

PROPOSED REGIONS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA

(i) South Africa shall be divided into ten regions -

Western Cape
Northern Cape
OFS
Eastern Cape
Border/Transkei
Natal
Eastern Transvaal
Northern Transvaal
PWV
Western Transvaal

(ii) The boundaries as established in 1910 shall be maintained within the above structures.

MOTIVATION

- 1 The above division of the country is based on the South African Development Regions as proposed by the government in 1981, subject to one major qualification, namely, ~~that~~ the Transkei not be divided as the government proposed, but rather form part of an additional region to be called Border/Transkei.

- 2 Six of these proposed regions correspond to present ANC regions, namely, the four Transvaal regions, plus Western and Northern Cape. Unlike the present ANC structures, however, for purposes of regional government:
 - (a) the OFS will be one governmental region;
 - (b) Natal will be one governmental region;
 - (c) Border/Transkei will constitute one governmental region.

- 3 The proposal for the structure of regional governments will not affect the regional structures of the ANC as defined in the ANC Constitution and which can only be amended at the next conference of the ANC. (It is clear that the present ANC structures should be consulted; in particular, the views of the two OFS regions, the three Natal regions and Border and the Transkei must be sought, with special reference to the question of maintaining representation in the NEC.)
- 4 The proposed demarcations do not preclude the establishment of special mechanisms to deal with relatively minor adjustments to regional borders.
- 5 The question of the powers of central, regional and local government will have to be dealt with separately, as will the important issue of fiscal arrangements between the regions and the centre.
- 6 If elections for the Constituent Assembly are conducted by proportional representation, as seems almost certain, the question of regions might come up in relation to:
 - (a) the territorial division of the country for purposes of voter registration and counting, and
 - (b) the establishment of regional as well as national lists of candidates.

This latter point might be of special importance to the regionally-based parties and to ANC regional structures. The issue would be relevant to the Working Group dealing with interim arrangements, as well as to the Working Group concerned with the body that will draft a new constitution. We should not, however, pre-empt the work of the Constituent Assembly. The regions used for purposes of electing the Constituent Assembly might serve as a trial run for the regions for a new South Africa.

7. It is our view that whatever powers are given to the regions, regional governments shall be elected and there shall be active democratic participation in the government of the regions. It will be necessary to study the population make-up and likely voting patterns in the regions. We see no reason why parties committed to non-racial democracy and social advancement should not be able to win majority support in all the regions. In any event, we feel it is right in principle that we fight for popular support in all regions rather than rely on a strong centre to keep the people in the regions in line.

8. A number of constitutional issues could be closely bound up with :

i) The whole unitary state versus federal state debate depends on the extent to which the regions are given exclusive powers (The argument is often one of labels - our general approach is to support a unitary state with certain federal features). This question will be dealt with in a separate paper.

ii) The electoral system for the proposed National Assembly could be based, as we propose, on the creation of both national and regional lists. The existence of regional lists should ensure that persons elected in the regions are both selected by people in the region and accountable to them.

iii) Proposals had been made to the effect that the composition of any Senate or Second Chamber that might be created should be wholly or largely based on regional representation.

iv) We can envisage lively democratic participation in regional affairs with sharp contests for office in regional government. The art of both political and governmental leadership in the country will depend on establishing harmonious and mutually beneficial relations between the centre and the regions, as well as between the regions themselves.

v) The TBVC states will disappear as independent structures and they and the so-called homeland governments will be absorbed into the regions.