

**SACP statement on SA Government
Proposals for Transitional Arrangements made to Working Group 3**

The set of proposals which the SA Government submitted today in WG 3 met with a resounding rejection by virtually all delegations. Progress in this crucial WG has been delayed until now by the unwillingness of the SA Government and NP delegations to table any substantive proposals on transitional arrangements. Unfortunately, after a long wait by all other delegations, the message that CODESA is sending to the SA Government and NP is that they must go back to the drawing board once more.

The SA Government is proposing that there should be a pre-election phase, prior to a more full-blooded period of transition with an elected, transitional National Assembly. In the pre-election phase they propose a number of multi-party Transitional Councils, dealing with elections, regional government, local government and government financing. They also allow for other possible Transitional Councils. The plain truth is that these proposed Transitional Councils are lame ducks, glorified Advisory Boards which will leave the apartheid tricameral parliament with the last word.

In making these proposals:

- * The SA Government is completely ignoring the agreement which WG 3 reached on March 2, which said that a "transitional executive structure shall initially be appointed" by CODESA. These TCs do not remotely have any executive power;
- * The South African Government is attempting to reinstate classical apartheid toy telephones, ineffectual structures that have merely advisory and consultative powers;
- * The government is ignoring the critical reason why there is a need, prior to elections, to establish multi-party, executive structures. We have all along said that there cannot be free and fair elections while the current regime, one of the players, is also the referee. The principal objective of interim executive structures is, therefore, to level the playing field. The SA Government's envisaged Transitional Councils will mainly occupy themselves with making suggestions about transitional arrangements for the period after the elections! (See, for instance, 4.11 (d) where it is envisaged that the Transitional Council for Government Finance "shall do planning and preparations relating to the handling of government finances in a next constitutional dispensation"!!)

Even more worrying is the regime's conception of the second phase, the transitional period following one-person one-vote elections for what they are calling a National

Assembly. They still envisage the present apartheid tricameral parliament co-existing and having veto powers over this elected body. What is the purpose of going through an election if an illegitimate body can override the decisions of a legitimate body?

We are wasting our time at CODESA if, at the end of the day, the apartheid tricameral parliament has the last word.

The proposals are an insult to the integrity and intelligence of most CODESA participants. Clearly the government must go back to the drawing board, and come back as quickly as possible to CODESA... But this time with serious proposals.

23 March, 1992.