

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION

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FROM: Goldstone Commission

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SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION

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EMBARGO: IMMEDIATE**STATEMENT BY MR JUSTICE R J GOLDSTONE, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION**

1(a) The Commission welcomed the public and media debate which followed the release last Thursday of its Second Interim Report and Press Statement. Open, free and untrammelled debate on matters of such obvious public concern is essential in ways and means are to be found of putting an end to the current violence and intimidation. However the Commission is concerned at the manner in which its views were unfairly and selectively used by public representatives who for some weeks had been in possession of all the information. This led to unfortunate confusion. That could not have happened if all interested parties and particularly all the signatories to the National Peace Accord had been placed in possession of the Commission's Report before Government and Police spokesmen made public comment on it.

(b) The Commission recommends that steps be taken to avoid a repetition of this occurrence.

(c) In no way did the Commission in its Report or Press Statement exonerate elements in the Security Forces from contributing to violence in South Africa or of the Government in failing to take sufficiently firm steps to prevent criminal conduct by members of the Security Forces.

2(a) In its Second Interim Report the Commission listed a number of the causes of public violence and intimidation. It did so in historical sequence and did not suggest any one as being more important than any other.

(b) In its Press Statement which was unrelated to its Interim Report the Commission referred to six specified areas in South Africa three in the Transvaal and three in Natal. In stating that the primary cause of present violence in those areas is the political battle between supporters of the African National Congress and of the Inkatha Freedom Party, the Commission in no way intended to detract from the conclusions set out in its Report. It was explaining its finding that the current violence in these areas can not abate unless and until the leaders of both of those Organisations take appropriate steps to cause their supporters to abandon violence as a political weapon. Action by the Security Forces alone can not meaningfully curb the violence in those areas.

3. The Commission repeats that no evidence at all has to date been placed before it which would justify a finding that there is "a third force" as defined in the Interim Report responsible for the current violence. However, the Commission will continue to inquire into any future allegations or evidence relevant to the cause or causes of public violence and intimidation.

4. The Commission in no way sought to apportion blame for violence in South Africa as between any organisation. Enquiries which

are currently being conducted by the Commission would make it highly inappropriate to do so. Those current enquiries relate, *inter alia*, to the involvement in current violence of the Defence Force, the Police, the Inkatha Freedom Party, the KwaZulu Police and the African National Congress. With regard to those allegations currently being investigated the Commission did not express any views or conclusions.

5. The Commission appeals to all South Africans together to take appropriate steps to put an end to the present violence causing such distress.

R J GOLDSTONE

CHAIRMAN: COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

PRETORIA

01/06/1992