

Campaign for Open Media

Office 8, 17th floor, Conlyn House, 156 President Street Johannesburg. P O Box 261096, Excom, 2023, South Africa
Telephone: (011) 29-6287/29-4355 Fax: (011) 29-4354

TELEFAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 5 February 1992

FROM: CAMPAIGN FOR OPEN
MEDIA

TO: ATTENTION: PROF KADAR ASMAL
WORKING GROUP ONE.

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:

2 + cover

MESSAGE:

Dear Kim Morgan,
Our resolutions
will follow this afternoon.

Joyce.

Campaign for Open Media

Office 8, 17th floor, Conlyn House, 156 President Street Johannesburg. P O Box 261096, Excom, 2023, South Africa
Telephone: (011) 29-6287/29-4355 Fax: (011) 29-4354

Raymond Louw
The chairperson
Campaign for Open Media
5th January 1992

The chairperson
Working Group 1
Convention for a Democratic South Africa

The Campaign for Open Media has been instructed to submit to you the decisions of the conference convened from January 30 to February 1 by COM on the subject of the South African media in the transition to democracy.

An unusually, and possibly uniquely, broad range of South African media opinion was represented at the conference, which also heard contributions from several international media figures.

South African interests represented included the Newspaper Press Union, the Conference of Editors, the Media Council, the Conference of Independent Newspaper Editors, SABC, as well as the range of broadcasters' associations (whose membership includes TVBC broadcasters), all three journalists' trade unions, the main human rights and anti-censorship groupings, media lawyers, academics specialising in media matters, media special interest groups, and several of the political parties participating in Codesa. Editors from three of the four main newspaper groups also participated.

It is therefore our view that the resultant decisions could be a useful and necessary contribution to the discussions of Codesa's Working Group 1.

Decisions relevant to your brief on the media included :

* Proposals on the necessary amendments to the existing legislative and constitutional framework to remove restrictions to the right of freedom of expression, and to introduce a justiciable guarantee of that right.

* Proposals on changes to the control and administrative structures of South African broadcasting necessary to ensure, in the transition, that the country has access to as impartial and non-partisan as possible a broadcast sector during the transition.

In regard to this latter proposal the conference felt implementation of its proposals was a matter of extreme urgency and proposed implementation by March 31 at the latest.

In view of this urgency, we will be forwarding to you today a summary of the conference conclusions on these two topics.

We would be grateful if, in the meanwhile, you could inform us of your intentions with regard to external written and oral submissions.

You can contact the Campaign for Open Media office by telephone on (011) 29 4355 or fax (011) 29 4354. If you need to contact me personally on telephone (011) 646 8790 or fax (011) 646 2596.

Yours sincerely



Joyce Ozynski

pp Raymond Louw
COM Chairperson