

WHAT I WOULD MOST LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN IN SOUTH AFRICA IN 1988

2 November 1987
F VAN ZYL SLABBERT

I would like to see P W Botha resign. Gracefully if he can, but in any case resign, and with him also Magnus Malan, Niel Barnard of the National Intelligence Service, and all those senior officers in the SADF who have cooked up the nonsense of, and believe in, the Total Onslaught/Total Strategy.

Then F W de Klerk who is bound to succeed Botha, and who comes into the job unencumbered by the vast bureaucracies that followed his predecessors should do the following :

- (a) dismantle the whole bureaucracy of the NSMS;
- (b) call in the top echelons of the security establishment, i.e. Defence, Police and Intelligence, and explain to them that the options for the country as a whole are running out fast; the State either creates circumstances under which it can negotiate with the demonstrable leaders of the majority of the people, or prepares for long, inconclusive and destructive violence. (He might as well say the same thing to right-wing political leaders).
- (c) He makes the SABC freely available for a consistent programme of political education on what the problems are in finding a negotiated and democratic alternative.

Then he publicly endorses the State's commitment to dismantling all vestiges of Apartheid/Separate Development; specifies exactly when the State is going to release political prisoners AND unban organisations; declares the start of a period of settling down when parties/organisations/fronts or movements can become accountable constituency organisations; whilst warning that any radicalism/militancy or subversion from the left or right will be dealt with firmly and uncompromisingly.

The ANC and other unbanned organisations must then declare their willingness to participate and accept these conditions.

At the same time, the international community must commit itself through the proper organisation to a Marshall-type plan to assist South Africa in a difficult period of transition and re-construction (there may be a greater flight of capital at the prospect of the ending white

minority domination than sanctions could ever achieve).

All destabilizing/hostile actions towards and between South Africa and neighbouring states should cease immediately and free trade and movement be encouraged. After all this has taken place it hopefully will precipitate a pervasive and sustained debate between Black and White in South Africa in which both attempt to persuade the other that there can be life without Apartheid and that they are going to prove it.

Finally, if this cannot come about in 1988, I will wish exactly the same for 1989 with the following exception : that P W Botha and his Total Onslaught fundis resign in any case. They have done far too much damage already.