



The ANC negotiating team: Back row, From left to right: Archie Gumede, Ahmed Kathrada, Joe Modise, Beyers Naude, Thabo Mbeki. Front row: Ruth Mompati, Alfred Nzo, Nelson Mandela, Joe Slovo, Walter Sisulu, Cheryl Carolus.

# ANC in historic talks with government

**AT the beginning of May an ANC delegation met with De Klerk and members of his cabinet.**

While not negotiations as such the talks were very significant.

What came out of the talks was the Groote Schuur minute.

The Groote Schuur Minute said "the government and the African National Congress agree on a common commitment towards the resolution of the existing climate of violence from whatever quarter as well as a commitment to stability and a peaceful process of negotiations." The next round of talks may be in August.

The two parties agreed to establish a working group to discuss the release of political prisoners, and the temporary immunity from prosecution for returning ANC members.

The ANC's position on armed struggle and the pre-requirements for negotiations contained in the Harare Declaration have not changed.

The main principles of the ANC on any negotiations with the government are:

- Negotiations should not be in secret or above the heads of the people. A free political climate is

necessary.

- Negotiations should take place as soon as possible.
- To supervise the process of handing over power to a non-racial government, there should be a neutral Interim government.

Since the unbanning of the ANC on 2 February, democratic organisations have had more legal space in which to work. But repression still continues

unbated.

Negotiations have to be viewed as a terrain of struggle along with others such as the armed struggle or mass action.

During the negotiating process it is vital that the people try and shift the balance to their favour. The regime has to have constant pressure on it.

Mass action needs to demand a impartial transition of power arrangement, - the Interim government, and a democratic

forum to draft a new constitution,

Above all in action the people need to demand a united, non-racial government and all the other rights contained in the Freedom Charter.

Mass organisation and mobilisation are crucial to any negotiations. The ANC believes the body to decide on a new constitution for this country should be a Constituent Assembly elected on the basis of one person, one vote.

## ANC in second round of talks

**THE ANC delegation met the government again on 6 August in Pretoria.**

The ANC has suspended the armed struggle "in the interests of moving towards a negotiated political settlement."

Nelson Mandela said there would be no further infiltration of men and arms into South Africa.

Both parties said obstacles to negotiations had now been removed.

The government committed themselves to consider suspending the Internal

Security Act and lifting the State of Emergency in Natal.

Both delegations expressed concern about the level of violence, intimidation and unrest in the country.

### Police violence

Nelson Mandela said after the talks the ANC was dissatisfied with the involvement of government organisations in violence throughout the country.

Comrade Mndela said there were many examples that "something was wrong - either the government has lost control or the police are doing

what the government wants.

The report of the Working Group set up to deal with political offenses and the release of political prisoners was accepted.

Further prisoners will be released from 1 September and indemnity will be with categories of people rather than on an individual basis.

The Working Group has adopted a definition of political acts such as treason as well as common crimes such as murder. The talks are being called the Pretoria Minute.