

19 May 1986

The Commonwealth (Eminent Persons) Group  
Memorandum submitted to the NWC of the  
A.N.C. on Saturday 17 May 1986  
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1. Declaration of Intent

The S.A. Government has declared its commitment to

- dismantling the system of apartheid ;
- ending race discrimination; and
- negotiating new constitutional arrangements for power sharing by all South Africans

2. Additional Action

To ensure negotiations and a break in the cycle of violence the Group proposes

- i. specific and meaningful steps be taken to end apartheid:
  - ii. on the part of the Government:
    - (a) removal of military from townships; freedom of assembly; freedom of discussion; and suspension of detention without trial;
    - (b) release of Nelson Mandela , other political prisoners and detainees;
    - (c) unbanning of ANC and PAC and permitting of normal political activity
  - iii. on the part of the ANC and others:

entering negotiations and suspending violence

3. Principles, Commitments and Negotiations

The Government indicated to the Group that it

- is not in principle opposed to
  - i. the release of Nelson Mandela and similar prisoners; and
  - ii. the unbanning of any organisations
  - iii. is prepared to negotiate with acknowledged leaders of the people of South Africa;
  - iv. is committed to the removal of discrimination both from the statute book and from South Africa as a whole;
  - v. is committed to the ending of white domination
  - vi. will not dictate the selection of persons to represent black communities in negotiations on a new constitution

vii. is prepared to negotiate an open agenda

4. Negotiation of simultaneous announcements

In the light of these indications the Government may wish to give serious consideration to the approach outlined in the Group's memorandum and negotiate simultaneous announcements incorporating these ideas