

EMBARGO: 12:00 : MONDAY, 8 MARCH 1993

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE R J GOLDSTONE, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION

1. The Commission is to hold an enquiry into ways and means of curbing the potential for public violence and intimidation in and in relation to a national election.

2. In order to assist and advise the Commission with regard to the enquiry it will appoint a panel of South African experts. Appropriate international experts will also be consulted and will be requested to act with the local panel.

3. All interested parties are requested to furnish written submissions to the Commission by 31 May 1993 on any relevant matter relating to the above terms of reference and in particular:

- (a) the rules of conduct and procedure (including policing and security) which should apply in order to curb public violence and intimidation in relation to public meetings held and any other activity relating to an election conducted in the period prior to such an election by political parties and organisations;
- (b) the relevance to public violence and intimidation of the time period during which voting should take place;

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- (c) the location of polling stations;
- (d) the security and policing of polling stations;
- (e) the conduct and procedures relating to the counting of votes;
- (f) relevant measures during the period following the conclusion of the election;
- (g) with regard to the foregoing matters:
 - (i) the role of relevant Government Departments;
 - (ii) the role of the South African Police;
 - (iii) The role of the international community.

4. The Commission requests submissions to be furnished to it in particular by:

- (a) relevant Government Departments;
- (b) the South African Police;
- (c) political parties and organisations;
- (d) international organisations which have an interest and a role to play;
- (e) church organisations;
- (f) welfare organisations;
- (g) relevant university departments and institutes.

5. The Commission hopes that this enquiry, apart from any other purpose, will in effect be a consultation with all the people of South Africa in order to:

- (a) ascertain their fears, concerns and wishes with regard to possible public violence and intimidation in a forthcoming national election;

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(b) educate the public of South Africa with regard to political tolerance which is essential for a free and fair election and one unaccompanied by violence or intimidation.

6. In order to achieve the aforesaid goals, the Commission appeals to non-governmental organisations, churches and welfare organisations to actively consult with their constituents and members with regard to the enquiry and so involve all of the people of South Africa in a matter which is primarily their concern.

7. Submissions should be furnished to the Secretary of the Commission, Private Bag X858, Pretoria, 0001.

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