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COMMISSION OF INQUIRY REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC
VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION

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PRESS RELEASE BY MR JUSTICE R J GOLDSTONE, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION

1. The Commission welcomes with appreciation and fully supports recommendations made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning the Commission.

2.1 The most important recommendation is that concerning a series of investigations into the functioning of various bodies and in particular the South African Defence Force (SADF), the South African Police (SAP), Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA), the KwaZulu Police (KZP) and certain security firms. It is to this recommendation that the Commission wishes to respond urgently.

2.2 For some years there have been widespread and serious allegations concerning unlawful activities by members of the SADF, SAP, MK, APLA and the KZP. Some of these allegations have been found by the Commission to be justified, and others not. The Commission is of the unanimous and firm view that further piecemeal investigations into specific incidents of violence will not do more than scratch the surface of the widespread perceptions which make all of these agencies the object of mistrust, distrust and suspicion.

2.3 Unless the SADF and SAP are fully investigated by a neutral and reliable body, they will have no prospect of receiving the

trust, confidence and co-operation of the South African public. The Waddington Report and the evidence already received at the Boipatong Enquiry, as examples, are illustrations of this fact.

2.4 A democratic South Africa will find the SADF and SAP indispensable guardians of peace and security. They must be placed beyond suspicion in the interests of the country as a whole, and indeed, in the interests of those many thousands of policemen and women, and many personnel who are competent, efficient and honest members of the SAP and SADF respectively. It is unfair to them that their best efforts are hampered by mistrust and in some cases anger, if not hate. The response yesterday by the SAP to the Waddington Report provides yet further evidence of the need for the fullest enquiry into the operations of the SAP.

2.5 There are widespread allegations of unlawful activities by MK and APLA. In particular the continued existence of MK has been a cause of complaint especially from the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP). APLA makes repeated claims of responsibility for the murder of many South African Policemen.

2.6 The activities of the KZP are questioned in many parts of Natal and KwaZulu. It is widely perceived to be a force acting as an arm of the IFP. Again, the investigation of particular complaints and incidents will not suffice.

2.7 In short, the Commission believes that if it is not able to investigate fully the operations of the afore-mentioned agencies,

it will not be able to carry out its mandate of making recommendations for curbing the violence. The existence of facts supporting the necessity for such a wide investigation is well known and obvious.

2.8 In order to investigate the activities of MK and APLA, the Commission will require to have access to their camps and arms caches in a number of countries outside South Africa. In order to do this the Commission would require the assistance of International personnel and the consent of the relevant African countries, which have MK and APLA members and arms within their borders.

2.9 As a matter of urgency, the Commission at this stage calls upon the South African Government, the KwaZulu Government, the African National Congress and the Pan-Africanist Congress to immediately support this recommendation of the Secretary-General. Without their active support and encouragement this recommendation would not be capable of implementation. That would set back, if not destroy the peace process. The necessity of an amnesty for all members of these organisations also needs to be addressed urgently. Such an amnesty would make the work of the Commission more efficient and searching.

2.10 The Commission is willing to carry out this recommendation of the Secretary-General and it believes that with adequate sup-

port, manpower and resources, it will be able to do so effectively and efficiently.

DURBAN
8 AUGUST 1992