

THE BOOKSHOP

66 Lower Main Road · Observatory · Cape 7925
PO Box 171 · Observatory 7935 · South Africa
Telephones (021) 417-5970/71 · Fax (021) 417-6164

Received 19/02/92

Women denied a fair say in their future

From JENNIFER CRYSWILLIAMS and JENNY HOBBS, The Womens' Initiative (Bryanston):

IN MARCH the decisive round of talks between delegates of political parties to the Convention for a Democratic South Africa will begin in Johannesburg.

Though women make up 53% of the South African population, they play a small part in this decision-making process, which will determine their future.

At the first round of Codesa talks, women were represented by fewer than 7% of the delegates.

Many South African women — largely subject to their husbands' and social strictures — are outraged by this denial of their right to reasonable representation.

Protests by women's groups have so far been fruitless.

We appeal to anyone concerned, not only with women's rights, but with the normal democratic process, to help us put pressure on the parties involved in Codesa.

They must acknowledge our right to participate fully in decisions about our future.

Individuals or organisations can help us by addressing protests to: The Management Council, Codesa, Box 307, ISANDO 1600, South Africa, or faxing them to (011) 397-2211.

Anne G. Greenwell

Jenny Naover
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P. Leaver

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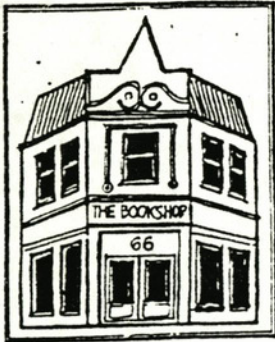
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OBSERVATORY

10 Kelsey St, OBS



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- Jemma Telford
 MARIANNE VAN EEREN
 Rebecca Townsend
 Patti Henderson
 Emily Imbani
 ELIZABETH BAYER
 Cané Lake
 Patricia Taylor
 Rowley Simpson
 Lisa Alford
 Melorie Farrell
 Tasha Rossie
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 10 Kimberley Rd OBS
 911 Arnold St Obs.
 19 Ash St Observatory
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 6 James St. Observatory
 0404 Forest Hill, Mowbray.
 54 Trill Rd Obs
 21 Mole Rd. Obs.
 9 Amanda St. observatory
 62 Barnet St gardens
 6 Fairfield Rd. Obs.
 46 Robins Rd 7925
 38 Lytton St. Observatory
 Collingwoodweg 53 Obs.
 6 James St obs
 2 TEXEL CLOSE, MARINA DA SAN.
 2 Belleuliet Road, Observatory
 19 St. Joseph Rd, Plaustrer.
 92 Lwr Main Rd., Obs.



The Bookshop
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4/3/92

Dear Madams

Thank you for your letter dated 19/2/92.

We have received quite a steady stream of letters on the question of the representation of women at CODESA . This we obviously appreciate because there can be no running away from the fact that present society is totally male dominated and any attempt to jog society's conscience on this issue is very welcome.

From our point of view the representation of women at CODESA is not directly CODESA's responsibility but is really the responsibility of each and every Party that constitutes the CODESA process.

However in recognition of the seriousness of this matter, CODESA has gone some way within the ambit of its function to deal with the issue of women's participation in the CODESA process.

At its meeting of 13 January 1992, CODESA's Management Committee "agreed that each Working Group shall determine ways and means by which women's and other interest groups which are not participants in CODESA, may make submissions to that Working Group on matters relevant to its Terms of Reference.

The meeting further agreed that Management Committee members "should draw to the attention of their respective organisations the importance of involving women representatives in the CODESA process" by among other things:

- debating this matter at constituency level
- applying for permission to appoint additional advisers to the Management Committee to address plenary sessions on the understanding that these should be women
- debating this matter with women's organisations at constituency level; and
- appealing for more women delegates to the plenary sessions.

CONVENTION FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA

PO Box 507, Isando, 1600, South Africa.
Telephone (011) 597-1198/99. Fax (011) 597-2211



Over and above this, even CODESA's Declaration of Intent (5a) goes a long way towards addressing this issue by declaring to set in motion a process ensuring that the new constitution will ensure that "South Africa will be a United, democratic, non racial and non-sexist state."

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