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**PRESS RELEASE - 29/93  
(Immediate)**

With the introduction yesterday by the Pan-Africanist Congress of a joint draft resolution, co-sponsored with the ANC and its allies as well as supported by most of the other participants, the South African Multi-Party Negotiating Council is now formally seized of the Walvis Bay and the Offshore Islands issue. The debate on the issue is expected to take place in earnest.

In a nutshell, the Council is being urged to take a decision, inter alia, to:

- a) exclude Walvis Bay and the Offshore Islands from both the interim or final constitutions for South Africa;
- b) mandate the present South African Government to promulgate a legislation to transfer these territories to the Republic of Namibia.

The Cabinet welcomes this timely and farsighted initiative by the overwhelming majority of the participants at the World Trade Centre. The action taken is consistent with Namibia's constitution, the UN Security Council Resolution 432 (1978) as well as the manifest national consensus on the issue in our country.

There is no reason now why the South African Government and the National Party cannot join forthwith the obvious wish of the majority of their negotiating partners by accepting the draft resolution, as a constructive basis for the speedy resolution of the remaining main decolonisation conflict between Namibia and South Africa.

In the light of the latest situation at Kempton Park, Mr André Fourie, South African Minister for Regional and Land Affairs, is quite clearly out of step with his views which are contrary to more than a "sufficient consensus" position of virtually the rest of the negotiators.

The South African Government must, without further delay, assume its responsibility fully by committing itself to resolve this perennial dispute. It has been claiming all along that it could not take a unilateral decision; now the draft resolution is giving the Government an opportunity for a decision taken by a joint South African leadership representing all political viewpoints.

In this context, the OAU Summit in June this year called upon the South African Government.... "to urgently fix a date and timetable for completing the decolonisation process in respect of Namibia through the early re-integration of Walvis Bay and the Offshore Islands, in accordance with the Security Council Resolution 432 (1978).

All enquiries:

Permanent Secretary