

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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EMBASSY OF IRELAND
SOUTH AFRICA

cc Sec Gillespie
Mins A-1
Tallaght

Mr Joe Lynch
Political Division
Department of Foreign Affairs
Dublin

28 April 1998

ANC Delegation to Ireland

Attached are the texts of:

-ANC Press Statement after National Executive Committee Meeting 24/25 April
-Sinn Fein Statement of 27 April giving details of the programme
-Sinn Fein Statement on Ard Fheis 18/19 April on showing presence of ANC Deputy General Secretary Thenjiwe Mtintso

Regards

Eamon O Tuathail

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Issued by: African National Congress

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

ANC NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 24-25 APRIL 1998, PRESS STATEMENT

The ANC NEC met outside Johannesburg over the weekend of 24-25 April. The NEC devoted considerable time to discussing in depth a political overview presented by ANC President, comrade Thabo Mbeki. It was noted that the ANC's commitment to locating our own reconstruction and development effort within the context of an African Renaissance was beginning to resonate powerfully in many quarters of our continent. More and more, the ANC and ANC-led government are being called upon to take an active part in the interaction between our continent and the developed economies in the context of globalisation. The ANC and government are also being called upon increasingly to join hands with others in the deepening of democracy in our continent.

The NEC meeting noted the request of Sinn Fein and the British Labour Party to assist in facilitating implementation of the agreement on Northern Ireland. The ANC is sending a high-level delegation, including Premier Matthew Phosa, Cyril Ramaphosa, and ministers Valli Moosa and Mac Maharaj to Dublin, to play a facilitating role.

The discussion of the national situation focused upon the ongoing imperative of transforming the state into an effective and developmental instrument. Against the background of some recent events, the meeting noted that there are elements within the public structures of our new democracy who seek to abuse the ANC's commitment to inclusivity and constitutionality to pursue backward agendas. We reaffirm our commitment to these principles, and warn those bent on rearguard actions against transformation that it is precisely they who are a menace to fostering respect and legitimacy for constitutional structures.

The ANC also devoted time to discussing the imperative of a sustained effort at building the moral fabric of our society. The necessity for this effort is underlined by many recent events, the shooting of baby Angelina Zwane, taxi violence, and corruption. The NEC noted important improvements in the road casualty statistics for the past Easter weekend, but the persistence of unacceptably high levels of casualties on our roads emphasises the need to sustain and intensify the "Drive Alive" campaign. The NEC expressed its condolences to the families of the victims of the horrific Newcastle accident, and to all others who have lost family in recent accidents.

The NEC agreed upon an approach for our electoral lists for the 1999 elections. We aim to complete the process by the first quarter of 1999. Once more the nominations process will be based on a thoroughly democratic approach, proceeding from branch-level nominations, through to provincial-level list conferences. The list emerging from the provinces will, where necessary, by amended by the NEC early next year, with due regard to gender, geographic, skills and age balance. The ANC's allies, COSATU and the SACP will have an agreed quota of voting delegates at the provincial list conference.

The NEC discussed and approved preparations for the forthcoming Tripartite Alliance Summit of May 23-24. Policy discussions on employment strategy, labour market transformation, social wage, land reform and fiscal and monetary policy will be taken forward at the Summit.

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following NEC members to full-time positions at ANC headquarters:

- Smuts Ngonyama - Head of Presidency, and responsible for media and information
- Mavivi Myakayaka-Manzini - Head of International Affairs, located in the Presidency
- Amos Masondo - Manager of Elections

The meeting resolved that the headquarters of the African National Congress should remain at 51 Plein Street, Johannesburg, and that a major refurbishment of the interior and exterior of the building should be undertaken.

To coincide with the centenary of the birth of former ANC President Chief Albert Luthuli, and to honour his contribution to the struggle for democracy in South Africa, the headquarters of the ANC will be renamed Albert Luthuli House.

The NEC received a report on the discovery of secret burial grounds of missing anti-apartheid activists. The TRC has now located the graves of now fewer than 480 missing cadres, and there are certainly more. This indicates a scale of systematic elimination of mainly ANC, and ANC-aligned cadres that has been hidden until now. It has sometimes been said that in apartheid South Africa, by contrast with certain Latin American military juntas, repression was always mitigated by the persistence of levels of legality, albeit an apartheid legality. The discovery of these secret burial sites indicates that hundreds were "disappared", systematically and secretly executed, in several centres around the country. We are not dealing with one or two, allegedly renegade death farms. When distraught families made pleas to former apartheid-era officials, the NP, the very culprit, always cynically referred the families to the ANC in exile.

The NEC extends its support to the preparations for the reburial in Port Elizabeth on 26th June of Vuyisile Mini and his five comrades, Kayinge, Mkaba, Jonas, Mpentse and Ndongeni. These comrades were executed in the early 1960s and buried in secret by the apartheid regime. It has taken all this time to discover where they had been buried.

The NEC salutes the outstanding contribution of the late Trevor Huddleston to the South African struggle, and to building a world anti-apartheid movement.

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27 April 1998

ANC Delegation visits Ireland

A delegation from the African National Congress will arrive in Belfast tomorrow, Tuesday 28th April, for a four day visit to Ireland.

The ANC delegation includes Mac Maharaj, Minister for Transport in the South African government, Matthews Phosa, Premier of Eastern Transvaal, Valli Moosa, Minister for Local Government and Cyril Ramaphosa, Chief Negotiator for the ANC.

Mac Maharaj will arrive at 5pm at Belfast airport. He will meet with the Sinn Fin President Gerry Adams MP, Councillor Alec Maskey, Pat Rice and Siobhan O'Hanlon at 5.30pm at Connolly House. He will talk to the press before his meeting with Sinn Fin.

Matthews Phosa will also arrive on Tuesday - his arrival time has yet to be confirmed.

On Wednesday 29th at 11.45am Cyril Ramaphosa and Valli Moosa will arrive at Belfast International Airport. At 2pm they will visit the H-Blocks to speak with republican prisoners. At 7pm Cyril Ramaphosa will join Gerry Adams and Gerry Kelly at a rally in the Ulster Hall in Belfast.

On Thursday Cyril Ramaphosa will address a meeting in Dublin's Liberty Hall at 8pm with Sinn Fin Vice President Pat Doherty. Mac Maharaj will speak in the Hillgrove Hotel in Monaghan at 8.30pm with Caoimhghn Caolin TD. Matthews Phosa will visit the Residents Association on Garvaghy Road. On Friday Mac Maharaj and Matthews Phosa will visit republican prisoners in Portlaoise jail. They will be accompanied by Sinn Fin Vice Pat Doherty and Ard Chomhairle member Martin Ferris.

Speaking before their arrival Sinn Fin Chairperson Mitchel McLaughlin said:

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``President Mandela's generous response to our request to make available to Sinn Fin the experience of the South African peace process is very welcome.

``This weeks visit to Ireland by senior members of the African National Congress has been organised to share with Sinn Fin and people throughout the island, their experience and insight into the process of negotiations and conflict resolution. ``The ANC have had an ongoing interest in Ireland and have organised several invaluable conferences which were widely attended by the parties involved in the talks.

``While the two situations are not identical there is much in the South African conflict resolution experience that we in Ireland can learn from."

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