

The Group Managing Executive
Mr Wynand Haramse
SABC
AUCKLAND PARK

18 December 1991

Dear Sir,

Re : Live Broadcast of CODESA Proceedings

We refer to the above and previous discussions we have had with various SABC executives. We wish to thank you and the SABC for the co-operation and sensitivity with which our representations have been received thus far.

However, we wish to address you on an issue on which we may need your direct assistance. We are painfully aware of the fact that the convening of CODESA 1 did not give the SABC sufficient time to plan and reschedule programmes. We are therefore most appreciative of what has been achieved so far. All of these considerations notwithstanding we have no option but to bring to your attention the absolute importance of continuous live television coverage of CODESA 1.

As exciting and hopeful as the CODESA process is, its fragility and dependence on balance cannot be over emphasised. If the SABC were to cover some parties and leave some out, just on the pure coincidence of which party spoke during a dead TV time, serious consequences might arise for both CODESA and the SABC. It is our considered opinion that continuous live television coverage, preferably on TV 1, is a sine qua non on Friday when all political parties make their opening statements.

On Saturday we would also prefer continuous live coverage. We are aware of your concern for dead times in the Conference as delegates go on bilateral/multilateral caucuses. We have raised the matter with the Secretariat with a view to minimising or removing this uncertainty. We will, therefore, enter into further discussions with your team about the extension of broadcast time on Saturday.

We appeal to you to do all that is possible to ensure continuous live TV Broadcast of CODESA 1. We cannot over emphasis the importance of this issue to the whole CODESA process. We thank you in anticipation of a sympathetic hearing inspite of all the difficulties.

Yours faithfully,

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SAKI MACOZOMA

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PIET COETZER

Joint Convenors Media and Communication Sub-Committee of CODESA