

OUTCRY AT BARA

JANUARY 8, 1988

THE National Medical and Dental Association and the Health Workers Association yesterday slammed the Transvaal's department of hospital services as the furore over the victimisation of the doctors who criticised conditions at Baragwanath Hospital worsened.

Nineteen of the 101 doctors who signed a letter describing conditions at the hospital as "deplorable" have been warned to apologise or lose their jobs.

Unity

In a statement yesterday Namda said: "We condemn the high-handed manner in which the situation is being handled by the provincial authorities. Furthermore the methods used to undermine and divide the unity of the concerned doctors must be deplored."

The Health Workers Association said that the threatened dismissals could lead to further staff

Seniors doctors face the sack

shortages at the already overworked hospital.

It said the action by the authorities had "strong elements of repressiveness, vindictiveness and a gross insensitivity to the health care needs of our community".

A Soweto medical practitioner said that instead of being victimised the doctors "should be commended for bringing the situation to the notice of the public".

The controversy erupted when 101 doctors at Baragwanath signed a letter published in the *SA Medical Journal* in September criticising conditions at the hospital.

In the letter the doctors also accused the administration of callous disregard for the

conditions.

After the letter was published six of the signatories were told that their applications for new posts at the hospital had been turned down.

Judge

A Supreme Court action brought by the six was decided in their favour with the judge ordering they should be given a hearing by the

administration. After that hearing they were told the decision remained unchanged.

Last week 19 other signatories were told to apologise or face dismissal or refusal of post applications.

Of these, 17 signed and their jobs were secured. Three of the six doctors who instituted the court action subsequently signed the letters of apology.

By THABISO LESHOI

Azapo's Wauchope in court on murder charge

Sowetan JAN 8 1988

A FORMER executive member of the Azanian Peoples Organisation, Mr George Wauchope (37), briefly appeared in the Johannesburg Magistrates Court yesterday on allegations of murder and attempted murder.

The State alleges he shot and killed Mr Jones Setshedi at or near Dlamini township on April 22 last

year, and that he also, on the same day and at the same place, attempted to murder Mr Rennie Zithu by shooting at him.

Mr Wauchope, who was arrested on September 5 last year, has since pleaded not guilty. His case was postponed to February 19 and his R1 000 bail was extended.

FORMER AZASM BOSS KNIFED**POLITICAL
MURDERS****'STOP IT' SAY UDF, AZAPO**

THE former vice-president of the Azanian Students Movement, Mr Xolisile Mnyaka, and an unidentified man were stabbed to death this week in renewed inter-group political fighting in Walmer, Port Elizabeth.

They were killed in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

A third person, Mr Luyandile Tana, also a member of Azasm, was badly injured during the attack and is in a critical condition at the Livingstone Hospital in Port Elizabeth.

Appeal

According to reports reaching the *Sowetan*, the renewed fighting between members of the United Democratic Front and the Azanian People's Organisation and its affiliates, started at the weekend. Azasm is affiliated to Azapo.

The SAP public relations division in

Pretoria yesterday confirmed the killings of the two men, stating they were attacked by a group of men and stabbed to death. Five men have been arrested in connection with the killings.

Both the UDF and Azapo yesterday appealed to their members in Port Elizabeth to stop the fighting and "these senseless" killings.

