

## ASSOCIATION OF OFFICERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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### MEMORANDUM

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1. The Officers Association of the Republic of South Africa (AORSA) requests the opportunity to make verbal submissions to Working Group 1 of Codesa.
2. AORSA is an independent non-political organisation open to all officers and warrant officers (serving or retired) of the Security Forces. Its country-wide membership are among the best of the leadership element of the defence force.
3. AORSA believes that the accumulated experience of its members may be of value to you in your discussions on "the composition and role of the security forces in South Africa and the TBVC states" (Terms of Reference 1.1.4 (i)) as well those on 2.1.3.(f) involving the transferring of constitutional authority.
4. AORSA notes the very important changes taking place in South Africa as well as the current debate on the role the defence force will play in a democratic South Africa.
5. AORSA wants a non-political defence force in which all South Africans can participate on an equal basis and which will be representative of our society. Its conduct must be such that it will be respected by all South Africans. Internationally it must regain the reputation it earned in two world wars and in the Korean campaign.
6. AORSA stands for a defence force that is loyal to the constitution of the country and the freely elected government of the day. We believe it should be subject to parliament and the laws of the land as well as internationally accepted codes of conduct.
7. AORSA sees the primary task of a defence force as the defeating of external aggression and assisting in the maintaining of internal law and order. Its training and equipment makes it invaluable in saving life and property and in maintaining essential services in times of disaster. It is however not an extension of the police force.
8. AORSA does not believe that this can be achieved without a high degree of professionalism, discipline, training and the maintaining of high standards.
9. AORSA sees the defence force as a stabilising factor during the process of change in South Africa. Modifications to the existing defence force must therefore be gradual and implemented over an extended period so as

not to undermine this protective role while change is still under way.

10. AORSA says that a decision on the size and composition of the defence force on the basis of meeting political goals and promises will place the safety of the country in jeopardy.

11. AORSA calls for the size and composition to be based on a study of projected internal and external threats over a period of at least the next ten years coupled with what human, material and financial resources may be available to meet such threats.

12. AORSA rejects the theory that military preparedness constitutes negative militarism. We say all states are subject to threats and that South Africa is especially so because of the process of change, its strategic position and wealth. Long term preparedness saves lives and money and deters enemies.

13. AORSA believes that the core of any defence force is a well-trained and motivated permanent element of professionals. They ensure continuity and serve as a reservoir of skills and senior leadership.

14. AORSA cannot accept the concept that South Africa's future defence force should consist only of full-time professionals. The economy cannot support a large enough professional force to ensure the long term security of the country. We see such an elitist group as a possible threat to stability as its exclusive hold on military power may turn it into a dangerous pressure group.

15. AORSA earnestly pleads for the retention of the citizen soldier as a major factor in the defence of a democratic South Africa. The involvement of a large number of ordinary citizens will help to instil a sense of identity and an allegiance to the new state. The pool of manpower will also provide more security at a lower cost while serving as a check on the power wielded by the professionals.

16. AORSA supports the principle of voluntary military service by citizen soldiers as it provides an involved and experienced leader group in times of need. We stand for a national service system decided on by parliament for all South Africans of both sexes. Military and police service should be two of the alternatives available in a wider scheme than the present one. Community service could be another.

17. AORSA supports a review of the existing structure of the defence force. We however strongly recommend that the elements of continuity and pride based on the achievements and traditions of the past be corner stones in the

process. This will smooth the establishment of the new defence force and ease problems in the transition period.

18. AORSA anticipates the inclusion of people in the ranks who have not served in the existing SADF. This process is of the utmost importance and may make or break the new defence force. Inclusion should be based on ability, state of health, education and suitability for the job. Scarce defence funds should not be spent on unemployment relief or in the granting of political favours. We say an impartial group should be formed to handle this difficult task.

19. AORSA makes an earnest plea that existing unit structures, traditions, decorations, medals and insignia not be discarded without careful and prolonged consideration. We concede that adjustments may have to be made but ask that these be done on a give and take basis. AORSA recalls the damage done to the SADF by an over enthusiastic Minister of Defence in the past and wants to prevent a destructive split during a possible sensitive period of transition. Existing units can bond men together in a new South Africa far better than new organisations struggling to find their identities. Traditions and suitable insignia will assist in the process.

20. AORSA's members are on the whole men with sound experience built up during long service in leadership positions. Many have served voluntarily and they care about the defence of their country. We wish to convey to you their thoughts, feelings and fears. I trust that you will permit us to make verbal submissions to you.

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4. AORSA notes the very important changes taking place in South Africa as well as the current debate on the role the police force will play in a democratic South Africa.
5. AORSA wants a non-political police force in which all South Africans can participate on an equal basis and which will be representative of our society. Its conduct must be such that it will be respected domestically and internationally.
6. AORSA stands for a police force that is loyal to the constitution of the country and the freely elected government of the day. We believe it should be subject to parliament and the laws of the land as well as internationally accepted codes of conduct.
7. AORSA sees the primary task of the police force as that of maintaining law and order as well as the maintenance of internal security.
8. AORSA does not believe that this can be achieved without a high degree of professionalism, discipline, training and the maintaining of high standards.
9. AORSA sees the police assisted by the defence force as a stabilising factor during the process of change in South Africa. Modifications to the existing police force must therefore be gradual and implemented over an extended period so as not to undermine the maintaining of law, order and internal security.
10. AORSA says that the present establishment of the police should be rapidly and substantially increased to combat the fast rising crime rate and civil disorder. We

- believe that a failure to do so could lead to chaos and anarchy during the period of transition and thereafter.
11. AORSA calls for the size of the police establishment to be more in line with that of other comparative countries. At present the ratio between the size of the force and the population is below international levels. This makes law enforcement difficult and leads to the deployment of other forces in support of the police.
  12. AORSA wants the police reserve element to be maintained and expanded with better conditions of service. We believe that a system of remuneration should be instituted. Members are at present not paid for their services.
  13. AORSA earnestly believes that the standard of professionalism and training should be maintained. Attestation should be based on ability, state of health, education and suitability for the job. Scarce funds should not be spent on concealed unemployment relief and the granting of political favours.
  14. AORSA is convinced that promotion and advancement in the force should be by examination and merit only. The system in use can serve as a sound foundation to build on during the period of transition.
  15. AORSA supports a review of the existing structure of the police force. We however strongly recommend that the elements of continuity and pride based on the achievements and traditions of the past be corner stones in the process. This will smooth the establishment of the new police force and ease problems in the transition period.
  16. AORSA makes an earnest plea that existing structures, traditions, decorations, medals and insignia not be discarded without careful and prolonged consideration. We concede that adjustments may have to be made but ask that these be done on a give and take basis.
  17. AORSA members are on the whole men with sound experience built up during long service in leadership positions. Many have served voluntarily and they are concerned about law and order in the country. We wish to convey to you their thoughts, feelings and fears. I trust that you will allow us to make verbal submissions to you.

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