-governmental relations should not be contained in the Constitution.</p>	<p>1. Regarding details, the formulations in the Constitution proposed by the parties are so different that the issue is contentious.</p> <p>2. ANC - It is necessary to constitutionalise some but not to spell out in detail all specific institutions of inter-governmental relations. Elaborate provisions on the detail of intergovernmental co-ordination & structures in regard to especially executive & administrative matters should not be contained in the Constitution. The ANC submission, however, does emphasise the primary importance of the Senate as the forum of legislative intergovernmental relations.</p> <p>3. NP - The Constitution should contain a commitment to inter-governmental mechanisms in the form of a principle & leave details to parliamentary legislation because inter-governmental relationships are</p>	<p>1. CPG - The new Constitution should contain a general provision which requires that all levels of government shall strive towards co-operative government, consultation & co-ordination with the aim of serving the people of SA. Such provision should require that higher levels of government shall not dominate or encroach upon the geographical, functional or institutional integrity of any lower levels [CPXXII S174(4) & (5)].</p>

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		<p>a process which cannot be confined to mere structures. The other reason is that an extensive provision in the Constitution leads to inflexibility.</p> <p>5. CPG - It is necessary to constitutionalise some. CPXXVII requires, by implication, constitutionalisation of the Finance & Fiscal Commission.</p>	

Issues	Agreement	Contentious	Further clarity
<p>4. What intergovernmental mechanisms should be constitutionalised, if any?</p>		<p>1. ANC - A Senate which is representative of the provinces & possibly of local government. For these purposes it becomes a Council of Provinces to provide a major say in the National Assembly bill that deal with provincial affairs. Also a forum in which provinces can interact with each other.</p> <p>2. DP - The Premiers Forum or Council &, besides those mentioned below, all others should be left to evolve voluntarily. The Party mentions the Finance & Fiscal Commission [CPXXVII, S198], Commission on Provincial Government for 10 years, [S163] Police Board of Commissioners [S220], Committee of the Minister & the MEC's & the Senate.</p> <p>3. NP - The Senate which should be representative of provinces, should be constitutionalised. Other mechanisms which should be constitutionalised are those already provided for in the Interim Constitution.</p>	<p>1. NP - The proposal provides that there should be provision for Senate representation on the Finance & Fiscal Commission & on the Commission on Provincial Government.</p> <p>2. The ACDP, the PAC & other parties do not address the Senate as one of the mechanisms.</p> <p>3. CPG - Also retain the Commission on Remuneration of Representatives whose kob should be expanded to over remuneration of traditional leaders. The IGF should be retained but restructured to reflect a greater equality among the participating governments. The Financial & Fiscal Commission [CPXXVII & S198 & S199 of the Interim Constitution] should be provided for in the new Constitution. Establish a Council for Intergovernmental Executive Relations to monitor the operation of national-provincial-local relations, to propose options for solving conflicts between levels of government & to assist relations, to propose options with the</p>

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<p><i>(c) Among those that some parties propose should be created?</i></p>		<p>1. DP - The Intergovernmental Consultative Council for achieving the necessary co-operation & agreement between the provinces on matters of mutual interest.</p> <p>2. PAC - The Commission on Local Government.</p> <p>3. CPG - The IGF should be retained but restructured to reflect greater equality among participating governments.</p>	<p>1. NP - The Intergovernmental Forum, the Technical Committee to the Intergovernmental Forum, the Ministerial Forum, Technical Committees consisting of officials who assist the Ministerial Forums & the Senate Secretariat Committee which promotes co-operation between the Senate & Provinces.</p>

Issue	Agreement	Contentious	Further clarity
<p>6. The role of the Senate as a mechanism for intergovernmental relations.</p>	<p>1. ANC - The party sees the Senate as important in the articulation of the views of provinces who would be speaking, as it were, with one voice. It would represent the interests of the provinces & become a Council of Provinces.</p> <p>2. DP - The Senate should be constitutionalised as one of the mechanisms for intergovernmental relations.</p> <p>3. NP - The Senate is, in the first place, the second chamber of Parliament. This is its primary function. However, it will also play an important role in inter-governmental relations when it shall act as representative of the provinces.</p> <p>4. CPG - It will play an important role but it must be structured in such a way that it is truly representative of the provinces.</p>		<p>1. DP - The precise role of the Senate is being considered by Theme Committee 2 - no further comment is made in this submission.</p>

Prepared by: Prof. B C Majola
18 August 1995

Embargoed until 10h00 Mon 21/8/95