

Joint Statement of the African National Congress and the Progressive
Federal Party.

Members of the Executives of the A.N.C. and the P.F.P. met for a day on Saturday 12th October 1985 and discussed a wide range of issues relevant to the current South African situation.

Apartheid lies at the heart of the present crisis. Both sides share the urgent need to dismantle Apartheid and to establish a united, non-racial, democratic South Africa. Both are deeply concerned to conserve the human and natural resources of our country and to remove one of the most potent factors affecting the stability of the whole Southern African region.

Areas of differences were discussed in a frank and cordial atmosphere. In particular there were differences on the role and centrality of the armed struggle in bringing about fundamental change.

On the question of a national convention as a basis for devising a constitution for a united, non-racial, democratic South Africa, the PFP explained its position that such a convention could only take place when certain conditions were met. The ANC stated that it does not consider that there has come into being at the present moment a climate under which it can begin to consider a negotiated resolution of the crisis. At the same time the ANC does not rule out for all time either a convention as a means of devising a constitution or negotiations as a means of resolving the crisis. *Both believe that one of the urgent issues is to secure the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners and detainees.* Both sides agreed that the meeting was extremely useful and if necessary would happen again.

Lusaka.

13.10.1985.