

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

World Trade Centre
KEMPTON PARK

14 July 1993

Dr T Eloff
Head of Administration
Multi-Party Negotiating Process
World Trade Centre
KEMPTON PARK

Dear Dr Eloff

NEW ELECTORAL ACT

In terms of its instructions, the Technical Committee has now completed the preparation of its Second Draft of The Independent Electoral Commission Act which it has submitted for the further consideration of the Negotiating Council.

Accordingly it is now in a position to direct its' attention to the next task with which it has been entrusted, namely the preparation of a new Electoral Act. In the course of the 33 submissions which have already been received from the Negotiating Parties and others, a large number of proposals have been made which have reference to the Electoral Act. Moreover, it is evident that the issues to be resolved in order to formulate such new Electoral Act are of a technical and extremely important nature.

As previously noted, the Department of Home Affairs, through Mr A Tredoux, has indicated its wish to confer with this Committee, which will schedule such discussions in the near future. As the South African Government is one of the negotiating parties, the Technical Committee considers it appropriate to advise the Planning Committee that it is proposes to engage in such discussions, and at the same time to indicate its willingness to meet also with representatives of any of the other negotiating parties who may wish to meet the Committee. The Technical Committee would be grateful if the parties could be advised accordingly.

Needless to say, the Technical Committee has a preference for dealing with these matters in the first instance by way of written submissions, such as have already been received, and would accordingly only encourage such further meetings if the written submissions already submitted are considered incomplete, or in need of amplification.

The Technical Committee has already had meetings with certain persons, including Ron Gould, Assistant Chief Electoral Officer, Canada and Dr Jorgen Elklit, an Electoral expert from Denmark.

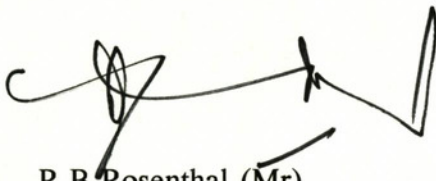
Written submissions have also been received from certain groups with a special interest in the Electoral Process including The Institute for Multi-Party Democracy and IDASA, and in view of widespread concern regarding matters affecting the forthcoming Elections, the Negotiating Council may wish to issue a formal invitation to interested parties to make written submissions to the Technical Committee with reference to a new Electoral Act. If appropriate, the Technical Committee would be prepared subsequently to schedule further meetings as may prove necessary.

In the meanwhile the Committee intends to conduct consultations with Ms Angela King, Representative of the United Nations Special Observer Mission, and certain other diplomatic and Commonwealth Representatives who have expressed a wish to be of assistance.

One final request - the debate in the Negotiating Council on the Committee's First draft unfortunately took place in the absence of members of the Technical Committee due to a last-minute change in the scheduled agenda. We understand that the debate on the Committee's Second draft will take place in the Negotiating Council on Tuesday 20 July 1993, and it would be appreciated in the event of any change to this programme, that the Technical Committee be advised at the earliest opportunity, in order that it can make appropriate arrangements to be represented at such proceedings.

In the circumstances the Technical Committee awaits the further instructions of the Planning Committee as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R B Rosenthal', written in a cursive style.

R B Rosenthal (Mr)
Technical Committee for the Independent Electoral Commission

RBR/mc