

## **SATEMENT**

**On**

## **OPEN SCHOOLS**

In the afternoon of the 28<sup>th</sup> March the Honourable Minister of National Education Dr. P. Koornhof accompanied by the Administrators of the Transvaal Mr. Sybrand van Niekerk and the Cape Dr. L. A. P. A. Munnik and the Secretary for Education Dr. G. J. van Wyk received a deputation from the Roman Catholic Church consisting of Archbishop J. P. Fitzgerald, OMI, President of the Southern African Bishops' Conference, Owen Cardinal McCann, Archbishop of Cape Town, Archbishop D. Hurley (Durban), Chairman of the commission of Education of the Bishops' Conference, Archbishop G. F. Daniel (Pretoria), Sr. Marian, OP, Br. Jude (Marists) and Fr. A. D. Scholten, OP, Secretary General of the Bishops' Conference.

It was agreed that matter of "Open Schools" would be referred to the Cabinet, and action against schools in regard to children at present excluded by the law would be delayed until the end of 1977, provided that no further admissions of such children are made during the year or the beginning of 1978.

The matter would be studied as one of urgency and the final decision given as soon as possible.

It was also agreed that no further comment or statements would be made by either party until the Cabinet's decision is known.