

## Road to Democracy (1990-1994)

### ESSAY PAPER TWO.

On the 2nd February 1990, President of South Africa, F.W. De Klerk opened parliament with a speech that changed the course for South Africa's future. This was the start of FW De Klerk dismantling the Apartheid regime which had previously ruled over South Africa. Two of the key factors that De Klerk had brought up were:

- Many previously banned political parties such as the ANC and PAC to be unbanned.

- All political prisoners to be released from prisons such as Robben Island (Including Nelson Mandela).

Other changes to be introduced included that censorship of the media would be removed, emergency regulations placed on educational bodies would be lifted and detention periods would be limited to six months with prisoners being allowed the right to legal representation and medical treatment.

FW De Klerk's showed willingness to work with all political groups to create a new democratic constitution for South Africa.

### Reasons for FW De Klerk's Change

- The National Party wanted to control the change and dismantle Apartheid so that they could keep some power in doing so.

- The National Party believed that the ANC would be politically weak after being banned for the past 30 years.

- Sanctions and disinvestments in South Africa had a great negative effect on South Africa's economy.

·The resistance protests against Apartheid in the 1980's showed that the Apartheid government could only hold off these protests indefinitely.

Negotiations for reform soon begin between the ANC and the NP however these negotiations would be put on a halt due to on-going violence in South Africa such as the Sebokeng Massacre. The ANC realised that a 3rd force were instigating and causing violence.

[3rd Force- An unknown group of right wing extremists who provoked attacks on the ANC in order to disrupt the negotiations to conserve South Africa and avoid reform.]

### **Groote Schuur Minute**

After the violence period had ended the negotiations had continued. Government officials (NP) and ANC officials met at President De Klerk's Groote Schuur residence in Cape Town in order to discuss and negotiate the way forward (4 May 1990). The highlight of this negotiation was the end of dominant white rule by means of:

- Releasing all remaining political prisoners.
- Granting immunity from prosecution to political offenders.
- To bring back political offenders in exile.

The leaders committed themselves to creating conditions for peaceful negotiations. Their agreement was recorded as the Groote Schuur Minute.

A major obstacle to negotiations was the continuing violence in the Rand townships between ANC aligned urban residents and IFP aligned migrant workers living in hostels. The IFP enjoyed financial support from the government as well as secret support from the South African police. By the time Mandela was released from prison over 3000 people had been killed in this conflict.

The week before the Pretoria meeting on 22-July 1990 IFP hostel dwellers were intent on attacking ANC members in Sebokeng, Johannesburg so therefore the ANC notified the minister of law and order for security forces to protect them. However under police escort IFP members went on to murder 30 ANC supporters.

Both the government and ANC realised they needed to move quickly to keep the process of change moving towards democracy.

### Pretoria Minute

Due to the success of the Groote Schuur Minute the negotiations continued with the Pretoria Minute (6 August 1990) which was the next negotiation conference held once again between NP and ANC officials except this time in Pretoria. The main point of discussion was the ANC's announcement to suspend all armed action struggles (For the MK to stop with all attacks).

MK (Umkhonto we Sizwe)- The ANC's armed wing or army which had been used during Apartheid as a form of violent protest by actions such as setting off bombs in public areas. After the Pretoria Minute the NP government ended the State of Emergency in South Africa except in Natal due to the on-going violence.

### 1991 CODESA 1

#### Conference for a Democratic South Africa.

After the success of the negotiations between the ANC and NP it was agreed that all factors from all political parties should now be included in the negotiation process, thus CODESA 1 was held at the World Trade Centre in Kempton Park, Johannesburg. (20 December 1991)

- 19 political organisations (Excluding Pac and Conservative Party) took part in CODESA 1. IFP leader Mangusuthu Buthelezi did not so the IFP was represented by Frank Mdlalose.
- The negotiations at CODESA were to discuss the formation of a multi-racial government for the New South Africa.

- The Declaration Of Intent was drawn up and signed by all political organisations present which was a commitment by all members to a goal towards an equal and undivided South Africa.

The last of the remaining Apartheid laws were dropped.

CODESA I adjourned, leaving five negotiating groups to work out detailed agreements before the next full meeting due in May 1992.

