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**SUBMISSION BY THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS TO THE
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON VIOLENCE ON THE PEACE CORPS****1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The ANC is fully in support of the establishment of a Peace Corps on a national basis as a critical instrument in bringing about peace and in beginning to rebuild society at the grassroots level.
- 1.2. In recent weeks, following the assassination of Cde. Chris Hani who introduced the idea, many different conceptions of a Peace Corps have been proposed. This requires us to now attempt to clarify precisely what a Peace Corps should be in order to channel all our energies into a coherent and focussed initiative.
- 1.3. The ANC is currently engaged in intensive internal discussions to finalise its proposals on the Peace Corps. However, we are prepared to submit the following tentative broad framework in order to stimulate broader discussion with a view to quickening the pace with which consensus is obtained.

2. OUR VIEW OF WHAT THE PEACE CORPS SHOULD BE

- 2.1. In essence the Peace Corps should be
 - 2.1.1. a youth based formation
 - 2.1.2. accountable to and based in the community
 - 2.1.3. non partisan
- 2.2. It should be funded in the main by public funds with contributions from private and donor sources
- 2.3. The Peace Corps should serve as a means of
 - 2.3.1. mobilising large numbers of youth
 - 2.3.2. providing training to youth which will equip them with valuable life skills and work skills
 - 2.3.3. protecting communities against violence and crime
 - 2.3.4. acting as a vital resource in developmental and civic activities aimed at the physical and social reconstruction of local communities

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schools, may be used for this purpose. However, where necessary, new premises will have to be built which could be done by the Peace Corps themselves.

- 5.2. The capacity of the Peace Corps to protect the community will require that a quantity of weapons, including arms and ammunition are available for the Peace Corps. Careful procedures of control and safekeeping will be necessary in this regard.

6. PAYMENT

- 6.1. It is essential that members of the Peace Corps receive some remuneration. The form and amount of payment needs to be carefully considered.
- 6.2. It is important, however, to maintain an adequate level of remuneration and not to regard the Peace Corps as a source of cheap labour.

7. WAY FORWARD

- 7.1. The Peace Corps will have to be created in the context of an established institution. It is our view that in the short term, the structures of the Peace Accord are the appropriate vehicle through which the concept of a Peace Corps can be finalised and implemented.
- 7.2. In the longer term, it is possible that the Peace Corps can be linked to democratically elected local government structures. This would need to be considered at the appropriate time.
- 7.3. We therefore propose that once the report of the Technical Committee is compiled and submitted to the Planning Committee, it should be submitted to the National Peace Accord structures to be taken forward here.

3. THE PEACE CORPS IS DIFFERENT TO A PEACE KEEPING FORCE

- 3.1. The Peace Corps is not to be confused with a peacekeeping force made up of members of existing armed formations. That is a subject which must be dealt with separately.
- 3.2. The Peace Corps is essentially a civilian formation. It will play a role in the life of local communities side by side with the formal authorities as a voluntary instrument of the communities, albeit a nationally co-ordinated formation.

4. PROPOSED STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING

- 4.1. The Peace Corps must reach out to both young men and women. Where necessary, affirmative action must be taken to ensure the full participation of women.
- 4.2. The Peace Corps will be drawn primarily from the ranks of the unemployed. However, it must also integrate the student and worker sections of the youth.
- 4.3. Recruitment in the Peace Corps should be on a voluntary basis for a fixed period. More discussion is required on this point. Our view is that it should be between one and three years.
- 4.4. In addition to the members of the Peace Corps, full time staff will be required to manage, co-ordinate and conduct training. This will be necessary at local as well as regional and national levels.
- 4.5. To ensure accountability to the community, a representative committee is required at local level to oversee recruitment, the operation of the Peace Corps and how it is serving the needs of the community.
- 4.6. Regarding organisation, the Peace Corps may well have to have specialised sections depending on the needs of the community to attend to its different functions e.g. community protection, development, etc.
- 4.7. Training will require that at least a core curriculum is devised for all Peace Corps members which can be supplemented with more specialised training depending on the different needs which have to be met. It is important that the training should be certifiable to enable Peace Corps members to progress educationally and in terms of future employment opportunities

5. FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

- 5.1. The Peace Corps will require suitable premises such as offices and meeting venues at the local level. Existing state facilities, including

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