

# Campaign for Open Media

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21 February 1992

Mr Andrew Feinstein  
Secretary  
Working Group 1  
Codesa  
Telefax: (011) 491-6452

Dear Mr Feinstein

Further to our written submission forwarded to Working Group 1 by telefax and by courier on February 5, the following:

We trust that Working Group 1 has had the opportunity of reading our submission which consisted mainly of the proposals adopted by the "Free, Fair and Open : South African Media in the Transition to Democracy" conference which was convened jointly by ourselves and the Centre for Development Studies of the University of the Western Cape.

We are now seeking to make a verbal submission to Working Group 1 in support of these proposals and also to report on further work and research which is presently being conducted by media lawyers arising from the conference proposals. We are not seeking to simply repeat what is stated in the proposals, but to provide supporting motivation as well as submitting the results of additional research arising out of them.

We are specifically requesting an opportunity to make verbal submissions on legal and constitutional media matters, broadcasting matters, as well as the issue of securing more diversity of the press during the transitional period.

Two media lawyers, Mr David Dison and Ms Amanda Armstrong, are presently engaged in the follow-up work arising from the conference in respect of the proposal concerning legal and constitutional considerations for a free media. COM has requested them, and they have agreed, to be included in the delegation from COM that will make the verbal submission.

The verbal submission on legal and constitutional media matters will include a brief summary of the contents of the laws identified in point 3 of the proposal with supporting motivation as to why these laws, or sections of these laws, need to be scrapped this year.

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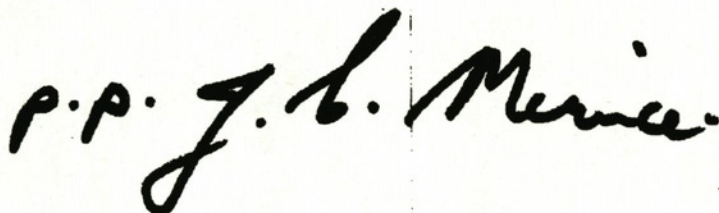
Point 4 of the same proposal recommends the scrapping of the Information Act and the drafting of Freedom of Information legislation with which to replace it. The lawyers above are also engaged in this work.

Point 2 and paragraphs 2 and 3 of point 4 of this proposal refer to a decision of the conference for a number of interested parties to put together a comprehensive list of all the major offending legislation in regard to the media, for incorporation in a General Laws Amendment Bill, and for forwarding to Codesa. However, this is a detailed and thorough survey and will take some time to complete. We do not envisage that this work will be finished before the middle of this year. The Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CALS) at the University of the Witwatersrand is co-ordinating this work on commission from the Media Defense Trust. CALS is also looking at the media legislation in the TBVC states as part of its study.

Concerning the proposal on the role of television, radio and film in the creation of a climate for free political participation and expression in South Africa, we think it very important that our verbal views on this proposal be heard as soon as possible because urgent action is needed in this area.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Raymond Louw  
Chairperson  
Campaign for Open Media

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