

JOINT WORKING COMMITTEE NATAL REGION

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TELEFAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

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TO: ATT. J. HALL NPS
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URGENT!

OPERATOR: R. PERSAD

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Date: 28 February 1992

Request for Urgent Intervention of Events planned this Weekend.

1. Escort - Wembezi Township Areas

We are informed by our local alliance structures from Escort that there are going to be a number of I.F.P funerals that will be held in the Wembezi township over the weekend of the 29 February 1992. Our members are extremely fearful that there could be attacks against them since the I.F.P will be bussing in a number of supporters to attend the funerals. These supporters will arrive from Bergville, Msinga, Hlathikhulu and Loskop.

We believe that urgent intervention needs to be made by the SAP/SADF to ensure that I.F.P supporters attending funerals or entering the township of Wembezi should be disarmed and that the new Proclamation Of Dangerous Weapons gazetted today, be implemented. If any violent clashes result in deaths on either side we can only hold the SAP/SADF/KZP responsible.

We also call on the SAP/SADF to recognise and cooperate with the existing liason structure in the area to avoid potential conflicts. We have identified and put forward the names of our liason representatives in the area. We call on the I.F.P to do the same to facilitate the process of preventing any conflict in the area. We find it disturbing that to date no person has been put forward by the I.F.P in the area. This does not augur well for success of any local peace initiative or the success of any effective liason structure to prevent political violence.

2. Planned I.F.P march in Durban 29/2/92 - Curries Fountain to Durban City Hall.

We accept the right of any political party to stage a mass rally, march or mass action of any form. However in the case of this proposed march we wish to raise certain concerns:

1. The march is a political event and not a cultural or traditional one, and as such the carrying of dangerous weapons of any kind should not be permitted.

2. We are concerned that the movement of large numbers of armed people through the streets of Durban on a Saturday morning is a recipe for conflict, taking into account the fact that the marchers are likely to move through commuter centres en route to the City Hall.

3. We are also concerned that after the march there might be conflict between marchers and members of the public, taking into consideration the large volume of people who travel between the city centre and the townships on Saturday afternoon. Our concern stems from among other things the emotional nature of the march and the position put forward by the I.F.P on dangerous weapons.

We call for urgent action by the security forces before, during and after the march.

1. We need the security forces to monitor the points of entry into the city (Taxi Ranks, Bus Ranks and Train Stations) which will be used by I.F.P members travelling to the march and to confiscate weapons of any kind in terms of the proclamation on Dangerous Weapons (28/2/92) and the National Peace Accord (Paragraph 3.6).

2. We then need I.F.P supporters to be escorted to Curries Fountain by the security forces to prevent any clashes.

3. We request that the security forces search all vehicles (Taxis, Buses, Cars) arriving at Curries Fountain for Dangerous Weapons and confiscate any such weapons.

4. We further request that exit points from the city and arrival points in the townships (railway stations, taxi ranks, bus ranks), particularly in areas where there are hostels and which have a history of attacks in the wake of I.F.P meetings, (e.g Umlazi, KwaMashu, Isipingo station area, Port Sheptone taxi ranks), be monitored in the same way until I.F.P supporters have reached their homes.

The ANC, COSATU, SACP of Natal will hold the I.F.P/KwaZulu police and the security forces SAP/SADF responsible for any clashes or deaths that result from either inaction or bias on their part before during and after this march.

S. Gcabashe
Sipho Gcabashe - Natal Alliance (ANC, COSATU, SAP)
representative to the Regional Executive Committee of
the Natal/KwaZulu Interim RDRC.

c.c The State President - F.W. De Klerk
The President of I.F.P - M.G. Buthelezi
The President of the ANC - N.R. Mandela
The President of COSATU - J. GOMOMO
Chair of the National Peace Secretariat - J. Hall
ANC alliance rep to NPS - J. Naidoo
Secretary of the SACP - C. Hani
Minister of Law and Order - H. Kriel
Minister of Defence - R. Meyer
Co Chairs of the Natal RDRC - M.C. Pretorius/D. Hurley
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Mayor of Escourt -
Lt/Col Lourens