

M.L. Sultan Technikon
41-43 Centenary Road
Durban
4001

18 May 1992

For attention Mr Mick Webb
(on behalf of WG1)

CODESA
P.O. Box 307
Isando
1600

re: Contribution of Political Science I
students to CODESA

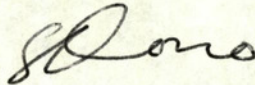
Dear Mr Webb,

Thank you very much for responding to our contribution to
CODESA. We apologise for the delay in responding.

Enclosed please find an update of our first contribution.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully



Dr S.M. QONO
(Lecturer)

WORKING GROUP 1 : CREATION OF A CLIMATE FOR FREE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

The state should act upon concrete findings of commissions of inquiry and recommendations by members of the judiciary, e.g. the Goldstone Commission.

In the light of the new developments, it is deemed unfair to demand a certain party to disarm when some parties are armed and still engage in violence.

Unbiased structures for the media monitoring and control should be established. Bias should be eliminated in interviews, i.e. equal time should be granted to all participating parties to air their views.

Education should not be neglected. An educated population would help in the stabilisation of the economy, better equipped to understand political developments thereof and understand consequences thereof, thus creating more tolerance. Tuition fees should be proportional to ones salary. Job creation should be at the top of priorities as it would help alleviate poverty and crime. With the decrease of crime and violence we would have more investor confidence

CONVENTION FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA

ATTENTION WORKING GROUP 1 :- The creation of a climate for free political participation and the role of the international community.

In creating a climate for free political participation the following must be considered :-

SOCIAL FACTORS :

We propose that the following problems be given priority at CODESA. Basic human needs such as low cost housing, free education, labour and proper medical care must be allocated to the underprivileged. The disparities with regard to the aforementioned needs which have so long existed, unopposed and unquestioned must now be accounted for and the balance reinstated. At this crucial point in South African politics, an immediate strategy and an affirmative approach must be adopted, if CODESA plans to win the faith of all citizens.

We however by no means infer that by addressing and adequately providing for the above social factors, would result in the total abatement of unrest related incidences in the townships, but believe that a better climate and one which is more conducive to change would result if social factors receive the attention they demand.

THE ECONOMIC FACTORS

It has been argued by numerous political organizations, on more than one occasion that due to sanctions being imposed on South Africa by the international community, the country was forced into political change, however South Africa's economy without doubt has suffered immeasurably. We are undeniably in the midst of a world recession. Until CODESA attains its objective of eradicating political instability, which will subsequently result in the decrease of violence, foreign investment which is vital for South Africa cannot be attracted. Furthermore a major programme, which among other aspects emphasizes education, training and labour needs to be embarked upon in an attempt to stimulate economic growth within South Africa. If decisive action, with specific reference to the deplorable economic state is not undertaken in the immediate future, all other issues being deliberated upon at CODESA remain a practice in futility.

THE MEDIA

We see the role of the media to be a crucial and significant one, especially in a country in the midst of implementing change. Being engaged in the study of JOURNALISM, we believe that the media must at all times endeavour to promote a more positive and peaceful image of South Africa, but in doing so, remain within the confines of reality. It is of importance that all South African citizens be constantly reassured, via the media that the process of broadening democracy is undertaken earnestly and by legitimate political parties. The interest of the public is not best served if the

media is controlled by, or in any way alligns itself to a specific political party. Democracy is universal and must not be interpreted to suite the interests of any single party. Freedom of the press must be maintained at all times. Furthermore, we support wholeheartedly any move towards deregulating the media. By giving equal and fair representation of differing political points of view, via both the electronic and print media, this will invariably lead to an easing of tensions and promote a relaxed climate for negotiation.

Thus in creating a public mood conducive to the spirit of reconciliation, the media must :-

1. Increase the amount of information available on peaceful solutions to conflict.
2. Confer prestige on peacemakers (with the intention of possibly highlighting achievements/progress of COOESA.
3. Put peacemakers on opposite sides in touch with one another.
4. Be fully aware of hidden biases in commenting on controversial issues.

THE SECURITY FORCES

The escalating violence in the townships maybe attributed to the strong political affiliations held. We urge all political parties to suspend the use of weapons. The slow revelation of corruption at high levels in the S.A.P contributes to justify suspicions ^{held} on the part of other organisations. An independant organisation should be set up to undertake investigations into all activities of the S.A.P. Once all corruption has been exposed and the guilty punished, a suitable climate for the disbanding of

private armies will exist. The presence of the army and riot units in Black townships is clearly unwelcomed but is also necessary for stability to be achieved. Such battalions and units should take up station outside the townships so that they will be available should their presence in townships be needed, whilst not actually being in the townships itself. The help of the International Community and related security forces (viz UNTAG) should must only be enlisted as a last resort after all local efforts have been exhausted.