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Your ref. / U verw.

To / Aan The Chairman, Convention for a Democratic South Africa, PO Box 307,  
 Isando, 1600

From / Van Joan de Beer, Deputy Director for Dr P.J. Lor and Mr P.E. Westra

Pages / Bladsye 8 (incl. fax cover sheet / faks-dekblad lng.)

**MESSAGE / BOODSKAP**

Sir

Submission to CODESA Working Groups by State Library and South African Library for  
 kind attention.

Yours faithfully

*Joan de Beer*

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The Chairman  
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Please address all correspondence to the Director.

attention

Rig oesadief alle korrespondensie aan die Direkteur,

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Your Ref / U Verw.

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K1/48

1992-03-02

Sir

**SUBMISSION TO CODESA WORKING GROUPS**

We the undersigned directors of the two national libraries recognized in terms of the National Libraries Act, 1985, wish to bring to your attention the important role played in the development of South Africa by libraries in general and by the national libraries in particular, and wish to place at the disposal of CODESA the considerable resources and facilities of our libraries.

We therefore respectfully submit for the attention of the relevant Working Groups the attached memoranda in which these matters are dealt with more fully.

Yours faithfully

P J Lor  
 Director: State Library

P E Westra  
 Director: South African Library



MEMORANDUM TO CODESA WORKING GROUP NO. 1

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**FIRST ASSIGNMENT: CREATION OF A CLIMATE FOR FREE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**

South Africa has more than 1000 public libraries, public library depots, community libraries and resource centres that are open to all citizens. Together they constitute a unique resource that can be mobilized in support of constitutional reform and long term national development.

Public libraries have an important role to play in promoting mutual understanding and tolerance between various groups in our country. They are required to be politically neutral. They can provide a balanced range of informational materials that enable citizens to inform themselves and arrive at reasoned decisions. They contain educational materials that enable citizens to improve their standards of literacy and acquire knowledge and skills that can be applied in the development of their communities.

There are also other types of libraries, such as school, college, university and specialized research libraries, which are not open

to the general public, but which constitute an invaluable resource for national development.

Two libraries are recognized as national libraries in terms of the National Libraries Act, 1985. They are the South African Library, Cape Town, and the State Library, Pretoria. These two libraries hold comprehensive collections of materials relating to South and southern Africa as well as materials in other fields of knowledge. They are open to all and are used by researchers, scholars and citizens throughout South Africa and abroad. The national libraries provide support services in respect of the national bookstock, bibliographic (book finding) tools, resource sharing and the preservation of our national literary and scholarly heritage to all libraries in South Africa. By means of these national support services the national libraries enable other libraries to fulfil the tasks outlined above.

We recommend that, in striving to create a climate for free political participation, CODESA should harness the existing public library infrastructure. We can provide CODESA with statistical and directory information for this purpose and we are available for consultation on this matter.

P J Lor, Director, The State Library, P O Box 397, Pretoria, 0001  
P E Westra, Director, South African Library, P O Box 496, Cape Town, 8000.



## MEMORANDUM TO CODESA WORKING GROUP NO. 2

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## FIRST ASSIGNMENT: GENERAL CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES

South Africa has more than 1000 public libraries, public library depots, community libraries and resource centres, that are open to all citizens. Together they constitute a unique resource that can be mobilized in support of constitutional reform and long term national development.

Public libraries have an important role to play in promoting mutual understanding and tolerance between various groups in our country. They are required to be politically neutral. They can provide a balanced range of informational materials that enable citizens to inform themselves and arrive at reasoned decisions. They contain educational materials that enable citizens to improve their standards of literacy and acquire knowledge and skills that can be applied in the development of their communities.

There are also other types of libraries, such as school, college, university and specialized research libraries, which are not open to the general public, but which constitute an invaluable resource for national development.

Two libraries are recognized as national libraries in terms of the National Libraries Act, 1985. They are the South African Library, Cape Town, and the State Library, Pretoria. These two libraries hold valuable collections of materials relating to South and southern Africa as well as materials in other fields of knowledge. They are open to all and are used by researchers, scholars and citizens throughout South Africa and abroad. The national libraries provide support services in respect of the national bookstock, bibliographic (book finding) tools, resource sharing and the preservation of our national literary and scholarly heritage to all libraries in South Africa. By means of these national support services the national libraries enable other libraries to fulfil the tasks outlined above.

We recommend that, in formulating general constitutional principles, CODESA takes into account the valuable role that libraries can play in the development of a democratic, multiracial and prosperous South Africa. The following general principles should be embodied in the new Constitution or should not be contradicted by any of its provisions:

1. Every South African has a right of access to information needed for informed participation in the political process, for purposes of formal, nonformal and informal education, and for social, cultural and economic development.
2. Every South African has a right of access to publications and other information materials produced by the State or by state-funded agencies for the purposes listed in recommendation 1 above.



