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Uh O'Flaim-
To see please. As discussed.
Joe
18.5.98

10 May 1998

Dear Tim
You asked me when we spoke last week on the phone about the South African experience on decommissioning of weapons in the hands of former paramilitaries.

This is not a subject on which I know much but I give following:

The Agreement reached on 12 February 1991 between the Government (DF Malan) and the ANC known as the "DF Malan Accord" contains the following clauses:

(iv) Noted that by virtue of the fact that Umkhonto we Sizwe is no longer an unlawful organisation, membership thereof is not in violation of any of the provisions of par. 3 of the Pretoria minute and the letter and spirit of the Pretoria minute as a whole;
(v) Note the historical fact that the ANC and Umkhonto we Sizwe had placed arms and cadres within the country
(vi) Agreed that within the context of par. 5 of (b) (2) (3) and (iv) above, a phased process be initiated in order to enable these cadres of the ANC to resume their normal lives and also to facilitate and legalise control over the arms and the process to ensure such legality will immediately be taken further by the working group;
(vi) Agreed that where applicable, individual weapons shall be licenced in terms of existing legislation.

The new Government of National Unity, led by the ANC, took office in May 1994 and the process of integrating the ANC (MK) and PAC (APLA) non-statutory forces as also the "independent" homeland armies into the new SA Defence Force began.

As to the handing over of weapons, in a reply to a Question in Parliament on 28 March 1995, the Minister of Defence Mr Joe Modise said that the recovery of weapons from the military wing of the ANC, Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), and other non-statutory forces integrated into the South African National Defence Force was being carried out in phases. Phase One (June 1994 to August 1994) involved the collection of weapons from bulk stores. The second phase (November 1994 to December 1994) involved the recovery from arms caches. Phase three (November 1994 to March 1995) involved the recovery of weapons from individuals. Collectively the three phases had resulted in the recovery of 273 AK-47 machine guns, 156 pistols, 534 limpet mines, 2,857 grenades, 104,922 rounds of ammunition, 2-RPG 7 Rocket Launchers, 14-RPG 7 Rockets and six other rifles. (Hansard cols 131-132 28/03/1985).

I have reported separately the view of General Constand Viljoen which appears also to be the view of Minister Valli Moosa as given also in the Sunday Argus of 3 May as follows:

"On Thursday, the day the IRA announced it would not decommission arms, Mr Moosa also encouraged the Sinn Fein faithful in Dublin to keep their eye on the prize. But he shared with them a lesson he had learnt from former South African Defence Force chief general Constand Viljoen. General Viljoen, said Mr Moosa, believed that in a world where it has never been a problem for anyone to lay hands on guns, decommissioning is no issue at all. The import of General Viljoen's words is that it is quite easy to decommission arms today, sign an agreement tomorrow and get back the guns later in case the future doesn't pan out to your satisfaction".

I have reported also in PR4/98 (SA) on 12 April 1998 about an South African Alleged Coup Plot and I said as to the Transformation of the SA National Defence Service as follows:

1. The South African National Defence Force came into being on 27 April 1994. It is made up of the old South African Defence Force together with the military wings of the ANC (MK) and of the PAC (APLA) and the armies of the former four independent homelands (Bophutatswana, Ciscei, Transcei and Venda). These are

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known respectively as the "Statutory" and the "Non-Statutory Forces". A British military advisory team has been assisting with the integration. Some 21,000 Umkhonto weSiswe (MK) members and 6,000 Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA) are involved. Together with the existing 95,000 members of the former South African Defence Force and former homeland armed forces, the SANDF strength would total some 135,000. The aim is to reduce this total to about 90,000, including civilians, through voluntary severance packages, demobilisation and natural attrition. According to press reports (BD 10/02) the Cabinet approved also a set of criteria for forced retrenchments which would take into account an individual's disciplinary record, work performance and level of expertise. Those retrenched will receive newly negotiated "severance packages" and retrenched staff are to be further assisted by training at regional transition support centres so that they can find work.

2. Defence spending has declined from a percentage of GDP in 1989 at 4.0% to 1.4% in 1990 with a long term target at keeping expenditure at about 1.4% of GDP in the future.

3. By May 1997, the total Department of Defence personnel numbered 99,663, of which uniformed SANDF personnel numbered 77,882. Of the uniformed force, already the composition of the senior officers showed the results of transformation as set out in Annex I.

4. I have heard reports that very few whites are joining the Defence Force at any level which will mean that new recruits will be mainly black. This will in time affect all levels.

5. Military Intelligence has also been affected by the transformation. Thus of the eight top posts in the SA National Defence Force Military Intelligence (MI) Division only three are in fact filled at present. Of those three posts, two senior staff members have taken voluntary severance packages and will leave in June. The only remaining senior member of MI will be a former MK soldier Deputy Chief of Staff: Intelligence Brigadier General Moreti Motau.

Report of the British Military Training and Advisory Team

6. Brigadier Paul Davis the Commander of the British Military Training and Advisory Team (BMATT) told the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Defence at the end of February 1998 that attitudes of the top management of the Armed Forces had hardened in their relations with former non-statutory forces. He said his team had noticed an increasing number of personnel who felt the former non-statutory forces member were not being fairly treated. He said that many of the ex- non statutory forces firmly felt that they were being **absorbed** rather than **integrated** and that the implications were far reaching. After nearly three and a half years of integration no one including ourselves can help but notice little in the physical structure of army training institutes to show any ex-non statutory force ownership. Very few names, symbols, pictures or tradition come from the NSF.

Allegations that (a) Elements in MI or (b) Former MK/APLA Cadres or (c) Both Are involved in Criminal Activities.

7. Again there have been unsubstantiated reports that either members of the old-guard white MI or disillusioned MK or APLA members or both have been involved in the series of cleverly planned and executed cash in transit robberies on highways in the Johannesburg area since the beginning of this year. These have been large scale robberies running into millions of rands.

I attach also an ISS Monograph on the "History and Prospects of Voluntary Collection Programmes.

Yours sincerely

Eamon O Tuathail

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