



**WORLD CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND PEACE  
SOUTH AFRICAN CHAPTER**

P.O. Box 19354  
Pretoria West  
0117

1992-03-02

CODESA SECRETARIAT  
World Trade centre

FAX: 011-397-2211  
ATTENTION: WORKING GROUP 2

SUBMISSION TO WORKING GROUP 2

Dear Madam/Sir

As a result of the newspaper advertisement of your secretariat in which you have asked for submissions to CODESA, we take this opportunity to communicate to you our present project of drafting a declaration (or Charter) on religious rights and obligations for a new constitutional arrangement in South Africa. We know that your working group is not presently giving attention to this issue, but we hereby want to inform you of our existence and send you the most basic information about our project. We plan to keep you informed of developments as we proceed, and we hope that you will take our submissions seriously when you discuss the formulation of religious freedom in the Bill of Rights.

The World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP) is a worldwide interfaith organisation which established a South African "chapter" in 1984. Our chapter has been involved in arranging programmes of interfaith dialogue and cooperation over the past eight years, and we hosted a large National Interfaith Conference in December 1990 in Johannesburg where we discussed precisely this question of religion-state relations in a future South Africa. Under separate cover we send you the original of this letter, together with a complimentary copy of the proceedings of that conference, entitled Believers in the future, for your information. We want to draw your attention specifically to pages 80 and 81 which contain the Recommendations of the conference, and pages 82 to 88 which describe the process for drafting a "Religious Charter" on which we have embarked.

The Charter process is presently gathering momentum, and the different regions of WCRP has already hosted single-faith as well as interfaith workshops to gather material for the Charter. The workshop to compile a draft Charter has been planned for the middle of June, and as soon as it is available we will send you a

copy. In order to give you an indication of the envisaged nature of the Charter, we want to briefly mention the kind of questions we are discussing. The most important issues that have thus far come up for debate are:

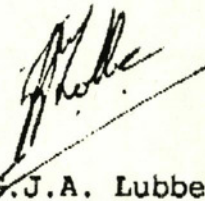
- \* Should South Africa be a "secular" state, i.e. where there is no official religion and where no religion is favoured in the constitution?
- \* Should religious instruction be given in state schools, and if so, how should it be done?
- \* Should religious schools be subsidised by the state?
- \* How should the different religions be accommodated in the public media?
- \* Should the personal law of particular religious groups (such as Muslims) be recognised under the new constitution?
- \* Since religious freedom includes the freedom for religions to propagate themselves, should not a "missionary code of conduct" be drawn up to describe acceptable propagation practices?

We hope that this has given you a clear indication of the project we are engaged in, and that you will remain in contact with us on the question of religious freedom when it comes up in your deliberations.

Thanking you in anticipation



Prof J.N.J. Kritzinger  
Chair: Charter Committee



Dr G.J.A. Lubbe  
National President: WCRP-SA