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TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE 5
HEADS OF ARGUMENTS AND POSITIONS OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY ON AN
INDEPENDENT MEDIA COMMISSION AND INDEPENDENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS
AUTHORITY.

1. TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY AND THE FORM OF STATE.

The formulation of a media policy for the future of our region can only being done once the form of state is decided.

1.1 A Unitary state with a strong central government will have strong central control and one regulating body or telecommunication authority. This is not acceptable for the CP.

1.2 In a confederation the different confederal states would prefer to have their own telecommunications authorities and media commissions. Without this real selfdetermination and autonomy is not possible. Through broadcasting it must be possible for your people (volk) to develop its identity, culture and character. (Even in a federation with very strong regional autonomy as proposed by the NP, own telecommunications authorities will be needed to ensure maximum autonomy.)

1.3 An umbrella body may be formed in confederal context but then only to discuss those matters that affects all the different countries or interested groups.

1.4 The CP is in favour of a structure as formulated in 1.2 and 1.3 above.

2. MONOPOLIES AND CROSS-OWNERSHIP RESTRICTIONS.

Against this background:

2.1 We agree that the airwaves are a public resource accessible to all. Because this resource has limitations a controlling body will be required to ensure fair access to the airwaves to all.

2.2 In an effort to promote a diversity of voices in a democracy diversity of ownership must be promoted. No company or individual should be allowed to own a majority interest in a newspaper, a TV station and a radio station. There must be cross-ownership restrictions. This is the only way to prevent the over concentration of power as embodied in the ownership of the media.

3. PUBLIC BROADCASTING VS COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING.

3.1 Where the commercial broadcaster only caters for popular tastes the CP believes that you will always need a public broadcasting service as well. Public service programmes would in the future be essential in order to counteract the commercial impact.

3.2 Internationally it is clear that public service broadcasts is held in high esteem. The Public service broadcaster needs to set an example of product quality and should meet the needs of sophisticated viewers with special interests. For quality viewing and education we need more of this.

3.3 For the public broadcaster countrywide transmitter coverage is essential (read countrywide against the point of departure in 1.2 above).

3.4 The state must take the responsibility of financing a high

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percentage of public service broadcasting.

RESERVATIONS

The CP has submitted the foregoing heads of arguments to indicate its general positions and perspective on the issues before this Technical Sub-Committee. The CP reserves the right to submit a more comprehensive and detailed position paper on the foregoing subject matter.