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Demokratiese Party
Democratic Party

SUBMISSION BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY
TO THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON VIOLENCE

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO BE SUBMITTED
BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY
TO THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON VIOLENCE
OF THE NEGOTIATING FORUM

The Democratic Party submits that the following urgent steps should be taken to assist in the effective implementation of the National Peace Accord.

1. An urgent meeting of signatories to the Accord should be held to re-affirm and re-enforce the provisions of the Accord. At present it has proved impossible to arrange such a meeting because certain unresolved disputes are seen as a bar to the meeting of leadership figures. The Negotiating Forum should decide on such a meeting on the basis that unresolved disputes should be sidelined (in order that progress can be made) pending attention being given to their resolution at a later date towards the creation of a more peaceful climate.

2. The decision by Working Group 1 of CODESA (Paragraph 4.1.1. of their Report) that leadership of various organisations

should come together at peace rallies and meetings and be seen to be jointly and collectively working towards peace and stability should be implemented. The agreement of all parties in the Negotiating Forum to take part in such operations should be sought by the Forum.

3. As a matter of urgency, even before interim Transitional Government structures are in place, there should be multi-party supervision of security force operations leading eventually to joint control of security forces. This would assist in bringing about joint responsibility and joint accountability for police and defence force actions and would assist in the building of better security force/community relations and build the image of a non-political police force.

- 4 The Defence Force should sign a Code of Conduct which should be incorporated in the Peace Accord.

5. Legislation granting indemnity for members of the security forces should be repealed. No indemnification should be provided for the State or its officials for unlawful actions taken whether during a state of emergency or at any other time.

6. An effective programme of witness protection should be instituted as a matter of urgency.

7. The investigative arm of the South African Police should be strengthened. The inability of the police to investigate adequately many politically orientated murders and assaults is a continuing source of contention throughout the structures of the Peace Secretariat and undermines confidence in the South African Police.

8. The rapid incorporation of all other police forces and other groupings into a restructured South African Police Force.

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9. Mechanisms to deal with alleged transgressions of the Peace Accord should be instituted. An acceptable two or three person panel should be appointed in terms of the Accord. This panel should report their findings on the alleged transgressions to the National Peace Committee which should, in turn, publish such findings. The Chairman of the National Peace Secretariat should convey these findings to the leadership of the group or individuals involved with a request for disciplinary action to be taken.
10. The efficacy of both foreign and local observer missions and operations in helping the peace having already been established, logistical arrangements should commence with a view to the involvement of observers in forthcoming elections. As yet there is no clarity as to the role of the peace structures in elections. As the organisation of such operations in the estimated 10 000 or more polling stations round the country constitutes a major logistical exercise, planning should commence immediately to ensure

the success of the operation.

11. As in the case of the Peace Secretariat, functional autonomy should be given to the Police Board who should submit their own budget proposals.

Rupert Lorimer

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