



# WORLD CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND PEACE SOUTH AFRICAN CHAPTER

8 Piet Meyer Street  
Mindalore  
**KRUGERSDORP**  
1740

The Chairperson  
Management Committee  
CODESA  
PO Box 307  
**ISANDO**  
1600

24 February 1992

Dear Dr. de Beer

Attached hereto please find a copy of our letter to the Conservative Party regarding the matter of prayers at the opening session of Codesa I.

As an organisation which works for better understanding between people of different faiths in South Africa, we are very appreciative of the fact that Codesa I recognised the multi-faith dimension of South African society. We do trust that the controversy which has ensued since, will not deter you from continuing to recognise the important role which religion has been and is playing in South African society.

Whilst you may at this time reconsider the wisdom of having similar prayers at the opening sessions of Codesa II, we from our side wish to suggest that you do not abandon the idea of prayers totally nor have only one general prayer. Both these options will to our mind deny the role and rich diversity of religious traditions in our country. We would suggest that you either continue with the practice of four prayers or that you open your proceedings with a five minute (and not five seconds!) period of silence.

Please be assured of our prayers for the immensely important work which you are doing.

With much appreciation.

Yours sincerely

**DR. GERRIE LUBBE**  
**NATIONAL PRESIDENT**



8 Piet Meyer Street  
Mindalore  
**KRUGERSDORP**  
1740

The General Secretary  
Conservative Party of SA  
Metropolitan Building  
Skinner Street  
**PRETORIA**  
0001

24 February 1992

Dear Sir

As an organisation which works for better understanding and co-operation between people of different faiths in South Africa, we want to record our disagreement with the statement of your executive committee (hoofraad) that Codesa was a "*public worship of polytheism*" (openbare aanbidding van 'n veelgodedom).

As you would no doubt know, South Africa is a country of many faiths and religion plays a important role in public life in South Africa. We therefore feel that the fact of prayers by different religious traditions at Codesa was a positive mobilisation for peace and justice. To us this event spoke of the recognition of people of all faiths as loyal citizens of our country.

Whilst we do not want to go into theological arguments, our viewpoint is that when, at a state occasion like Codesa, prayers from different religions are offered, one needs to respect such prayers and at the same time recognise the integrity of that particular religion. The intention of people who pray for peace and harmony in our country at Codesa I and at the National Peace Convention should certainly not be despised, but welcomed.

We trust that our remarks will be accepted in the right spirit and that you, like us, will see your way open to work with people of all political and religious persuasions for a better South Africa.

Yours sincerely

**DR. GERRIE LUBBE**  
**NATIONAL PRESIDENT**