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GRS 450

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FM PRETORIA
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 264
OF 310720Z AUGUST 85
INFO ROUTINE JOHANNESBURG
INFO SAVING DURBAN, CAPE TOWN

MY TELNOS 251 AND 252: FORCED REMOVALS

SUMMARY

1. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT DECISION THAT BLACK COMMUNITIES AT KWANGEMA AND DRIEFONTEIN WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO MOVE IS WELCOME AND MERITS RECOGNITION.

DETAIL

2. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A FINAL DECISION ABOUT KWANGEMA AND DRIEFONTEIN HAS BEEN WELCOMED BY THE COMMUNITIES AND BY ORGANISATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THEM WHILE THEY WERE UNDER THREAT OF REMOVAL. THEY MAY NOW REMAIN IN THEIR EXISTING AREAS. THOSE INHABITANTS WHOSE LAND IS BEING FLOODED DUE TO THE NEW DAM ARE TO BE COMPENSATED WITH LAND CLOSE BY.

3. AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TOWARDS CHANGE, THIS DEVELOPMENT CAN BE SEEN AS A SMALL STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO WELCOME THE DECISION PARTICULARLY SINCE WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY INTERVENED TO TRY TO STOP THE REMOVAL OF THE TWO COMMUNITIES. I HAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL INTERCESSION HAS CONTRIBUTED. ALTHOUGH I WOULD NOT RECOMMEND THAT WE SHOULD GO SO FAR AS TO CLAIM THE CREDIT OURSELVES FOR THE FINAL DECISION.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE LIKELY TO DENY THAT THEIR DECISION WAS BASED ON ANYTHING OTHER THAN THEIR OWN ASSESSMENT OF THE MERITS OF THE CASE. IN ANY PUBLIC COMMENT, YOU MIGHT ALSO WISH TO ADD THAT WE HOPE THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO AGREE THAT OTHER COMMUNITIES UNDER THREAT OF FORCED REMOVAL WILL BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN THEIR PRESENT HOMES.

4. THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION, DR WILJOEN, ANNOUNCED A SUSPENSION OF FORCED REMOVALS EARLIER THIS YEAR PENDING A REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT POLICY. WHICH HE RECENTLY TOLD ME HAD STILL NOT BEEN COMPLETED. HOWEVER, DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE ON A NUMBER OF COMMUNITIES, THE LATEST BEING

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THE REPRIEVE OF KWANGEMA WND DRIE ONTEIN AND DUNCAN VILLAGE OUTSIDE EAST LOHABUON. IN PARTICULAR THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED EARLIER THIS YEAR THAT 58 BLACK URBAN COMMUNITIES ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR RE-LOCATION TO HOMELANDS WOULD NO LONGER BE REQUIRED TO MOVE.

5. WE RECENTLY HEARD THAT THE KRUGERSDROP WHITE COUNCIL HAD AGREED TO DROP DEMANDS THAT AN ADJACENT BLACK COMMUNITY SHOULD BE MOVED. WE KNOW THAT THIS WAS A DECISION FOR WHICH THE LOCAL MP (A 'LIBERAL' MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL PARTY) HAD BEEN PRESSING. DECISIONS SUCH AS THE AGREEMENT THAT SQUATTERS AT CROSSROADS IN THE WESTERN CRPE COULD REMAIN IN THE AREA FOR THE PRESENT, ABOLISHING THE COLOURED WORK PREFERENCE POLICY IN THE WESTERN CAPE WHICH PENALISED BLACKS AND CHANGING LEGISLATION TO MAKE IT A LITTLE EASIER FOR BLACKS TO MOVE FROM AREA TO AREA ALSO SUGGEST A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH.

6. THE THREAT OF REMOVAL NEVERTHELESS HANGS OVER MANY COMMUNITIES, BOTH URBAN AND RURAL, PENDING OUTCOME OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REVIEW. THE GREATEST UNCERTAINTY IS PROBABLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS TOWARDS THE CONSOLIDATION OF KWAZULU. ANOTHER PROMINENT CASE IS MATHOPESTAD (FCO TELNO 115 TO CAPE TOWN REFERS). EVEN IF THE POLICY OF FORCED REMOVALS REMAINS PERMANENTLY SUSPENDED, THE GOVERNMENT WILL DOUBTLESS OBLIGE INDIVIDUAL GROUPS TO MOVE IF CONSIDERED NECESSARY, EG. SQUATTER COMMUNITIES.

7. AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT THAT FORCED REMOVALS WERE NO LONGER NORMAL POLICY WOULD HOWEVER REMOVE THE UNCERTAINTY UNDER WHICH BLACKS IN AFFECTED AREAS HAVE BEEN LIVING FOR MANY YEARS.

**THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED**

MOBERLY

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