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3. Every South African has a right of gratis access to information materials, products and services that are produced or made available by agencies fully funded from tax revenues.
  4. Every South African has a right of access at reasonable cost to at least the basic contents of information materials, products and services that are produced or made available by agencies partially funded from tax revenues.
  5. All publicly funded agencies for the collection and dissemination of information (including public libraries) should be open to all regardless of ethnic origins, language, beliefs, age or gender.
  6. All publicly funded agencies for the collection and dissemination of information (including public libraries) should be politically neutral.
  7. Democratically selected representatives of the relevant constituencies and communities should participate in formulating policies for all publicly funded agencies for the collection and dissemination of information (including public libraries). These representatives should participate in the management of such agencies, with due regard for the knowledge and skills of the professional personnel employed to manage and operate them.
  8. Provision should be made at all levels of government (for example, central, regional and municipal levels) for the funding, maintenance and development of the types of libraries and information services that are appropriate to each level. The funding of certain types of libraries requires a partnership relation between authorities at more than one level of government. For example, public or community libraries should be funded by authorities at the municipal and regional levels. Certain libraries that render services at the national level should be funded and controlled by the central government. This applies in particular to the national libraries recognized in terms of the National Libraries Act, 1985. Furthermore, central government funding will be required for the elimination of inequalities in the provision of library services at the regional and municipal levels.
  9. The governance of libraries maintained by authorities at the various levels of government should provide for appropriate forms of expert and community participation. In particular, the national libraries recognized in terms of the National Libraries Act, 1985, should continue to be governed by their autonomous boards under the general control of the ministry of education.

P J Lor, Director, The State Library, P O Box 397, Pretoria, 0001  
P E Westra, Director, South African Library, P O Box 496, Cape Town, 8000.



MEMORANDUM TO CODESA WORKING GROUP NO. 2

SECOND ASSIGNMENT: CONSTITUTION-MAKING PROCESS

The South African Library, Cape Town, and the State Library, Pretoria, hold valuable collections of materials relating to South and Southern Africa. These libraries have comprehensive collections of official publications of South Africa and other countries in Southern Africa, the United States of America, and the United Nations and its agencies. There are also holdings of official publications of the United Kingdom, Commonwealth countries, and other countries. These are important sources of statistical, administrative and constitutional information.

Offer of assistance

The two national libraries wish to place their collections and services at the disposal of CODESA. We would welcome an opportunity for a discussion with CODESA staff and delegates on their information needs and what we can do to satisfy them.

P J Lor, Director, The State Library, P O Box 397, Pretoria, 0001  
P E Westra, Director, South African Library, P O Box 496, Cape Town, 8000.



## MEMORANDUM TO CODESA WORKING GROUP NO. 4

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## ASSIGNMENT: FUTURE OF TBVC STATES

In South Africa two libraries are recognized as national libraries in terms of the National Libraries Act, 1985. They are the South African Library, Cape Town, and the State Library, Pretoria. These two libraries hold valuable collections of materials relating to South and southern Africa as well as materials in other fields of knowledge. They are open to all and are used by researchers, scholars and citizens throughout South Africa and abroad. The national libraries provide support services in respect of the national bookstock, bibliographic (book finding) tools, resource sharing and the preservation of our national literary and scholarly heritage to all libraries in South Africa. In this way the national libraries enable them to fulfil their educational and informational tasks.

In terms of the Legal Deposit of Publications Act, 1982, the two national libraries, together with three other libraries, the Library of Parliament, the Bloemfontein Public Library, and the Natal Society Library, each receive a copy of each book, periodical, newspaper or other publication published in the Republic of South Africa. The materials collected in terms of legal deposit are used to constitute a comprehensive collection reflecting the literary and scholarly heritage of South Africa, for the compilation of the South African national bibliography, an authoritative record of South Africa's book production, for purposes of resource sharing, and for the delivery of information services.

When the TBVC states became independent, the existing South African legal deposit legislation ceased to apply to these states. These states also established their own national libraries. The governments of Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei entered into agreements with the RSA concerning the performance of certain national library functions and the delivery of legal deposit materials to the State Library. These agreements have proved difficult to implement. As a result, materials published in the TBVC states are not adequately represented in the collections of South Africa's national libraries. This leaves gaps in the national libraries' collections which impede current information and document delivery functions and will impede future research on South Africa.

We recommend that if the TBVC states are re-incorporated into South Africa

1. Measures be taken, when the existing intergovernmental agreements lapse, to ensure that legal deposit and certain related functions of the national libraries of these states are transferred without disruption to South Africa's national libraries.



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2. Measures be taken to ensure that gaps in the collections of South Africa's national libraries in respect of legal deposit materials emanating from these states during their period of independence, are filled.

3. "National library" functions presently carried out by the national libraries of the TBVC states, that can more efficiently be performed centrally, be transferred to South Africa's two national libraries.

4. The TBVC national libraries be incorporated into appropriate regional structures for the provision of public, community and school libraries. In certain cases where considerable library progress has been made, as in Bophuthatswana, the national library service could become the nucleus of a library service serving a region of South Africa.

P J Lor, Director, The State Library, P O Box 397, Pretoria, 0001  
P E Westra, Director, South African Library, P O Box 496 Cape Town, 8000.