

## DECLARATION OF INTENTION TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT

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1. The prime minister and other cabinet ministers of the Rhodesian government and the president and other representatives of the African National Council met at Victoria Falls on 25 August 1975, and subsequently in Salisbury on 31 October 1975, and thereafter.
2. Both parties took this opportunity of expressing their genuine desire to negotiate a constitutional settlement.
3. Both parties publicly expressed their commitment to work out immediately a constitutional settlement which will be acceptable to all the people of our country.
4. In pursuance of this objective, the negotiating teams from both representatives chosen respectively by the government of Rhodesia and the ANC. At this meeting detailed discussions of all aspects of the constitutional issue will commence and, where appropriate, sub-committees will be established to consider and report to the plenary meeting on particular aspects.
- 5.1. Representatives of the ANC at any meeting or meetings in Rhodesia whether formal or informal and including both plenary and committee or sub-committee meetings, held in terms of Clause 4 hereof shall have full freedom and/or diplomatic immunity in respect of the following.
  - (a) From preventive detention or restriction for any act or omission in or outside Rhodesia; and
  - (b) To enter and depart freely from Rhodesia; and
  - (c) subject to the confidentiality of the discussions agreed Clause 8 hereof, to exercise freedom of expression and speech at any meeting or meetings in Rhodesia as described hereinbefore in the clause and to communicate freely with any person inside or outside Rhodesia; and
  - (d) Not be subjected to any observation, harassment or recording by film, tape, other mechanical device, or other means not expressly authorized by themselves.
2. For the purposes of subclause (1) of this Clause-
  - (i) Any reference to 'Representatives of the ANC' shall be construed as a reference to all persons nominated by the ANC to attend any meeting or meeting in Rhodesia as described hereinbefore in subclause (1) in any

capacity whatsoever, whether as delegates, advisers, aides or in any other capacity;

(ii) The freedom and immunities referred to in subclause (1) shall apply and be enjoyed as aforesaid not only at and/or during any of the meetings mentioned hereinbefore, but at all times from and including 31 October 1973, until the conclusion of the Constitutional Conference referred to in Clause 7 hereof;

(iii) Any reference to 'preventive detention' shall be constructed as a reference to detention in terms of any regulations made under the Emergency Powers Act [Chapter 33]

6. Because of the urgent need to end the present uncertainty it was agreed that every effort should be made to expedite the proceedings.
7. When agreement has been reached on the form and content of the Constitutional Settlement, a final Constitutional Conference will be arranged at a mutually agreed venue, which shall be outside Rhodesia. The purpose of this Conference will be to ratify formally the terms of the Constitutional document giving effect to the agreement reached.
8. All those present agreed on the importance of preserving the confidentiality of the Constitutional discussions and undertook not to reveal any details to the press and other media.

Signed:

Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo  
THE ANC PRESIDENT

Ian Douglas Smith  
THE RHODESIAN  
PRIME MINISTER

Witnessed:

Witnessed:

Salisbury, 1 December 1975