

MEMORANDUM

TO: DAILY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
FROM: SECURITY SUB-COMMITTEE
RE: BACKGROUND TO LETTER OF TODAY'S DATE:
*'Notification of arrangement for provision of firearms
and training CODESA security personnel'*.

23 March 1992

The following outlines the sequence of Security Committee decisions pertaining to the issue of firearms for the CODESA security personnel:

1. Proposal to Daily Management Committee of 13/1/92:
Formation of volunteer CODESA security unit mooted and agreed.
2. Resolutions of Security Meeting on 14/1/92:
CODESA security personnel to comprise volunteers from participant organizations.
3. Resolutions of Security Meeting on 30/1/92:
*5. Logistical Arrangements:....
Weapons: No weapons ... are to be brought by volunteers. If required, firearms and requisite training will be provided.*
Notification: A fax will be sent to those parties who offered volunteers, by 31/1/92, notifying them of the above arrangements.
4. Resolutions of Security Meeting on 11/2/92:
*2. Issue of Firearms:
Firearms have not been issued to security team as anticipated because of constraints experienced by the supplier, namely the SAP.... As this is a matter of urgency [Colonel] Venter is to raise the matter of firearms for all personnel with the Commissioner of Police before the next meeting. [i.e. on 18/2/92]*
5. Resolutions of Security Meeting on 18/2/92:
*2. Issue of Firearms:
The request for the supply of firearms was placed before the Commissioner of Police on 13/2/92 and is still under consideration. [Colonel] Venter is following this up.... As the supplier of arms, the SAP will also supply ammunition*

and training in the use of the particular weapons supplied.

6. Resolutions of Security Meeting on 25/2/92:

2.2.1. Firearms:

[Colonel] Venter has undertaken to speak to the Commissioner of Police.

7. Resolutions of Security Meeting on 9/3/92:

2.i. Acquisition of Firearms for Security Personnel:

Venter reported that the request for the SAP to provide arms and training had been referred to the Commissioner of Police and also to the Minister of Law and Order. Their decision was to decline the request because of a concern as to where liability would lie should any claims be made against the mis-use of the issued weapons.

Members noted their regret and concern over this refusal, especially given the initial undertaking last year by members of the SAP in the Political Security Committee to supply the said weapons.

After lengthy discussion, it was decided that Venter should again present the committee's case to the commissioner. Moreover, a memorandum shall be drafted by the minute-taker outlining the history of the issue and the two options facing the committee, namely, that either the SAP supply arms and training, or individuals within the CODESA security personnel who are licensed to carry weapons will bring them with them into service. The latter option, it will be made clear, is not preferred because of the inequalities it will perpetuate: the disparity between the number of persons within the SAP in the personnel as against other parties who are able to carry weapons will continue. The question of liability and control remain concerns under this 'non-centralized' option.