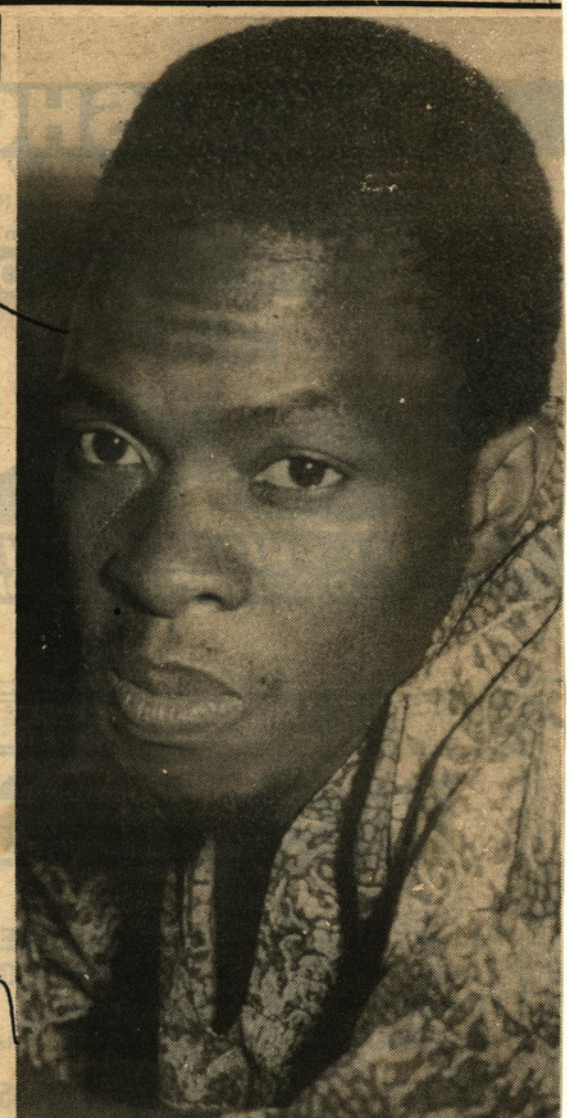
Mrs Albertina Sisulu, president of the UDF, said: "We condemn such actions. We cannot allow ourselves to be used by the system. I am appealing to the members of the two organisations in the area to stop killing each other. This kind of thing must come to a stop," Mrs Sisulu said.

Mr Lybon Mabasa, deputy president of Azapo said: "This is a war the UDF cannot win."

He appealed for peace in the area. Mr Mabasa also condemned the attack on their members.



MRS Albertina Sisulu . . . UDF.



MR Lybon Mabasa . . . Azapo.

4 MORE DIE IN NATAL CLASHES

ANOTHER four people were killed in continuing violence in Maritzburg and surrounding areas, including a 14-year-old boy who was shot to death, police said yesterday.

This takes the 1988 death toll to 31.

Police said in their overnight unrest report that a group of blacks attacked and entered a private dwelling at Taylors Halt near Maritzburg and shot the boy.

The bodies of two men who had been murdered

SAPA

were also found in the strife-torn area where, according to unofficial reports, more than 250 people died last year.

One, a 35-year-old black man, was found at Imbali. He had apparently been stabbed to death, police said.

Arsonist

The other was found at Willow Fountain with multiple stab wounds and a slit throat.

In another incident in the area, arsonists caused

serious damage to property when they set fire to three private dwellings and at Shange, also near Maritzburg, arsonists caused serious damage to two houses.

At Edendale, a black township near Maritzburg, police said an unknown gunman fired a shot at a police vehicle where "a group of blacks had gathered illegally."

Police fired at the group killing a 21-year-old man.

At Mpophomeni, Howick, about 20 km from Maritzburg, a group of blacks set fire to a bottle store, a shop and vehicles at a shopping complex. Police said extensive damage was caused to property but no injuries were reported.

'Conservatives kill youths in E Cape

TWO youths were killed in KwaNobuhle township on Sunday after a crowd of conservative residents went from house to house searching for radicals, police said yesterday.

Police spokesman Major Eddie Everson said some 1 500 black adults marched through KwaNobuhle in the Eastern Cape early on Sunday morning.

"They identified houses where they felt there were troublemakers, brought out furniture and burned it in the streets," he said. Furniture was burned at eight houses.

He said the bruised bodies of two black youths, aged about 18, were found in the township on the same day but it was not known whether their deaths were connected with the march.

The deaths have not been reported in the daily unrest reports of the Bureau for Information.

Major Everson said groups of youths identified as belonging to the United Democratic Front fled from the township when the march began.

He said the marchers called themselves the "African Persons Concerned Committee" and maintained

they had no political connections. He said they were "ordinary adults, basically parents" and were not armed.

Vigilantes

Conservative black vigilantes have clashed with radical "comrades" in a number of townships. — Sapa-Reuter.

SOWETAN
08/01/88

Police ban ANC birthday and Mbeki rallies

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The Acting Commissioner of Police has used emergency powers to impose a 10-day ban on all rallies in Johannesburg and Roodepoort that commemorate the 76th anniversary of the founding of the African National Congress and to honour recently released ANC leader Mr Govan Mbeki.

The move appears to be designed to counter a rally planned by the South African Youth Congress (Sayco) for noon today at Khotso House in Johannesburg.

Sayco — a national organisation of local youth groups representing some 700 000 members — had declared today, the anniversary of the founding of the ANC, Govan Mbeki Day and had called on its affiliates around the country to hold meetings.

ORDER

The banning order was published in a special Government Gazette yesterday by Acting Police Commissioner Roelof Janse van Vuuren under regulations promulgated in terms of the Public Safety Act.

