

## **SACBC STATEMENT ON CURRENT SOUTH AFRICAN EVENTS (11/5/90)**

The GrooteSchoor Meeting between the government and the ANC offers hope of a peaceful and just settlement to end the conflict, which has plagued our country since the introduction of apartheid. We bishops together with the majority of the people are delighted that such miracles are still possible. We hope and pray that the negotiation process will move forward and not be undermined by extremists either to the left or the right.

The tragic ongoing violence in Natal provides a graphic vision of what the alternative to negotiations would look like for the whole country. To avoid this it is crucial that those involved in negotiations seek genuine democracy, justice, security and freedom as the long term solution for South Africa. It is hoped this is the message President F W de Klerk will receive in Europe. Praise and encouragement are called for but there is also a need for the right degree of pressure to ensure that the dismantling of apartheid begins and that negotiations continue.

The difficult process of negotiation and reconciliation also requires the support of all within South Africa as it should take place at every level of society and in every province, especially Natal. The grace of Christ's Resurrection is being offered to us; may it give us the strength to work for unity.