

**XIMOKO PROGRESSIVE PARTY POSITION PAPER RELATING TO REPORT
OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF WG3**

5 MAY 1992

Ximoko Progressive Party has taken a good hard look at the various proposals contained in the above report and wishes to draw specific attention to the question of the decision making process, dealt with at the end of this report.

Ximoko Progressive Party is of the view that with the exception mentioned below, the principle of substantial consensus on the basis of no less than an 80% majority should prevail in the decisions of all the sub-councils, TEC and Commissions, but that the principle of unanimity should still be retained in two fields, namely: Public Finance and Foreign Affairs.

Ximoko Progressive Party accepts the principle that power should in fact be shared already in phase one, in respect of Law and Order, Defence, Electoral Commission, Media Commission and Regional and Local Affairs. It rejects the notion that no power should be shared before the elections on the basis that the interim executive structures are appointed and therefore not truly representative of the people of South Africa. We feel that whatever their shortcomings, the interim executive structures are in fact more representative than the existing government structures and that the Government cannot in any of the above fields be both referee and player.

In the field of Public Finance and Foreign Affairs, however, we are prepared, at this stage, to support the principle of unanimity of decisions. The reason for this lies in the present inability of the Technical Committee to narrow down sufficiently the sphere of activity of these two Councils. The present definition of their powers is still so broad that under the guise of levelling the playing field, virtually every aspect of Finance and Foreign Affairs can be touched upon and interfered with to the detriment of stable and good practical government.

The net is presently so widely set that we feel a veto should be considered viable in these two fields. We also feel very strongly that some kind of definition of the phrase "levelling of the playing field" is absolutely essential if clarity is to be achieved in the determination of what the tasks of the sub-councils and TEC really are. Until such definition is available, there will be interminable arguments as to what falls inside and outside its functions, and the bridging of the socio-economic gap between rich and poor will continue to be confused with those steps that are necessary to ensure free and fair elections.