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Tsumeb : 18. 6. 1991

Tambotie Farmers' Union

P.O.Box: 1489

Tsumeb, 9000

The Chairman
Of the National Conference on Landreform
and the Land Question.

Dear Sir.

As representatives of the Tambotie Farmers' Union - District Tsumeb - we want to state today, on behalf of all members of the Tambotie Farmers' Union, the following :

- 1) The " Landquestion " has become a very burning and emotional issue in Namibia today.
- 2) It is claimed, that the farms of the commercial farmers is their rightful property; but it can also be argued, that the land of these farmers is the property of the descendants of our forefathers, which have been removed from their land and settled elsewhere. We want to know how this land of our forefathers has been given to the white farmers ?
- 3) We are aware of the fact , that the Constitution of Namibia does not allow the summarily expropriation of property.
- 4) We, the members of the Tambotie Farmers' Union (18-20 individual farmers) are farming on two farms - Welgevonde and Vlake - with an total acrage of 12442 Ha. and possess a total of about 600 animals = cattle and small stock. Our biggest problem is, that these farms are overstocked and we cannot expand to make a living from our animals.
- 5) These two above mentiond farms were purchased in 1979 by the then Damara Representative Authority, to be used as emergency grazing for farmers of the Khorixas district; but later on we were allowed to use these two farms for our animals.
- 6) It is the general feeling of the Tambotie Farmers' Union that a commission should be established and be sent on a " fact finding" tour, to get first hand information of our problems and make recommendations.

- 7) During the land redistribution process it should also be taken into consideration the distance to be travelled from the working/living place to the farms or land to be given.
- 8) We know of many farm workers who are allowed by their employers to keep some livestock; but they should also be given a chance to expand/increase their livestock holding.
- 9) Last but not least, the Government should seriously look into the matter of farmers having more than one farm whilst other people have nothing; and where unused farm land exists, this land should be given to people who are longing for land to farm on.

In closing our short statement, we want to express our hope and trust that the Landreform Conference will eventually bring about a fairer land distribution.

Signed : *Heinrich*

for : Chairman and Deligate of
the Tambotie Farmers' Union.