

TEXT OF A POSSIBLE DECLARATION BY THE TWELVE ON SOUTH AFRICA AS  
AGREED BY THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE ON 8/9 APRIL 1987

i) Apartheid is unacceptable. It endangers stability both in South Africa itself and in the region as a whole. Its prolongation will only weaken the forces of moderation and diminish the prospects for a peaceful solution. The Twelve have repeatedly condemned apartheid in all its forms and continue to seek its abolition through a process of peaceful change. There is an urgent need to break the present cycle of violence in South Africa and replace it by a process of national dialogue and negotiations. The Twelve are convinced that the vision of a new South Africa, free from racial discrimination, in which all South Africans can live in peace and harmony and enjoy equal rights and equal opportunities, is not beyond grasp. This would also be of vital importance to peace, stability, security and economic development in the region as a whole and would allow South Africa to regain its rightful place in the international community.

The Twelve have identified in the past what steps they consider necessary for genuine national dialogue to begin. They remain convinced that only broad-based negotiations, involving the genuine representatives of the various components of the South African population, can bring about a lasting settlement.

The aim of the negotiations should be the emergence of a free, democratic, non-racial and united South Africa which takes into account the diversity of its society. The legitimate political aspirations of the majority must be met. At the same time arrangements should be devised to ensure that every South African is able to look at the future with confidence and a feeling that he will have a say in decisions which affect him.

ii) It is up to the South Africans themselves to define - together - the exact shape of new constitutional arrangements, but the Twelve consider that the following basic principles have general validity:

1. The inherent dignity and equality of all human persons before the law.
2. Respect for and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the basic documents of the United Nations, including the freedom of expression, the right to liberty and security of persons and the right of property for all, without distinction as to colour, race, sex or creed.
3. A geographically united South Africa with single citizenship.
4. A democratic and pluralistic political system based on universal suffrage, with adequate minority participation.
5. Protection of minority rights in the fields of culture, language and religion.
6. Rule of law, safeguarded by an independent judiciary.

The Twelve consider the above principles to be closely inter-related and mutually supportive.

iii) The Twelve express the hope that the above principles can be a source of inspiration for a just and lasting settlement. In this spirit the Twelve remain ready to assist the parties in initiating the national dialogue which is so urgently needed in South Africa to achieve peaceful change.

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