



**COMITE BRASILEIRO DE SOLIDARIEDADE
AOS POVOS DA AFRICA DO SUL E NAMIBIA**

- COMÁFRICA -

(Brazilian Committee of Solidarity with the Peoples of South Africa and Namibia-COMÁFRICA)

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MEMOS FOR MEETINGS OF COMAFRICA'S DELEGATION

WITH

- a) National Executive Members and Cde. Deputy-President General.
- b) Dept. of International Affairs;
- c) Dept. of Arts and Culture; Dept. of Education;

Dates: 12th Feb. 1991, Meetings with DIA and DAC

13th Feb. 1991, Meeting with NEC members

12:00 Meeting with Cde. Deputy-President-General.

Place: ANC. HQ. Johannesburg

Members of Comafrica's Delegation:

*Dr Salomon Blajberg, Brazilian, President of Comafrica, Political Scientist & Translator, Director of IURI-Institutos Unificados de Relacoes Internacionais(International Cooperation Studies), Rio de Janeiro.

**Dr. Jennifer Dunjwa Blajberg, South-African, Member of Consultative Council of Comafrica, Director of IURI-Institutos Unificados de Relacoes Internacionais(African Studies), Rio de Janeiro, Member of ANC. contributing with DIA, DAC. and Dept. of Education.

Contact address and phone in SA until 17th Feb, 1991:

a) c/o Trevor Manuel, ANC-Western Cape.

b) c/o Abrahams, Phone & Fax: (021)701-5296

PURPOSE OF MEETINGS:

a) National Executive and Cde. Deputy-President-General.

1. We would like to emphasize that the ANC together with Cde. Deputy-President-General Nelson Mandela have in Brazil a widespread acceptance as symbols of the struggle for a more just society. From this point of view there is a very established feeling of solidarity from the Brazilian people with the struggle of the SA people against apartheid.
2. Despite the absence of an ANC office the relations between ANC and the Brazilian people have been furthered by the presence of Cde. Jennifer in Brazil after the meeting with late Cde. John Makathini in New York in January 1981.
3. The relevance of the Brazilian situation to the present SA process of transition to a democratic society is being submitted by Cde. Jennifer to the Constitutional Committee.
4. In order that the relations between our peoples may receive a decisive impetus at this juncture, enabling the ANC to enjoy wider support also from local, state and federal governments in Brazil it is of the highest importance, that the NEC deliberates about the establishment of an official representation in Brazil, which may handle all possible co-operation projects.
5. Especially in the cultural area, including education and training at specialized or post-graduate levels, the possibilities open are quite interesting and one should bear in mind structural similarities between the Brazilian and South African societies which could lead to a fruitful exchange
6. In order that the above possibilities be materialized, it is required:
 - a) that an advanced party be sent to Brazil in order to verify in loco these possibilities;
 - b) that the invitations to Cde. Deputy-President-General to visit Brazil, be evaluated and met still this year
7. A more detailed approach to the above issues can be found in the memos for the meetings with Dept. of International Affairs and with Dept. of Arts and Culture/Dept. of Education.

PURPOSE OF MEETINGS (Contd.):

b) Dept. of International Affairs.

To discuss the issue of the establishment of an ANC information office in Brazil, which is vital for the further development of relations with the Brazilian people and different levels of local, state and federal government aiming at obtaining co-operation from these sources.

1. Relations between ANC and the Brazilian People since the meeting of Dr. S. Blajberg & Dr. J. Duniwa-Blajberg with Cde. J. Makathini in NY.. Jan. 1981.

- 1.1 Establishment of IURI (Institute for International Relations (Apr. 1981.))
- 1.2. Sathma Benjamin represents the ANC in the Congress of Black Culture in the Americas, Sao Paulo, 1981.
- 1.3. Visit of Amandla Cultural Ensemble, Nov. 1984.
Contacts opened for ANC with Brazilian Bar Association and Brazilian Press Association as well as Trade Unions.
- 1.4. Establishment of COMAFRICA, Aug. 1985. 1st Visit of an ANC political delegation to Brazil.
- 1.5. Campaign for the recognition of ANC by local, state and federal governments in Brazil;
Free Mandela campaign, 1985-1990: Freedom of the City and of the State of Rio de Janeiro (1985), Nelson Mandela Street in Rio de Janeiro (1986), Nelson Mandela School (1988) [for complete list of honours and other forms of recognition see report to IRC]
- 1.6. Visit of Amandla Cultural Ensemble and ANC Cultural Delegation, Nov. 1986.
- 1.7. Anti-apartheid activities of Black Movements Organizations.
- 1.8. Presidential Decree of 1985 on sanctions against RSA.
- 1.9. Anti-apartheid stance of other NGOs, Parliamentarians.
- 1.10. Comafrica proposes the ANC to establish an information office in Rio de Janeiro, (July 1989).
- 1.11 Cultural Boycott. Action of Comafrica, NGOs and Parliamentarians against the SA tournee by Brazilian well-known singer Joanna, January, 1990.
- 1.12. The Nelson Mandela National Reception Committee in Brazil, January and February, 1990 (see reports to the IRC, copies sent to D.I.A)

2. Difficult issues in these relations:

- 2.1. High profile of Brazilian Anti-apartheid foreign policy in international fora does not correspond to effective sanctions within Brazil.
 - 2.2 Profile of diplomatic and consular representations of the RSA in Brazil has been favouring apartheid propaganda, specially in large newspapers who import newsprint from SA.
 - 2.3 Racial discrimination in Brazil has favoured the emergence of black culturalist movements against racism, with a broad frame of reference consisting of pan-negroism, pan-africanism and/or US civil rights struggle. The non-racial character of national liberation struggle in SA is still a very difficult concept for them to grasp. Nevertheless, a blanket support for the ANC exists, also as a result of IURI and COMAFRICA information activities. Widespread admiration for Cde. Deputy-President Nelson Mandela is an established fact.
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3. Against the above background, the absence of an official ANC Representation has proven to be one of the main difficulties

In July 1989, Comafrica requested from the DIA a concrete proposal of needs so that it could assist with the establishment of an ANC Representative in Brazil.

