



8. It is indeed strange and ironic that in the 29 years of conflict leading to that historic agreement, neither the Government nor any other party or organisation ever referred to MK as a "private army". The use of this term now is mischievous, propagandistic and diversionary and should not be allowed to hold-up the work and agreements of CODESA and the negotiations process. The facts of history need to be objectively understood and accepted and the point is that the endeavours of the combatants of MK have been part of a process that has forced this government to accept the need to resolve differences at the negotiating table.

9. On the question of MK's termination of the armed struggle the following needs to be noted:

It is universally accepted that a ceasefire process marks the suspension of hostilities between two warring parties. This suspension or ceasefire allows for talks to take place in order to resolve the cause of the conflict. It is when such a final agreement is reached that the termination of the conflict results.

It is up to the Government to help us move speedily to the point of Interim Government and the implementation of the democratic Constitution so that Umkhonto we Sizwe and the liberation movement can finally agree to the formalised termination that we all seek.

10. Finally, since up to August 1990 there have been two key belligerents - the Government and MK. Umkhonto we Sizwe must be respected as an element that needs to form part of the reconstituted and fully integrated South African armed forces of a democratic society. There is no way that we can accept that one of the two former belligerents should be dissolved.