Until January 18 it will be illegal to hold any gathering at which:

- "The 76th year of existence of the African National Congress is commemorated or celebrated.
- "Homage is paid to Govan Archibald Mbeki.
- "The release from detention of Govan Archibald Mbeki is commemorated or celebrated."

Sayco said its decision to honour Mr Mbeki on the anniversary of the founding of the ANC should be understood in the proper context.

ADVERTS

"We want to make our position known that we are not a front of the ANC nor do we have any organisational relationship with the ANC. But we recognise its centrality and leadership in resolving the South African problem."

The Release Mandela Campaign (RMC) has placed adverts in several newspapers noting the ANC anniversary.

Commenting on the ban on meetings, RMC national organiser Mr Aubrey Mokoena, said: "The ban is a farce because the ANC is a reality of the South African situation. There is no wisdom or sanity in the Government trying to wish it away."

Friday 8 January 1988

THE CITIZEN

ANC likely to push for SA's isolation

By Tony Stirling

ANC president Oliver Tambo's speech in Lusaka today to commemorate the organisation's 76th anniversary is expected to underline its concentration on efforts to isolate South Africa internationally.

According to intelligence analysts in Pretoria events at the recent ANC conference in Arusha indicated that the ANC would this year concentrate on the diplomatic isolation of South Africa, widening the trade boycott against the country, and internally on labour unrest and its political

programme of dividing the Whites and activating the "masses."

It was being expected that these aspects would be underlined when Tambo makes his annual anniversary address in Lusaka today.

The analysts said it was significant that most of the big names in the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, as well as leading members of the SA Communist Party, such as Joe Slovo, were absent from the Arusha conference in Tanzania early in December.

An evaluation of the material from the conference, as well as other recent intelligence, indicated that the absence of these categories from Arusha — which was the biggest diplomatic effort ever made by the ANC and the culmination of its 75th anniversary celebrations — indicated that the organisation was trying to get away from its image of promoting violence and of being communist dominated.

It was the projection of this image that cost the ANC dearly in its bid to

become recognised as a government in exile, particularly in Britain and America.

While terrorism is expected to remain a part of the ANC's overall strategy, repeated setbacks to its terrorist campaign in South Africa have caused certain elements in the ANC to push for a greater emphasis of other aspects of its campaign.

Last year Tambo was already emphasising the activation of trade unions in labour unrest, and the fact that SACP general secretary, Joe Slovo, has been given the job of concentrating on this sphere is seen as an indication of its increasing importance.

The ANC's campaign of activating the "masses" and making Black townships ungovernable, indicated through its support of organisations such as the UDF, has also suffered severe setbacks since the imposition of a state of emergency in mid-1986.

Because the ANC lacks the internal structures to conduct such a campaign itself, it has had to rely on supporting other organisations involved in the so-called struggle, and this aspect is likely to enjoy attention from Tambo again this year, as is its efforts to create divisions among Whites.

Internationally the ANC has long concentrated its efforts on the

isolation of and boycotts against South Africa and is expected to continue doing so.

On the diplomatic front, Tambo is expected to continue with his campaign of wooing the West, and in this regard there are plans being made for him to visit Italy to meet political leaders and the Pope. These arrangements are being handled by Italian elements who attended the Arusha conference.

According to intelligence sources, there is, however, a power struggle developing in the ANC over the organisation's future leadership.

They say there have been signs recently that Tambo's health at the age of 70 is showing signs of declining. The ANC's director of information, Thabo Mbeki, is being mentioned as a possible successor.

SAP says it thwarted an ANC holiday offensive

Business Day 8/1/88

THE SA Police said yesterday it had thwarted an ANC festive-season military campaign by arresting "a number of military-trained terrorists and their collaborators".

A statement in reply to questions posed by Business Day gave no further details of the arrests.

The SAP was asked to comment on why a reported ANC campaign had not materialised.

The ANC has since claimed it had never planned the campaign, saying Umkhonto we Sizwe political commissar Steven Tshwete had been "misunderstood".

PATRICK BULGER

The SAP said: "The statement uttered by Tshwete during November 1987 merely confirmed ... information already received by the SAP. The failure of the ANC's Christmas terror offensive can be ascribed to various preventative measures timeously implemented by the SAP, including stringent border-control measures", which had resulted in arrests and the discovery of arms caches.