Much goodwill and support exists towards the ANC in Brazil, which require that official channels be established.

Cde. Jennifer Dunjwa Blajberg, has during all these years acted as an outpost of the ANC in Brazil, providing advice to DIA, DAC and Dept. of Education. This was rendered possible due to the

existence of IURI, of which she is one of the directors together with Cde. Salomon Blajberg. The establishment of COMAFRICA provided the ANC with a de facto solidarity movement which is also a legal entity.

The goodwill and support to the ANC in Brazil, can be especially mobilized through the cultural area, and at this stage the several invitations made to Cde. Deputy-President to visit Brazil could play a decisive role in giving a push in that direction. Furthermore, important state and local Governments could provide co-operation to the ANC in several areas.

However, the contact with DIA, in Lusaka, and subsequently in Johannesburg, has been very difficult since the last visit of Cde. Jennifer to Lusaka in Aug. 1989.

The course of the events following the unbanning of the ANC, brought to Brazil a very intense popular expectation, that Cde. Nelson Mandela would visit Brazil, following countless invitations sent by the Federal Govt, Mayors of Rio de Janeiro (population 8 million inh.) and Sao Paulo (pop. 23 million inh.), and other organizations.

Although Cde. Jennifer is widely recognized in Brazil as a channel to the ANC, she refrained from any commitments or comments concerning these invitations.

The extensive correspondence sent by fax by Cde. Jennifer during July and August 1990 to DIA, Lusaka & Johannesburg, as well as many telephone calls on these issues were answered by Cde. Stanley Mabizela in a fax from Lusaka of Oct. 3rd, 1990.

4. The establishment of an official ANC presence in Brazil is vital for the development of relations.

At the moment, the pillars of anti-apartheid activity in Brazil, namely, COMAFRICA, the several black movements, and progressive organizations (including trade unions) and political parties, have been accompanying from far the developments in South Africa. As the fax was received in October, Cde. Jennifer was already preparing her home coming to SA for The Christmas season.

Within Comafrica it was decided that any new policy decisions would be taken subsequent to her contacts with ANC officials in South Africa.

By the end of December, Cde. Jennifer, on behalf of the Consultative Council of COMAFRICA had a meeting with the Head of the Africa Department of the Brazilian Ministry of External Relations, Ambassador Carlos Perez, on all the issues concerning the invitation by the federal government to Cde. Deputy-President Nelson Mandela to visit Brazil. The meeting proved very productive in that it revealed the goodwill of the Brazilian Foreign Office to co-operate with COMAFRICA for the success of the Welcome to the ANC and Nelson Mandela in Brazil.

PURPOSE OF MEETINGS (CONTD.):

b) Dept. of Arts & Culture/Dept. of Education

Most of the contact of ANC with the Brazilian people have been made possible by certain co-operation in the cultural and educational areas:

1. The establishment of IURI in 1981, provided facilities and impetus for Cde. Jennifer to continue her research dating from 1976 on the SA language situation.
2. The visits of the Amandla Cultural Ensemble provided a deeper understanding of the SA struggle to important sectors involved in the solidarity movement.
3. The State Government and the Municipality of Rio de Janeiro, cooperated with IURI and COMAFRICA providing a scholarship for further training of a translator/interpreter from the ANC-Luanda office, at IURI, in the skills of English-Portuguese = English translation and interpreting, for the period of 6 months.
4. There are many cultural manifestations from Brazilian artists in solidarity with the struggle against apartheid, which is understood as part and parcel of the struggle against racial discrimination in Brazil.

This co-operation can be furthered at this juncture, in view of the following:

1. Among the artists in Brazil there is still a very strong will to bring about a spectacular homage to Nelson Mandela and to the ANC. A very wide spectrum of the Brazilian people is looking forward to the day Nelson Mandela would come to Brazil.
Indeed, as the DIA has been extensively informed during July-August 1990, opportunistic people tried to take advantage of this climate.
2. Some of the ideas advanced by Cde. Jennifer in her assessment of CASA conference 1987 (published in Rishaka, issue 1, 1989, under the title "A Voice from Brazil") are still pending, such as that of the workshop for Brazilian and South-african artists, which can also constitute a channel for fund-raising, and for further projects of the ANC in Latin-America as a whole, as well as all over the world in view of the present popularity of Brazilian music and artists.

3. The eventual promotion of what is called in Brazil "SHOWMICIO" (rally concert in a park or large avenue) in honour of Nelson Mandela and of the ANC could be envisaged

a) in Salvador, Bahia, the city with the largest African

presence in Brazil, where Nelson Mandela was granted the freedom of the city after his release in 1990, it is possible to organize a rally with hundreds of thousands of people.

b) in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, rally-concerts in stadiums, with paid admission can be organized by the Municipalities, for the purpose of fund-raising

4. Concluding, the establishment of an ANC official representation in Brazil, might have a great deal of its work geared to cultural and educational co-operation.

Capetown, 6th February, 1991.