South African Factions Spurn Compromise; Boycott Election

By Paul Taylor

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Black and white South Africans on Wednesday made no headway in their talks to settle a debt of nearly two decades, for the negotiations were boycotted by the black opposition, forcing the government to consider other ways to negotiate a peace settlement.

A meeting of the new government's national reconciliation commission opened in provincial capitals throughout the country, but the ANC-affiliated National Party, the Inkatha Freedom Party and the Nationalists boycotted the talks.

The ANC called in its statement that the government had offered "no viable proposals" for the black people, while the National Party said it had "rejected the offers of the government commission out of hand." The Nationalists, who are aligned with white farm owners, said they were "waiting to see what will happen before they decide to participate." The Inkatha Freedom Party said it would boycott the talks.

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