"In an effort to 'save face' in the light of their failure, the ANC had no choice but to claim that Tshwete's statement had been 'misunderstood'."

**Capital
violence:
Inkatha
and UDF
issue joint
peace plea**

**Terry
McElligott**

THE United Democratic Front and Inkatha today issued a joint and unconditional call to their members to end the violence in the Pietermaritzburg area and elsewhere in Natal.

This dramatic breakthrough follows prolonged efforts by churchmen to help bring about peace.

A statement containing the "cease fire" call was released to the Press in Durban today by the Rev Stanley Mogoba, secretary of the Methodist Conference, and the Most Reverend Denis Hurley, Catholic Archbishop of Durban, representing a number of church leaders.

In the statement, the two organisations said: "Leaders of a number of South African churches have called on all political organisations whose followers may be committing acts of violence in Natal, and especially in the Pietermaritzburg area, to issue an unconditional call on their members to end the violence forthwith."

"We agree with the church leaders that an immediate end to the tragic carnage that is taking place daily is of the utmost importance."

"In consequence, we call on all our members, and any others who follow our leadership, to stop committing acts of violence immediately, while the church leaders prepare the climate for the holding of talks with the leaders and members of the political organisations concerned."

Mr Mogoba said that the leaders of both the UDF and Inkatha had confirmed that their organisations backed the statement.

"They felt that something must be done, and appealed to Archbishop Desmond Tutu to see whether the churches could intervene to bring about peace."

However, another two Natal deaths were recorded in the South African Police overnight unrest report: at KwaDengezi, near Pinetown, a 16-year-old black youth was found in a river and police are investigating a charge of murder, while at Edendale, near Pietermaritzburg, police found the body of a 25-year-old black man who had been stabbed.

Why Maggie's there

Business Day. 8 JAN 88

OWN CORRESPONDENT in London

MARGARET THATCHER stepped out of her RAF VC10 in the warm Nairobi dusk on Monday to begin her first visit to Africa since the Lusaka Commonwealth summit of 1979. British Prime Ministers are infrequent visitors to the continent, even though its problems, mainly from the south, have a habit of sitting on No 10 Downing Street's doorstep.

Usually, Prime Ministers have gone to Africa in the interests of rallying support for a regional policy. Thatcher's predecessor in Kenya was Harold Wilson in 1966 (post-UDI in Rhodesia). In Nigeria (which she visits on Thursday and Friday) it was Harold Macmillan, in 1960, breathing the first blasts of the "Wind of Change" on a continent just stirring from its torpor.

Thatcher in Lusaka was setting in motion the developments that pushed Ian Smith and his Rhodesia regime over the cliff. While she is in Kenya, Smith's successor, Robert Mugabe, will be enjoying his first days as Executive President of a country he intends to turn into a one-party Marxist-Leninist state.

Invitation

This week's visits seem to be something of a departure from pattern. No new policies to announce at the two state banquets, unless her aides have her intentions wrong. Certainly nothing to celebrate. More than a quarter of a century after Macmillan's "Wind of Change" speech in Cape Town, the post-colonial era in Africa has never looked more like a dingy, totalitarian failure.

Thatcher is not given to pointless journeyings, so why did she go? The search for an answer points back to the Vancouver Commonwealth summit last October, when her relations with the black African members reached a new low. To the delight of the British delegation, there came striding from the scowling throng the burly figure of President Daniel Arap Moi

bearing an invitation to visit Kenya in return for his visit to Britain last March.

On this, it was hoped, could be built a trip to one of the Frontline states. There she would be able to elaborate on the twin themes of her detestation of apartheid and a Southern African policy that excluded further economic sanctions.

At Vancouver Thatcher had, in a remarkable piece of navigation over the summit's rough terrain, enunciated a virtually new policy. Investment should be encouraged, not discouraged, in SA. An expanding commerce and industry, in their search for skills, would break down the barriers of apartheid.

The African National Congress was branded as a "terrorist" organisation. The generous flow of aid to the Frontline states would continue, with encouragement to concentrate on repairing their own battered infrastructures and economies.

In economic terms it may have been a sensible message, but it was not a popular one. The summit ended in a raucous sequence of Press conferences. The Frontline states issued no invitations to Thatcher — and there have been none since — but there was one from Nigeria, Black Africa's biggest and most important state.

In Kenya, Thatcher will, perhaps wisely, concentrate on the economic well-being of a country where Britain is not only the biggest aid donor but has given more than to any other African state. She will talk to Moi mainly about bilateral matters (he is not over-excited about SA, either) and spend the rest of her time visiting rural projects, farms, schools, training centres, sugar and tea plantations.

