

REPORT ON THE MEETING HELD BETWEEN THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF
WORKING GROUP 4 AND THE DMC ON CONSENSUS ON 2 MARCH 1992.

1. INTRODUCTION:

There has been concern on the interpretation of consensus in as far as it affects Working Group 4. This factor necessitated consultation with CODESA DMC.

2. EXPLANATIONS BY DMC:

- 2.1. DMC expressed sentiments of CODESA embodying flexibility, generosity, imagination etc in order to facilitate the process of negotiation.
 - 2.2. DMC referred to the Standing Rules of Procedure for plenary sessions on Section 3 Agreement, which reads thus:
 - 2.3. Section 3.1. "Every delegation shall, when called by the chair to express its position on a proposal or matter before the meeting, have such position stated by the leader of the delegation or a spokesperson appointed by the leader of the delegation.
 - 2.4. Section 3.2. Agreement will be arrived at by consensus.
 - 2.5. Section 3.3. Agreement by sufficient consensus will have been reached when consensus is of such a nature that the work of the convention can move forward effectively.
 - 2.6. Section 3.4. Disagreeing participants shall have the right to record their objections or dissent.
 - 2.7. Section 3.5. When disagreement exists, the chair will allow parties adequate time to consult amongst each other and with their principals before recording any position".
3. The above stated are the approved rules and no other interpretation exists.

4. It was further stated that, no participant in this process of CODESA has any special status. No participant in this process of CODESA has any veto power.
5. If sufficient consensus has been reached, the party/s that is not part of the consensus can have their reservations recorded.
6. All participants were encouraged to return to their task with a positive spirit and not to create variations of interpretation that will create, rather than solve problems. The point of departure should be to seek for consensus rather than pointing out differences.
7. The DMC is prepared to discuss this issue with any dissatisfied party.
8. It was also pointed out that the problem that the Bophuthatswana Government had not signed the Declaration of Intent is being discussed by the Management Committee.
9. The Representative of Bophuthatswana Government indicated that the Bophuthatswana delegation will not place a delay where other states agree to proceed with the progress simply because of consensus or sufficient consensus concepts. -