

THE UNITED PEOPLE'S FRONT
KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY WG5SG1
2 MARCH 1992

A. CLIMATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS:

1. Violence:

It is the view of the United People's Front that the best results of any discussion can only be achieved when conducted under a climate which is peaceful and stable. We are therefore deeply concerned about the spiral of violence that continues to instill terror among our people and delays the process of reconciliation in the country. As a remedy we wish to urge Working Group 1 to use the National Peace Accord signed in September 1991 as a primary instrument to restore peace amongst our people. We further wish to point to Working Group 1 that as the political process of change continues to unfold confidence and certainty will return to the society and these will have a significantly positive effects towards peace. Peace can therefore return as we expedite change in the country.

2. Political Prisoners and exiles:

Normalization of the political process in the country should be accompanied by freedom of political activity. The continuing incarceration of political prisoners, as well as obstacles that continue to bar exiles from returning home, does not auger well with the spirit of free political participation. A speedy resolution of this problem is necessary to assure all concerned of the government's seriousness about change.

3. Consolidation of Security Forces:

Along with the return of the TBVC States to one united South Africa it will not only be logical but imperative for control purposes that all the security forces in South Africa and the TBVC states as well as the police forces of these entities and those of self-governing homelands, be placed under a single command. The formation of a single controlling body of the police on the one hand and the army on the other, has to be effected together with an Interim Government of National Unity and the rest of the process of consolidation can follow as part of the process of reconciliation. Joint control of all forces in the interim at least is imperative to restore the trust that the majority of the people has lost in the security forces and the police.

4. The Media:

There is no doubt that the media, the electronic media in particular is the most powerful, and at present nothing bars the government from using this media to its advantage. In effect the electronic media serves more of the interests of the government than of the society as a whole. It is our view that the SABC be placed under the joint control of a more representative and impartial body so as to ensure its unbiased service to all in the country. Such control should be effected with an Interim Government of National Unity and remain as an interim measure until a suitable composition of a controlling board of the SABC is found under the new constitution.

5. Traditional Leaders:

The United People's Front insists on the protection of traditional leaders by the constitution. We further support the participation of traditional leaders at Codesa and that this issue be resolved as soon as possible preferably within a period of two weeks. UPF further wishes to re-emphasize its stance that it would not support any preferential treatment of any particular traditional leader in this regard.

6. Private Armies:

The United People's Front contends that the armed groups which the government collectively terms "private armies" are not all in that category and to differentiate between a private army and liberation forces one has to look at the historical context of the two as well as the underlying causes behind their formation and the objectives pursued by these forces. We would rather equate a private army to a mere tribal or ethnic army but a national liberation army cannot fall in that category.

Be that as it may, if the issue of Umkhondo We Sizwe is the question, we would urge that an agreement be reached between the government and the ANC on it and it is our belief that it will not be a question anymore once integration and joint command of the forces are effected.

B. THE POLITICAL PROCESS

1. TBVC States:

The re-integration of the TBVC States should be the next step of Codesa from here. It should precede the the installation of an Interim Government since such a government may have a problem of jurisdiction over these territories. Their continued independence is also likely to hinder the process of reconciliation. An Interim Government of National Unity therefore should assume control of South Africa as one sovereign whole in terms of the boundaries as recognized by the international community. A period of six (6) months should be long enough to complete the process of re-incorporation. Citizenship of the subjects of these States can be restored to South Africa in block.

2. Interim Government:

The installation of an Interim Government of National Unity should follow immediately on the heels of re-incorporation of the TBVC States. An Interim Government should be formed in September/October 1992 with a lifespan of eighteen (18) months. The main task of this government is to oversee transition by way of arranging for the election of a Constituent Assembly as well as facilitating projects of reconciliation. While an Interim Government will of necessity last as long as it takes to complete the new constitution we are of the opinion that a limited period of eighteen months is sufficient for all arrangements of the drafting of the constitution.

3. The lifting of Sanctions:

As soon as an Interim Government is in place sanctions can now be lifted.

4. Codesa 2:

In view of the fact that most of the Working Groups are still in midstream, it is proposed that the date for Codesa 2 be set for April later this year (1992). The purpose of Codesa 2 is to afford the Working Groups an opportunity report back to the main body on the progress made; agreements reached as well as the remaining obstacles. Codesa 2 may sit for two or three days depending on the size of the report.

5. Constituent Assembly:

This, in our opinion, should be an elected body charged with the task of drawing up the Constitution of the country. Arrangements for the election of this body should be made by an Interim Government which must supervise the elections while staying in charge of the affairs of the country. Elections for a Constituent Assembly may take place in April/May 1993 while a period of about twelve months will be sufficient for the drawing up of the Constitution. By May 1994 therefore the new constitution may be ready.

6. Target date for National Elections:

The target date for national elections under the new constitution will depend on when the Constituent Assembly completes its work. Assuming that it takes the maximum period given to it (twelve months), it can be expected that in October/November 1994 South Africa will hold her first ever democratic general elections governed by a constitution acceptable to the majority of the country's citizens without regard to race, colour, religion or sex.