Kenya is not a happy country at the moment. Its human rights record is under fire, the university is closed, the threat of

an AIDS epidemic hangs over the future (and has already damaged tourism) and falls in coffee and tea prices have hit an economy rated among the strongest and brightest in Africa.

On to Nigeria, then, where Major-General Ibrahim Babangida hopes a new political culture will have been founded by 1992, enabling the military to bow out in favour of apolitical civilians imbued with the right sort of democratic values. His chosen instrument is Mamser, the acronym of the Movement for Mass Mobilisation and Economic Recovery.

Obstructing Mamser is a political offence. The country recently held non-party local elections as a step towards laying the foundations of Nigeria's Third Republic.

Banned

Banned from holding elective office in the Utopia-to-be will be former presidents, prime ministers, heads of state, governors, military chiefs, members of the present Armed Forces Ruling Council and the past Supreme Military Council.

The ban also applies to executive members of banned or defunct political parties, politicians, senior public servants and military officers indicted or found guilty of offences while in office between 1960 (independence year) and 1992.

Equally unwelcome will be all those in the public and private sectors who have been dismissed from their jobs or indicted and punished for corruption in the same period.

All-in-all, there may not be too many qualified people available to run the country in 1992.

After talks with Babangida in sultry Lagos, Thatcher will fly to Kano, in the Muslim north-west, where the Emir is throwing a durbar for her, complete with displays of horsemanship and exotic music. It sounds more fun than Mamser.

Ex-mayor Thebehali likens himself to Churchill

FORMER Soweto mayor David Thebehali yesterday likened himself to Sir Winston Churchill, saying it was not unusual for electorates to reject the most successful of public servants.

The man, who became mayor of SA's biggest black township in 1978 with 97 votes in a 6% poll, was speaking at a media conference to mark his appointment by Transvaal Provincial Administrator Willem Cruywagen as administrator of

PATRICK BULGER

Diepmeadow in Greater Soweto. Cruywagen sacked the council last month alleging that it had mishandled council funds.

Thebehali said he had called a media conference "to clear up my so-called controversial appointment".

But he gave little indication of what steps he intended taking to collect about

R35m in rent arrears in Diepmeadow arising from the rent boycott. He would only say he saw a need for better communication with residents, pointing out to them that "rent" payments were, in fact, service charges paid by the council to outside parties supplying electricity, water and sewerage.

He said collecting rent arrears was not the primary reason for his appointment — "there were serious financial

and administrative problems that had to be attended to".

Thebehali said he had been unfairly accused of being the highest salaried mayor in SA. "This is not true. I never earned a salary; I was paid an allowance for the various positions I held in the council."

Thebehali said he would serve as administrator until municipal elections in October this year. He said he would not participate in the elections.



● THEBEHALI

I'm right man for the job, Thebehali tells his critics

By Montshiwa Moroke

The newly-appointed administrator of the Diepmeadow Town Council and former mayor of Soweto, Mr David Thebehali, says his appointment has been criticised unfairly by the press.

Addressing journalists at the Diepmeadow council offices in New Canada, Johannesburg, yesterday, he said he had called his first press conference to "clear up my so-called controversial appointment as administrator".

"My qualifications as an administrator have been questioned — why did the Administrator (of the Transvaal) decide on me? He is aware of my track record in Soweto, particularly from 1978 to 1983.

"I state it as an incontrovertible fact that I never used my position to further my own personal interests or mislead the residents of Soweto, in as far as their socio-economic needs are concerned, or worked against their political interests."

Mr Thebehali was appointed administrator after 15 Diepmeadow councillors were sacked last month.

He said the Diepmeadow council owed R35 million in rental arrears.

He listed his achievements during his term as

Soweto mayor. One of these, he said, was the electrification project through a R286 million loan. The other was the improvement of infrastructural services — water, sewerage and roads — as the result of an overseas loan of R177 million.

Mr Thebehali added: "I have been unfairly accused of having been the highest-salaried mayor in South Africa. This is not true. I never earned a salary; I was paid an allowance for the various positions I held in the council.

"Show me one black man in the urban areas who managed projects in excess of R462 million, then you will understand why the Administrator of the Transvaal requested me to be of assistance to the Diepmeadow Council," he said.

Two letters at the centre of the row

Recant or leave, THE STAR 8/1/88 province tells Bara doctors

Two letters — one written by doctors at Baragwanath Hospital and the other by their employers — are at the centre of a dismissal row.

Registrars, interns and consultants unhappy with the situation at the department of medicine at Baragwanath wrote a letter to the *The South African Medical Journal* in September last year describing conditions as "disgusting and despicable". It was signed by

101 doctors.

According to the MEC in charge of hospitals, Mr Daan Kirstein, the letter is untrue and if the signatories do not sign a letter of apology, they can expect action to be taken against them. "We are not prepared to employ them," he told *The Star*.

A letter drawn up by the province insists the doctors apologise if they wish to retain their positions.

What the province says:

The letter demanding apologies said: The crux of a letter drawn up by the authorities is that the letter in the SAMJ contained inaccuracies, was drawn up by "eminent doctors" who "motivated" people to sign it in "good faith". By signing the letter prepared by the province, the doctors "acknowledge" that developments and improvements have taken place.

Three clinics have been set up in Soweto and 200 beds opened to Baragwanath at Leratong Hospital.

Signatories "concede that there have been inaccuracies ... we did not know about this at the time".

"The facts contained in the letter were taken on trust from senior academic and clinical staff in the wards in which we were working. We signed the letter on the assumption that these facts were correct. We accept now that an incorrect allegation was made about the H F Verwoerd Hospital ...

"Thus the letter was signed on the basis that eminent doctors, whom we all respect, took the lead in motivating people to sign the letter and, in so doing, we acted in the best of faith.

"We further unconditionally apologise and withdraw the following comments which are derogatory:

- The attitude of the responsible authorities can only be described as deplorable.

- Pleas for help have been met by indifference and callous disregard.

- The answer ("there is no money for new facilities") is utterly hypocritical.

"Furthermore, we acknowledge nurses are allocated according to the average number of patients and not beds."

What the doctors said:

The doctors said:

"The conditions in the medical wards at the hospital are disgusting and despicable. The attitude of the responsible authorities can only be described as deplorable. The state of affairs is inhumane. Facilities are completely inadequate ... The overcrowding is horrendous.

"Nurses are allocated according to the number of beds, and not to the number of patients. Ablution facilities are far short of acceptable health requirements, and ethical standards are undoubtedly compromised.

"Pleas for help have been met by indifference and callous disregard. Patients and their problems are treated with utter contempt by the authorities. Nothing is done to correct this affront to human dignity. Here is human suffering which cannot be portrayed by mere statistics."

The letter started by stating that a similar letter had been sent to the South African Medical and Dental Council in 1980 (it was signed by 70 doctors). That letter was ignored, as well as repeated appeals and pleas to the Transvaal Provincial Hospital Administration.

The University of the Witwatersrand was also approached, as Baragwanath is a teaching hospital and appeals were made to the Faculty of Medicine for support. "Years later the situation has not improved. Indeed it is worse," the letter states.

The letter said the authorities have responded by saying a new hospital is being planned for Soweto and that improvements cannot be made to Baragwanath.

"These statements are devoid of truth," the doctors said, "given the passage of time and the fact that inquiries at provincial level have shown there is no basis for this excuse".

The letter stated that the authorities claim there is no money. However, a R300 million hospital mainly for whites was being planned alongside the H F Verwoerd Hospital in Pretoria.

THE STAR
8/11/88
**Four more
people die in
Maritzburg
townships**

Another four people — including a 14-year-old boy — have been killed in Maritzburg township violence and police action.

A 14-year-old boy was murdered by a mob in Taylor's Halt, near Maritzburg, after a house was attacked. The boy was shot, according to the latest police unrest report. Three houses in Taylor's Halt were set slight.

Police shot and killed a 21-year-old man in Edendale after an unknown gunman fired at a police vehicle during an illegal gathering, according to the police.

The body of a 35-year-old man was found in Imbali. He had apparently been stabbed to death.

In Willow Fountains, police found the body of a man who had been stabbed.

At Mpophomeni near Howick, a shop, bottle store and vehicles were extensively damaged when a mob set fire to them.

Two houses were seriously damaged in arson attacks in Maritzburg's Shange township.

Two Baragwanath doctors have already been fired

THE STAR
JAN 8 1988

Two registrars at Baragwanath Hospital have already been fired for criticising conditions in the hospital's department of medicine, The Star was told last night.

