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**REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL PEACE SECRETARIAT FOR THE  
PERIOD ENDING 15 JANUARY 1992**

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CAPE TOWN

17 JANUARY 1992

1. Since the Secretariat was established during November 1991, it has concentrated its efforts on establishing regional and local dispute resolution committees in South Africa.

2. The following regions have been identified for the establishment of regional dispute resolution committees:

- Natal/KwaZulu
- Witwatersrand/Vaal
- Northern Transvaal
- Eastern Transvaal
- Western Transvaal
- Orange Free State
- Ciskei/Border
- Southern Cape
- Western Cape
- Northern Cape

3. In order to establish a dispute resolution committee it is necessary to identify the relevant organisations which should serve on the committee, and to get unanimity on the composition of the committee. This can be very difficult where individual members operate in opposition to each other. It is sometimes necessary to hold several meetings with the sole object of reaching consensus on the membership of a committee. Another difficulty is the identification of suitable chairpersons. In practice chairpersons have been drawn from the ranks of non-political organisations (usually business or religious organisations), or from the ranks of mediators/facilitators.

4. In order to provide representation for all the organisations which have to be accommodated on a regional dispute resolution committee in terms of the Peace Accord, the membership of regional dispute resolution committees is often very large (up to sixty members or more). The same applies to local dispute resolution committees established for large areas (such as Soweto). In these circumstances an Executive Committee is appointed, generally consisting of representatives from the main political organisations in the area and from the South African Police.

5. To date, the following dispute resolution committees have been established:

5.1 Natal/KwaZulu Regional Dispute Resolution Committee

The Secretariat held three meetings with interested parties before the Committee could be established. Twenty-two organisations are represented on the Committee. Archbishop Dennis Hurley and Mr M C Pretorius have been elected joint chairpersons. An Executive Committee has been appointed, comprising the two chairpersons and representatives from the ANC, IFP, NP, DP and SAP. The Committee has been very active since its inception, and it is considering the establishment of local dispute resolution committees at Richmond, Bruntville, Port Shepstone, Empangeni, Oswatini, Umbumbulu, Umlazi, Bulber and Stanger.

5.2 Border/Ciskei Regional Dispute Resolution Committee

The Secretariat attended two meetings before establishing a regional dispute resolution committee for the Border/Ciskei Area. Nineteen organisations are represented on the Committee. Mr R. Mason has been elected chairman. There is an Executive Committee consisting of a representative from the ANC, a business person and a representative from the Ciskei Government.

5.3 Western Cape Regional Dispute Resolution Committee

The Secretariat paid two visits to the Western Cape to meet with interested parties before the Western Cape Regional Dispute Resolution Committee could be established. Fifteen organisations are represented on the Committee. No agreement has yet been reached on the appointment of a chairperson and an Executive Committee. A non-representative Steering Committee consisting of

five persons has been appointed to consider these issues, and to convene the next meeting.

#### 5.4 Soweto Local Dispute Resolution Committee

This Committee was very difficult to establish. Success was achieved only after four visits by the Secretariat to meet with interested parties. Nineteen organisations are represented on the Committee. As yet, no agreement could be reached on the election of a chairperson or the appointment of an Executive Committee. To date, I have been acting as ad hoc chairman. It has now been agreed that Mr Charles Nupen would serve as an interim chairman. Deep-rooted enmity between some members of the Committee makes it very difficult for the Committee to perform its functions.

#### 5.5 Germiston Local Dispute Resolution Committee

A local dispute resolution committee was established at Germiston after two visits by the Peace Secretariat. Eight organisations are represented on the Committee. Mrs K A Jansen and the Rev. B van Zijl have been elected co-chairpersons.

#### 5.6 Thokoza/Phola Park Local Dispute Resolution Committee

A local dispute resolution committee was established for Thokoza/Phola Park during the Secretariat's first visit to the area. This Committee is a continuation of an informal committee previously established under the auspices of the National Peace Committee. The Committee is representative of two large informal Peace Organisations, viz, the Thokoza forum and the Phola Park/SAP forum. So far, facilitators have acted as chairpersons.

6. In some areas informal Peace Organisations are already in existence. Our task was made easier where we obtained the assistance of such organisations (e.g. the Cape Town Peace Committee), or where it was possible to convert an existing committee into a dispute resolution committee under the Peace Accord (as was done in Thokoza/Phola Park and in Germiston).

7. Threats of violence were made to obstruct the Paul Simon tour. I offered the services of the National Peace Secretariat as mediator, and this led to a public undertaking by the PAC and AZAPO to refrain from violence in manifesting their opposition to the tour.

8. The ground work has been done for the establishment of a regional dispute resolution committee for the Witwatersrand and the first meeting will take place on 20 January 1992. Mr Charles Nupen has been assisting the Secretariat in identifying the interested parties and in convening the first exploratory meeting.

9. Requests have been received for the establishment of local dispute resolution committees for Isando, Krugersdorp and Kempton Park. The Secretariat will identify other areas where regional or local dispute resolution committees need to be established soon. If it is possible to form a regional dispute resolution committee for an area, such regional committee will identify the need for local committees in its area. Where, owing to time constraints, it was not possible first to form a regional dispute resolution committee, the Secretariat constituted local dispute resolution committees in flashpoint areas.

10. It is essential that the regional and local dispute resolution committees have access to administrative assistance. The Department of Justice has undertaken to provide such facilities. The exact manner in which the facilities will be provided will be decided soon.

11. After the necessary regional and local dispute resolution committees have been established, their members will have to be trained in facilitation and mediation procedures. A large number

of facilitators/mediators have been identified, and the Secretariat will soon embark upon a suitable training programme.

12. We have received favourable media publicity, which enhanced the credibility of the various committees and of the National Peace Secretariat. This made our task considerably easier.

13. The National Peace Secretariat has offices in Pretoria. There are seven full-time employees. Consideration is being given to the establishment of a local office in Johannesburg.

14. The National Peace Secretariat will soon be given statutory recognition. The legislation will also provide for the appointment of Justices of the Peace. These persons will be given considerable powers to prevent violence should a threat of violence occur. It is essential that such legislation be promulgated as soon as possible. As constituted at present the dispute resolution committees do not have sufficient powers to enforce decisions.

15. Since its inception, the National Peace Secretariat has had five meetings. In addition, it convened and attended 19 meetings all over South Africa for the establishment of regional and local dispute resolution committees. If the holiday period is excluded, there was one meeting every second day, on average.

16. The members of the National Peace Secretariat are the following:

- Dr A Gildenhuis (ALS) (Chairman)
- Adv. Gert Myburgh (NP)
- Mr Jayendra Naidoo (ANC-alliance)
- Mr Peter Gastrow (DP)
- Ms Sue Vos (IFP)
- Mr Craven Collis (Labour Party)
- Adv. Deon Rudman (Department of Justice)

17. I am indebted to the members of the National Peace Secretariat and to the administrative staff for their constant efforts in the pursuit of peace.