

POLICY STATEMENT No. 13

**THE**  
**KADOMA**  
**DECLARATION**

JULY 31, 1983

ZIMBABWE

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MINISTERS of Information of the Frontline States and Nigeria, met in Kadoma, Zimbabwe on July 30 and 31, 1983 to discuss a strategy of information of the Frontline States and to define main areas of co-operation in the field of information in the region.

The ministers reviewed the liberation struggle in southern Africa and critically analysed the grave political, economic and military situation in the region which is engendered by South Africa's programme of total destabilisation of the Frontline States and other independent countries in the region.

The ministers specifically analysed South Africa's carefully orchestrated propaganda aggression against the people of the region in its attempts to stem the liberation struggle and to check the region's efforts towards economic independence.

They agreed on a common strategy and action to counter-act and launch an offensive against Pretoria's systematic disinformation.

They agreed :

1. (a) to pool their resources and maximise co-operation in the gathering and dissemination of information in the region;
  - (b) to assist and co-ordinate with the Liberation Movements in the struggle against apartheid and colonialism by providing them with greater access to radio and television networks, news agencies, other media and to training facilities;
  - (c) to increase the level of co-operation among news agencies of the region in order to promote a daily exchange of news, features, photographic materials and to make maximum use of the services of the Pan-African News Agency;
  - (d) to encourage co-operation in the field of broadcasting through the exchange of music, features, documentaries and co-ordination in the use of technical facilities;
  - (e) to facilitate and synchronise the training of journalists and other media personnel of the Frontline States in the various institutions that exist;
  - (f) to promote the exchange of personnel between the various media organs in the region as a means of enhancing practical training and familiarization.
2. To this end the ministers decided that heads of their Information Departments meet this September in Maputo, the

People's Republic of Mozambique to work out modalities for the implementation of the agreed co-operation.

3. They agreed to co-ordinate the positions of their countries vis-a-vis, the new International Information and Communication Order within the framework of the non-aligned movement, UNESCO and SADCC.
4. The ministers urged SADCC member states to give priority to information and communication in the determination of SADCC projects.
5. The ministers noted that South Africa is used as the main information centre about the region, by international agencies and other media. This has resulted in a distorted view and mis-representation of our region and tends to give credence and credibility to Pretoria's biased view of reality in southern Africa.

Bearing this in mind the ministers appealed to News Agencies and other international media to establish their regional bureaux in the independent countries of the region.

6. They also noted that some news agencies and other international media have already set up their regional bureaux in one or the other of the independent countries of the region, and urged the other international media to follow this example.
7. The ministers decided that foreign correspondents accredited to South Africa and those reporting to regional bureaux in South Africa will not be allowed, in principle, to work in the Frontline States any more.
8. They decided that a correspondent banned in one Frontline State is deemed banned in all Frontline States.
9. The ministers appealed to African news agencies and other media to have their own correspondents in the southern Africa region.
10. The ministers met informally with the representatives of the Liberation Movements of South Africa and Namibia, and re-affirmed the total commitments of their countries to the just struggle of the people of South Africa and Namibia. They noted with satisfaction the political and military progress and success of the Liberation Movements against apartheid and colonialism.
11. The ministers agreed to meet at least once a year to review progress and co-ordinate further joint activities. They decided to hold their next meeting in Lusaka, Zambia, in April, 1984.