Asked what the situation was after doctors had been threatened with dismissal by the authorities, the Dean of the Medical School of the University of the Witwatersrand, Professor Clive Rosendorff, said yesterday "according to my knowledge two registrars have already been fired".

But the MEC in charge of hospitals, Mr Daan Kirstein, told The Star that he "knows of nobody that has been fired unless they decided to fire themselves".

Mr Kirstein said people who did not sign the letter of apology issued by the province would in effect dismiss themselves.

"I know of only two people who are not prepared to sign the document. We are prepared to give them a further

hearing."

An intern refusing to sign, Dr Linda Jivhuho, said last night another intern still refused to sign and that she knew of only three white doctors who had signed the apology.

Professor Rosendorff said in a statement earlier that Wits had made "representations" to the Department of Hospital Services on behalf of Baragwanath doctors facing dismissal and disciplinary action.

Also in a statement, the Transvaal Provincial Administration yesterday said that although the administration was not averse to legitimate criticism, "any employee who publishes untruths and publicly denounces his employer as being indifferent, callous, utterly hypocritical, deplorable, uncaring and uncompromising in regard to the handling of sick human beings", may expect the employer to investigate the situation and take appropriate action.

● See Page 4.

'US companies can play constructive role in SA'

By Bruce Anderson

A visiting professor from Harvard Business School says he was "bitterly disappointed" when the US Congress recently passed legislation which effectively doubled the tax that US companies in South Africa would have to pay.

Professor John Mathews, who is in South Africa to present a series of seminars on business ethics, says he believes American companies can play a constructive role by staying in South Africa, despite pressure on them to pull out.

He said he believes that local South African companies also have a considerable role to play in solving the country's social problems.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

"South Africa's problems are so complex and so vast, that I don't see how any businessman can turn his back on the social problems. Saying that the government must take care of the social problems, is a way of ignoring reality," he says.

Professor Mathews believes that business ethics "has to start with a frame of mind and an emotional mind-set, only then do the tools and techniques for implementing changes become relevant".

"If you have a person at the head of a company who does not have personal values that translate into good corporate values, then the people below him will pick that up."

According to Professor Mathews, every business, whether a large corporation or a small restaurant, functions as both a "moral environment" and a "moral agent".

A business is a "moral environment" in the sense that it affects the happiness and well-being of the people who work for it. It is a "moral agent" because it also affects the lives and well-being of people and entities who are external to

it, for example customers and suppliers.

The notion of "social responsibility" which is often evident in programmes run by local and foreign firms to upgrade schooling and provide housing for the population at large is an example of a firm acting as a "moral agent".

Businessmen in South Africa have proved themselves capable of speaking out and dissociating their companies from apartheid, he says.

But he also stresses that the apartheid system is all-encompassing and that businessmen are inevitably part of the system, as are individuals and countries who associate with South Africa.

Historically, he traces concern about the legitimacy and morality of business behaviour in the United States to roughly 100 years ago.

Anti-trust legislation, which made it virtually impossible to create monopolies, was passed in the 1890s.

WATERGATE INVESTIGATION

Another wave of interest in business morality came in the late 1920s and early 1930s in the wake of the stock market crash when legislation governing the financial markets was promulgated.

The excesses of corporations, which became evident following disclosures in the investigation of Watergate, also "shocked and disgusted" businessmen in the United States, he says.

Illegal campaign contributions and highly questionable payments to foreign politicians, especially in Japan, were among the practices that contributed to what many observers described as "corporate Watergate".

Professor Mathews says this was one of the factors that led to a greater interest in business morality in the post-Watergate era.



PROFESSOR MATHEWS

Business seminars

Professor John Mathews will conduct three seminars in South Africa on business leadership and corporate morality.

The seminars have been organised by the Harvard Business School Club of SA.

The first seminar will be held at the Carlton Hotel in Johannesburg on January 13.

This will be followed by a seminar in Cape Town at the President Hotel on Tuesday, January 19.

The final seminar will be held on Thursday, January 21, at Durban's Royal Hotel.

For further information, phone Ms Merle Richardson at (011) 465-1595 or pager (011) 393-1020 code 1334.

South Africa will emerge as an issue in the seven-man Democratic race for the American presidency this year, says Mr Herman Nickel, former US ambassador to the Republic.

In an interview he also forecast a continuing rough ride this year for multinational businesses — not only American companies — in South Africa.

Mr Nickel, an analyst for the US operation of the respected Econometric organisation and southern African specialist at the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies, said pressure groups would be pushing the Democratic candidates on the South African issue.

