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To: U.S. Women's Network

From: Rachael Kagan, Women's Project Coordinator

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## ANC ANNOUNCES ONE-THIRD OF ITS CANDIDATES TO BE WOMEN

The National Executive Committee (NEC) of the African National Congress (ANC) has announced its decision that at least 33.3% of the candidates it submits for election to the Constituent Assembly in April will be women.

This decision is a great victory for the ANC Women's League and other members of the South African women's movement, who have been pushing for greater inclusion of women in the political process. I have enclosed a statement from the ANC Women's League welcoming this important step forward. Messages of congratulations can be faxed to them at (011 - 27 - 11) 330-7144.

The ANC plans to release its final list of candidates on December 20 1993, and women around the world will be watching with interest to see which women are running for the ANC in South Africa's first ever democratic national election. I will update you on these candidates in the near future.

Meanwhile, I would like to introduce you to a new project of The Africa Fund -- **South Africa Election Watch**. This program will build support in this country for the South African election, to ensure that it is free and fair. Most of you have already received the publication, "The Struggle Continues: South African Women and The Vote" which details some of the issues facing Black South African women as they prepare to participate in April's election. Our Election Watch Campaign will provide you with more information, analysis, and action ideas to enable you to actively engage in supporting the transition to democracy.

I have enclosed a letter from my colleague, Dumisani Kumalo, who is leading the Election Watch project, which will provide you with more information as well as a sign-up sheet if you care to join. I expect this to be a very exciting campaign, reflecting the urgency and drama of this historic period for South Africa. The election is by no means guaranteed, and increasing violence continues to threaten the outcome. South Africans need the solidarity and support of concerned Americans now more than ever before. I encourage you to become a South Africa Election Watcher.

I will be back in touch soon with more news from South African women. Happy Holidays.



ANC WOMEN'S LEAGUE STATEMENT ON THE 'ONE-THIRD WOMEN'S QUOTA'

We welcome the announcement by the ANC's national executive committee (NEC) that it has ratified a national working committee (NWC) resolution to include women in at least 33,3 percent of the ANC's elections list.

The ANCWL regards this as a victory for all women.

The issue of quotas for women was raised by the ANCWL at the first ANC national conference in Durban 1991, and was vehemently rejected by the men.

The Women's League strongly believes that without the participation of women in decision-making structures, issues of major concern to women cannot be effectively addressed. Because of the way gender oppression is entrenched in our society and because it permeates all aspects of life, there is a need to create special mechanisms which will redress this problem.

The argument that women do not have experience in government structures and parliament can only be dismissed with contempt. Men in the ANC also lack such experience. But we all have the experience of struggle.

We believe there are plenty of capable and competent women out there whose names can be added to the list.

We call upon women to join the ANC in their droves to enable us to have a wider choice of names to vote for at regional and national levels when we draw up our list for the April 1994 election.

Forward to a non-sexist South Africa!

Lindiwe Zulu  
Media Co-ordinator, ANCWL  
November 10 1993



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A TIMES MEDIA PUBLICATION

## Women to get poll positions

THE ANC elections commission yesterday finalised its proposals for selecting election candidates, reserving a third of the places for women but making no special provision for Cosatu or SACP members.

However, Cosatu, the SACP and members of allied organisations will be represented on the bodies that select candidates, reflecting the ANC's desire for support from outside its own support base.

ANC elections manager Ketso Gordhan said the ANC was seeking an "extremely open system", which would result in election lists of candidates from a wide range of organisations.

In terms of current proposals tabled at

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the World Trade Centre, all parties will have to submit lists of candidates for the national parliament, where the 400 seats will be allocated in proportion to the parties' popular support. So the higher a candidate's name appears on the list, the more likely it will be that he gets a seat.

Gordhan said in the ANC's system, 80% of the bodies electing its candidates would be members of the ANC/SACP/Cosatu alliance, while the remaining 20% would be members of supporting organisations. Although the proportions would differ in

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different regions, generally these bodies would be made up of at least 60% ANC members, 15% Cosatu, and 5% SACP.

The process of selecting candidates would take place in a series of regional conferences, culminating in a national conference, which would probably take place before the end of the year, Gordhan said.

Candidates could be nominated for both

the regional and the national lists, and if a candidate appeared on both lists he would choose which list he would prefer to be on.

NP executive director Olaus van Zyl said his party was unable to detail its method of selection, as negotiations on the system had not been finalised. But the party had been working on its proposals, which would provide for a racial, sexual and regional "balance" of candidates.