## **1992 White Referendum**

In early 1992 FW De Klerk, fearing a decrease in support for the NP, ordered that a “whites only” referendum be held on the issue of reform and to see what the response by the white public was to reform. The referendum came back with very positive results as 68% of white South Africans voted towards a political reform.

## **CODESA 2**

CODESA 2 was a was not very successful as all the political organisations failed to meet a consensus over a majority rule or power sharing form of rule for the new government. Political parties such as the ANC wanted majority rule ( A form of governance whereby the political party with the majority of the vote (Who wins the election) has all power and control over the governance of the country), whereas the NP wanted power sharing -(A system of governance where dominant groups share power with minorities and allow them some autonomy - Power in the governance of the country). This discussion was also not helped by all the on-going violence in the townships such as the Boipatong Massacre

## **Boipatong Massacre**

On the 17th June 1992, township residents living in Boipatong were attacked by armed IFP supporters whereby roughly 40 people were killed and many more were injured.

As a result of the Boipatong Massacre, the ANC withdrew from the negotiations leading to the end of CODESA II. There was no further talks for almost a year. Together with Cosatu, the ANC sought to channel the anger of black people into a national campaign of rolling mass action. Rolling mass action included strikes and

massive public demonstrations against the government and also the homeland governments.

In early August a national strike was declared and Mandela led 50000 in a March on the Union Building.

### **Bisho Stadium Tragedy**

On the 7th September 1992 around 70000 ANC supporters lead by iconic ANC leaders such as Chris Hani gathered in Bisho in protest against the leader of the homeland, OupaGqozo, calling for the re-incorporation into South Africa. However when marchers tried to break through the lines of the Ciskei Defense force's lines, they opened fire on the marchers killing 28 and injuring many more.

This incident brought a new urgency to the search for a political settlement but also resulted in tension between Mandela and De Klerk.

### **Record of Understanding**

26 September 1992

The Record of Understanding was an agreement between negotiators **Roelf Meyer** of the NP and **Cyril Ramaphosa** of the ANC that the negotiation process had to continue despite all the violence taking place and the 'third force elements' in the country.

NP government members and ANC officials finally agreed on a 5 year term for government and political parties that gain over 5% in the election would be proportionally represented.

The ANC came to accept that some form of power sharing would be necessary for a fixed period after elections, the NP would have to accept the principles of full democratic government.

The government further agreed to release all political prisoners.

To erect fences around migrant workers hostels and to ban the carrying of traditional weapons.

A **Sunset Clause** was suggested, in terms of this clause a Government of National Unity would be established after elections and the jobs of white civil servants, soldiers and police officers would be guaranteed for a period of five years.

## **1993 Chris Hani Assassination**

On the 10th April 1993 Chris Hani had just returned from the corner café when he was gunned down by Polish Janus Waluz on his driveway. This incident jolted the entire right wing back into activity and placed them at the top of the political agenda. Later both Janus Waluz and Clive Derby-Lewis were convicted of the crime and were sentenced. This assassination formed a large amount of conflict in South Africa as Hani was a very popular ANC leader, however Nelson Mandela addressed the nation in order to avoid a civil war and keep the peace so that the negotiation process could continue.

Violence continued.

## **AWB Attack World Trade Centre**

On the 25 June 1993 members of the right wing AWB political party demonstrated outside the World Trade Centre in Kempton Park during a negotiation and later drove an armoured vehicle through the doors into the building. This was all part of the AWB to disrupt the negotiation process as right wing conservatives. Again police failed to intervene or to prosecute perpetrators afterwards.

On Sunday 25 July 1993 APLA (Azanians People Liberation Army) launched an attack on St James Church in Cape Town, killing 11 and seriously wounding 56.

In August the same year American student Amy Biehl was violently killed by PAC supporting youth.

Despite the possibility of of the outbreak of a race war negotiations continued. In the early hours of 18 November 1993, the Negotiating Council reached final agreement on an interim constitution.

## **1994**

After eight years of negotiations and an onslaught of violence, on the 27th April 1994 South Africa eventually reached its first democratic election whereby all

citizens of the country could vote. Over 19 million South Africa voted and later it was concluded that the ANC had won the election and Nelson Mandela would be the first democratic president of South Africa.

Note: Focus on learning all events in chronological order for the essay question!

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