

GRS 700

RESTRICTED
FM CAPETOWN
TO DESKBY 131200Z FCO
TELNO 125
OF 130615Z MARCH 87
INFO PRIORITY PRETORIA, JOHANNESBURG

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TELECON FREEMAN/HAWKINS: F W DE KLERK'S SPEECH AT INNESDAL.

SUMMARY

1. DE KLERK TELLS A PRIVATE NATIONAL PARTY (NP) MEETING THAT BLACKS MUST HAVE POLITICAL RIGHTS OUTSIDE THE HOMELANDS, AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD CALLED THE ELECTION TO GAIN A MANDATE FOR A NEW PLAN IN WHICH BLACKS WOULD SHARE IN POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING WITHOUT DOMINATING WHITES.

DETAIL

2. ON 9 MARCH, THE PRETORIA NEWSPAPER BEELD (AFRIKAANS, PRO GOVERNMENT) REPORTED A SPEECH BY F W DE KLERK, TRANSVAAL NP LEADER AND MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION, ON 6 MARCH TO A CLOSED MEETING OF THE NP AT INNESDAL IN PRETORIA.
3. ACCORDING TO BEELD, DE KLERK APPEARS TO HAVE SAID THAT THE NP'S PLAN HAD BEEN THAT AS WELL AS HAVING BLACK GOVERNMENT LOCALLY, BLACKS SHOULD EXERCISE THEIR VOTE IN THE HOMELANDS. BUT AFTER 14 YEARS IN PARLIAMENT AND HAVING TRIED HARD TO MAKE THIS SUCCEED, HE HAD REALISED THAT IT WOULD NOT WORK AS PEOPLE WANTED TO VOTE WHERE THEY HAD THEIR HOMES AND JOBS.
4. DE KLERK SAID THAT IT WAS UNACCEPTABLE FOR A WHITE MINORITY TO RULE OVER A BLACK MAJORITY. THIS HAD NOT WORKED ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD AND WOULD NOT WORK IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE PRESENT CONSTITUTION WOULD HAVE TO BE CHANGED JUST AS THE PREVIOUS CONSTITUTION HAD BEEN CHANGED IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE COLOURED AND HNDIANS. THE NP HAD COME TO A CROSSROADS. POLITICAL FREEDOM FOR BLACKS WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED EFFECTIVELY WITHOUT DESTROYING WHITE SELF-DETERMINATION.
5. THE MINISTER STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT DRAG ITS FEET IN THIS REGARD AS THERE WERE POWERS AT WORK MOBILISING BLACKS FOR REVOLUTION AND TELLING THEM THAT 'IF BLOOD FLOWS, YOU

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WILL GET EVERYTHING'.

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6. RESPONDING TO CRITICISM THAT THE NP DID NOT HAVE A PLAN OR VISION DE KLERK SAID THAT THE PARTY HAD A FRAMEWORK FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH DETAILS WOULD HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED. HE EMPHASISED THAT THE EXISTENCE OF SEPERATE GROUPS COULD NOT BE IGNORED. WHITES COULD NOT KEEP THE WHOLE CAKE BUT 'MUST ENSURE THAT THE CAKE IS SHARED AND THAT NO-ONE GRABS THE WHOLE CAKE'.

7. DE KLERK SAID THAT THE FORTHCOMING ELECTION WAS A KEY PART OF REFORM. TO DATE THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO MANDATE FOR POWER SHARING WITH BLACKS. WITHOUT A DEFINITE MANDATE ALL REFORM WOULD LAND 'ON THE ROCKS'. HE BELIEVED THAT WHITES MUST FIRST BE CONSULTED BEFORE A NEW CONSTITUTION WAS INTRODUCED.

8. HE CONCLUDED BY CALLING ON THE NATIONALISTS OF INNESDAL TO CAMPAIGN FOR A STRONG MANDATE ADDING 'LET US SAY YES TO REFORM, BUT NO TO DOMINATION'.

COMMENT

9. THE SUBSTANCE OF F W DE KLERK'S SPEECH IS WELL WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL PARTY (NP) POLICY IN EMPHASISING MINORITY RIGHTS AND THE NEED FOR A POLITICAL SYSTEM PROVIDING FREEDOM FOR BLACKS WITHOUT DESTROYING WHITE SELF-DETERMINATION HIS CLAIM THAT THE NP HAVE A FRAMEWORK FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION REPEATS WHAT HE SAID DURING THE NO CONFIDENCE DEBATE IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR., IN WHICH HE ADDED THAT THE PARTY HAS NO 'BLUEPRINT' FOR REFORM.

10. THE MAIN MESSAGE IN THE SPEECH IS THAT NP EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT OLD-STYLE APARTHEID POLICIES DO NOT WORK. POLICIES OF THE RIGHT WING PARTIES ARE THEREFORE A THREAT TO THE STABILITY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY AND BY THE SAME TOKEN TO THE WELFARE OF THE WHITES THEMSELVES. THIS ARGUMENT IS DESIGNED TO RETAIN THE LOYALTY OF THOSE ON THE RIGHT OF THE NP. INNESDAL, THE CONSTITUENCY OF ALBERT NOTHNAGEL, IS UNDER THREAT FROM A CANDIDATE OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY.

11. IN ADDITION, DE KLERK DEPLOYED ARGUMENTS DESIGNED TO APPEAL TO 'VERLIG' NP MEMBERS; THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE ELECTION IS TO SEEK A MANDATE FOR THE NP TO NEGOTIATE A NEW CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT PROVIDING FOR BLACK POLITICAL PARTICIPATION. NO DETAILS OF WHAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT MIGHT BE ARE GIVEN, A FACT COMMENTED ON SUBSEQUENTLY BY OPPOSITION POLITICIANS.

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12. THE SPEECH IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE (THE FIRST WAS IN THE NO CONFIDENCE DEBATE) OF DE KLERK'S ABILITY TO TRY AND MAKE NP POLICY APPEAL TO BOTH TYPES OF NP SUPPORTER. BUT THE FACT THAT HE WAS SPEAKING AT A CLOSED PARTY MEETING SUGGESTS THAT THE SLANT GIVEN TO IT IN PUBLICITY MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ALTOGETHER WELCOME TO HIM.

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