

**ADDRESS BY DR ZACH DE BEER, MP, LEADER OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY,
AT CODESA 2 ON SATURDAY 16 MAY 1992**

A few months ago, we came to know and to use a new phrase - The Spirit of Codesa.

What was this spirit? It was simply the acceptance and the application in our work of the idea that it is more important to obtain agreement about the New South Africa than it is to score political points on behalf of our parties. Now of course this is not to ask anyone to sell his or her moral principles -- but it does suggest an approach, an attitude, a style which strives for agreement.

Yesterday, the Spirit of Codesa seemed to have evaporated. It was regrettable but perhaps understandable that Group 2 could not reach agreement: it was very sad indeed that there was a great deal of public recrimination between two very important organisations in the sight of all the world. South Africa was ill served by those events.

This morning, we listened to the leaders of these two organisations. I select from the President's speech the key phrase: "THERE IS NO REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE TO CODESA". I think he spoke for us all.

Mr Mandela's speech contained a list of extremely important matters on which he believes we are all agreed. Subject, perhaps, to interpretation here and there, I think we all support these aims.

We see therefore that Codesa is the vehicle we must use, and that we have an urgent agenda of vitally necessary things we must do.

The Management Committee is putting forward workable proposals to make this possible, and we urge plenary session to endow that Committee with the authority and the responsibility it needs to bring us back on track as soon as possible. I hope the Spirit of Codesa is coming back into our hearts.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER R P MEYER ON THE GOVERNMENT'S
APPROACH TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS AND TO A NEW
CONSTITUTIONAL DISPENSATION: 14 MAY 1992.

During the past two years we have made great progress with constitutional negotiations. We have achieved this without revolution and in a surprisingly short time. There has been considerable convergence between the views of the major parties and all parties deserve full credit for the progress which has been made.

We are now at the threshold of the next stage of the constitutional process - the drafting and adoption of a transitional constitution.

It is appropriate that the Government should again set out its basic principles with regard to the future constitutional dispensation and the process of negotiation.

As far as the future constitutional dispensation is concerned we stand for:

* The sharing of power.

We stand for : - a strong second chamber in Parliament;
- effective multi-party participation in all levels of government.

We reject: - the monopoly of power by any party;
- the misuse of power by any majority, however constituted.

* The distribution of power.

We favour: - the devolution of power to strong regional or federal states and local authorities;
- the separation of powers between the executive, the legislature and the judiciary;
- the empowerment of civil society to protect cultural, religious and other interest groups from state interference.

We reject: - the centralisation of power.

* The constitutional regulation of power.

We reject: - unlimited and unrestrained power.

- We support:
- an entrenched constitution which can be amended only by a special majority in Parliament;
 - a Charter of Fundamental Rights, which will be enforceable by the Courts.

As far as the process which is currently under way is concerned, we stand for:

* Constitutional continuity.

- Only the present Parliament can adopt the transitional constitution.
- The present government will remain in power until a new government is duly installed in terms of the transitional constitution. This means that full control over the administration of all government departments will be retained by the present Government until the transitional constitution is put into effect.

* The maintenance of order.

- We insist on the termination of armed struggle and the abandonment of violence as a means of achieving political objectives.
- We support strong action to combat crime, violence and intimidation.
- We strictly adhere to the Peace Accord and to the Code of Conduct for Political Parties. We insist that other parties should do the same.

* Negotiations in good faith.

We insist on:

- compliance with agreements;
- rejection of hidden agendas;
- reasonableness, with solutions in which there are no losers.

The government has faithfully implemented its undertakings.

- It will not rest until it has achieved the goal of a new, just and democratic constitutional dispensation.
- It will not settle for anything less.

The government's approach is eminently reasonable and morally irreproachable.

- It is in keeping with the complexities of our society.
- It is in accordance with the constitutional practice, experience and wisdom of other complex societies.
- It is tune with the spirit of our time.