

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

- 1 Since the Secretariat was established during November 1991, it has concentrated its efforts towards 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; and
 - 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 So far, 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 as joint chairpersons. An Executive Committee has been appointed, comprising of 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, Oshatini, 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: it could only be achieved 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. So far, I have been acting as *ad hoc* chairman. Agreement has now been reached that Mr Charles Nepun will serve as an interim chairman. Deep rooted enmity between some members of the Committee makes it very difficult for the Committee to fulfil 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 Rev B van Zijl have been elected as co-chair persons.

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.

Lists of organisations and members represented at these meetings are annexed hereto.

- 6 In some areas informal Peace Organisations are already in existence. Our task was made easier where we have 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 (which was done in Thokoza/Phola Park and in Germiston).
- 7 Threats of violence were made to obstruct the Paul Simon concert. I offered the services of the National Peace Secretariat to facilitate on the matter, and this led to a public undertaking by the PAC and AZAPO to refrain from violence in manifesting its opposition to the concert.
- 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 also 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, due to time constraints, it is not possible to first form a Regional Dispute Resolution Committee, the Secretariat has constituted Local Dispute Resolution Committees in flashpoint areas.
- 10 It is necessary 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, it will be necessary to train the members thereof 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 The media activities of the Secretariat have, up to now, been handled by Ms Val Pauquet. 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. We are indebted to Ms Pauquet for her efforts.
- 13 The National Peace Secretariat has offices in Pretoria. There are seven fulltime 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 to violence occur. It is necessary that such legislation be promulgated as soon as possible. As presently constituted, the Dispute Resolution Committees do not have sufficient powers to enforce its decisions.
- 15 Since its inception, the National Peace Secretariat had five meetings. In addition, it convened and attended nineteen meetings all over South Africa for the establishment of Regional and Local Dispute Resolution Committees. If the holiday period is excluded, there was on average one meeting every second day.
- 16 The members of the National Peace Secretariat are the following:
 - Dr A Gildenhuys (ALS) (Chairman);
 - Adv Gert Myburgh (NP);
 - Mr Jan Naidoo (ANC);
 - Adv Peter Castrow (DP);
 - Ms Sue Vos (IFP);
 - Mr Craven Collis (Labour); and
 - Adv Deon Rudman (Dept Jus).

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.



A GILDENHUIS

17 January 1992