

STATEMENT ON THE TRANSITIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (7/10/93)

While the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference welcomes the progress made by the World Trade Centre, marked by the passing of the Transitional Executive Council Bill and others, it is extremely concerned that the lack of consensus and the non-participation by some parties, make it possible for violence to continue unabated.

We congratulate the parties who have laboured long and hard hours, days and months, and who have bargained and compromised for the sake of the nation.

We rejoice that these developments have made it possible for sanctions to be discontinued as a means of pressurising the Government and its supporters into abandoning, and now removing all traces of apartheid and similar unjust legal provisions.

Because of the clear evidence of what can, and has been, achieved by negotiations, we do not accept that there is a need for recourse to more drastic, much less extreme means such as violence and intimidation.

Indeed, we call on those concerned not only to refrain from the use of such measures, but demand that they discipline and bring to book any of their members who step out of line, rather than excusing or even justifying their errant behaviour.

We continue to pray for God's blessing upon all those who have shown Christian love and statesmanship by placing the people and their welfare first.

*Issued by: Archbishop Wilfrid Napier, OFM
President of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference*