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CONVENTION FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA



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**STATEMENT BY THE GROUP OF  
COMMONWEALTH DISTINGUISHED OBSERVERS TO  
CODESA ON ARRIVAL IN SOUTH AFRICA  
ON WEDNESDAY 18 DECEMBER 1991**

The opening of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa in two days time represents a highly significant moment in this country's history. It offers South Africa the opportunity to set out on a new and peaceful path towards the realisation of a democratic and non-racial society in which all can play their part. As the political leaders of South Africa gather, the Commonwealth, together with the rest of the international community, will be watching the process with great interest and with a universal wish for these talks to succeed. We are therefore delighted and honoured to be present at the Convention at the invitation of its co-chairmen. Our presence here demonstrates the Commonwealth's strong support for the negotiating process and its readiness to assist in whatever ways might be helpful. We hope to meet the principal parties; observe the proceedings; and otherwise be at the service of the Convention.

- ENDS -



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