



cepc

SOUTH AFRICA: DRAFT EUROPEAN STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES: A COMMENTARY

- Dutch intention was "a balanced and responsible EPC statement to be of assistance in the search for common ground between the parties".
- An attempt to promote dialogue" not "declaratory diplomacy" in sense of condemning SAG or expressing futile outrage.
- contains helpful elements which partners have not previously endorsed. Advantage therefore of setting constructive basis for Twelve policy.
- The aim is balance. Text "charts a middle course" - does not endorse such extreme black demands as: "one man one vote in unitary state".
- No new language which we have not already accepted: in fact we have gone further before.

Pedigree of Language in the Text Favourable to Blacks"equal rights":

- used by the Ten at Luxembourg September 1985;

"non-racial and united South Africa":

- Hague communiqué: "negotiation leading to a democratic, non-racial SA";
- Nassau: "united and non-fragmented SA";



- P W BOTHA: 30 September 1985: "committed to the principle of a united SA";

legitimate political aspiration of the majority must be met:

- not defined therefore not endorsement of one man one vote, or "majority rule" (Delhi; Nassau);

geographically united South Africa with single citizenship:

- entirely consistent with language used before in Commonwealth;
- P W Botha: 31 January 1986: "we accept one citizenship for all South Africans";

democratic pluralistic political system:

- pluralistic excludes one party rule;

universal suffrage:

- P W Botha: 30 September 1985 "one citizenship and a universal franchise";
- used at Delhi and Nassau. Does not imply unitary state.

Reassurances for whites:

- text contains a number of reassurances to whites, but without endorsing group-based approach:
- "in which all South Africans can live in peace and harmony";
- "which takes into account the diversity of its society";
- "arrangements ... to ensure that every South African is able to look to the future with confidence";
- "right of property";



- "adequate minority participation";
- "protection of minority rights in fields of culture, language and religion";
- "independent judiciary".

Southern African Department
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