



**STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY  
FW DE KLERK CONCERNING THE RELEASE OF  
WALTER SISULU AND OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS,  
Lusaka, 11th October 1989**

The African National Congress welcomes, with great joy, the announcement by FW de Klerk that Walter Sisulu and other Political Prisoners will soon be released. This constitutes an important victory brought about by the unrelenting struggle of our people and the international community for the unconditional release of all South African Political Prisoners.

This campaign must continue for the release of Nelson Mandela and hundreds of other political prisoners held in apartheid prisons.

To create the conditions for the negotiations he is talking about, it is necessary that the De Klerk regime should meet provisions contained in the Harare Declaration on South Africa:

- Release all political prisoners and detainees unconditionally and refrain from imposing any restrictions on them;
- Lift all bans and restrictions on all proscribed and restricted organisations and persons;
- Remove all troops from the townships;
- End the state of emergency and repeal all legislation, such as, and including the Internal Security Act, designed to circumscribe political activity; and,
- Cease all political trials and political executions.

It is of vital importance that at this critical moment, the international community, including the forthcoming Commonwealth Summit and the General Assembly of the United Nations, should impose more sanctions to increase the pressure to bring about a speedy end to the apartheid system.

The African National Congress and the masses of our people inside our country will also intensify the struggle to achieve this objective. This struggle both inside and outside the country will continue until South Africa is transformed into a united, democratic and non-racial country.