

**ADDRESS BY DR ZACH DE BEER, MP, LEADER OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY,
AT CODESA 2 ON SATURDAY 16 MAY 1992**

A few months ago, we came to know and to use a new phrase - The Spirit of Codesa.

What was this spirit? It was simply the acceptance and the application in our work of the idea that it is more important to obtain agreement about the New South Africa than it is to score political points on behalf of our parties. Now of course this is not to ask anyone to sell his or her moral principles -- but it does suggest an approach, an attitude, a style which strives for agreement.

Yesterday, the Spirit of Codesa seemed to have evaporated. It was regrettable but perhaps understandable that Group 2 could not reach agreement: it was very sad indeed that there was a great deal of public recrimination between two very important organisations in the sight of all the world. South Africa was ill served by those events.

This morning, we listened to the leaders of these two organisations. I select from the President's speech the key phrase: "THERE IS NO REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE TO CODESA". I think he spoke for us all.

Mr Mandela's speech contained a list of extremely important matters on which he believes we are all agreed. Subject, perhaps, to interpretation here and there, I think we all support these aims.

We see therefore that Codesa is the vehicle we must use, and that we have an urgent agenda of vitally necessary things we must do.

The Management Committee is putting forward workable proposals to make this possible, and we urge plenary session to endow that Committee with the authority and the responsibility it needs to bring us back on track as soon as possible. I hope the Spirit of Codesa is coming back into our hearts.