

SACBC CONDEMNS THE QUEENSTOWN BOMBING (8/12/92)

The recent attack on the King William's Town Golf Club and the bombing of the Queenstown restaurant which left five people dead and scores injured has again served to bring to the fore the senseless violence that continues to ravage South Africa. The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference extends its sincere condolences to the families of those killed. It is a sad reflection on our society that it takes a massacre or a new form of violence to jolt us out of our apparent complacency with the killings that occur all too regularly.

The SACBC views with deep concern both the claims that the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA) is behind these attacks and the distancing of the pan Africanist Congress (PAC) from any responsibility for the actions of APLA. The SACBC calls on the PAC to investigate whether in fact the attacks were committed by APLA or not and to clarify its relationship to APLA as no military structure should be allowed to operate independently of political control.

The SACBC has repeatedly condemned the resort to violence as a solution to the problems besetting us. If there is one lesson we ought to have learnt from our past it is that violence breeds violence. The threats of further attacks and those of counter attacks are condemned in the strongest possible terms. They are all the more deplorable as they come at a time when the resumption of negotiations appears near at hand.

The SACBC renews its call of last month for the strengthening of the National Peace Accord and for the support of all other initiatives for the promotion of justice and peace. It recommits itself to whatever greater efforts in this regard are required of it and renews its call to all people of goodwill to dedicate themselves to the promotion of tolerance and peace at home, at work and in the wider community.