A breakdown of the special interest groups which made up the Democratic Party showed the black and liberal anti-apartheid groups among them, he said. "One of the recent things emerging ever more clearly in the way in which we select presidential candidates is that it's necessary to gain support of these special interests."

White House hopefuls could not gratuitously offend them, he said. The Rev Jesse Jackson, one of the candidates with considerable black support and an outspoken critic of the South African Government, would use his leverage to its maximum in the Democratic debate.

The South African issue had become one where the pro-sanctions camp had become identified with the anti-apartheid struggle, an orthodoxy Mr Nickel dismissed as "a terrible and pernicious syllogism". No Demo-

SA will feature in the US presidential race

THE STAR JAN 8 1988

cratic candidate had yet strayed from that, however.

"But there is a fading of interest in South Africa as far as the American public is concerned," Mr Nickel observed, so the two trends would have to be weighed against each other.

On American companies in South Africa, Mr Nickel said a law Congress passed last month, repealing tax credits US businesses received at home for those they paid in the Republic, probably had more bite against those firms than economic sanctions passed the year before.

"The Rangel Amendment was one of those bits of legislative guerilla warfare that's very effective," he said. The "anti-South Africa lobby" had been unable to pass it through the front door, so slipped it through the back.

"It was a sneak attack that worked very well, a sad reflection on our legislative process," he said.



Mr Nickel

From Alan Dunn

of The Star's

Washington Bureau

South Africa had unfortunately become an issue on which not even Republican politicians were prepared to spend a great deal of political capital, he added.

Congress seemed to have lost some interest in South Africa, with some politicians developing second thoughts about the sanctions they imposed in October 1986. It had become obvious to them that the sanctions had not produced the "quick fix" many on Capitol Hill had spoken of at the time.

Anti-sanctions Republicans were now in a better position than they were then: passing the sanctions had driven the monkey from their backs, there was increasing evidence that sanctions had in fact diminished American influence in South Africa to an all-time low, and a dawning realisation that sanctions would not work unless implemented on a co-ordinated global basis.

The anti-apartheid lobby would clearly aim for worldwide sanctions as one of its campaign thrusts this year, Mr Nickel said. He warned of anti-apartheid groups leading consumer boycotts in the US against the products of multinationals operating in South Africa.

If the two-year-old campaign against Shell Oil was anything to go by, he said, these boycotts would not make much of a dent. "But in public relations terms, major multinationals are very sensitive to their images."

Anti-apartheid movements would not stop their campaigns and demands until they were able to report a transfer of political power in South Africa.

Mr Nickel said the dynamic of selective contracting by US state and local authorities would continue in 1988.

Two states, six counties and 20 cities, constituting a potent bloc of potential business, have so far imposed measures refusing to deal with companies dealing with or in South Africa. More are considering similar restrictions.

The Star

Bara: face up to the real issue

AS A TEACHING HOSPITAL Baragwanath may be the best equipped on the continent and it has some of the finest skills in South African medicine. Through their work among the underprivileged, "Bara" doctors have earned a reputation for dedication. Yet the staff and accommodation shortages that have plagued the hospital for years threaten to nullify its proud record of service.

Bara's shortcomings were re-emphasised four months ago, when more than 100 interns, registrars and consultants wrote — as a last resort — to the *Medical Journal* decrying "deplorable and inhuman" conditions at the hospital and calling for urgent action to relieve the situation.

The authorities responded by denying six interns appointments to senior posts at the hospital. Since then a Supreme Court judge has ruled the doctors must be given a hearing. Hospital officials are also demanding written apologies from doctors who signed the letter. One registrar who has refused to comply has been threatened with dismissal. It is

an extraordinary action by a hospital in dire need of qualified staff.

Mr Daan Kirstein, MEC in charge of hospitals, admits the doctors are being punished because they won't apologise for telling "untruths". What untruths? That patients sleep on the floor? That the staff can't cope? Perhaps an insight into the mind of the authorities is provided by a Deputy Director of Hospital Services who told a former senior doctor at the hospital that "Baragwanath serves a Third World community, that they (the patients) were used to sleeping on the floor and that he did not know what all the fuss was about".

The authorities need to spell out whether such comments represent the official view. Instead of threatening to fire doctors, Mr Kirstein and his officials should be fighting for more resources for "Bara".

By expressing concern at the situation at the hospital, the doctors were surely respecting their Hippocratic Oath. They should be allowed to get on with the business of saving lives.