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protect

blacks Â¢

Own Correspondent

LONDON. Â\200\224 Controversial pro-
posals to ensure that the Church
of EnglandÂ\200\231s General Synod in-
cludes a minimum of 24 black
members contravene the Race
Relations Act and are illegal, a
leading barrister has ruled as this
weekÂ\200\231s synod prepares to debate
the issue.

The legal clarification will strength-
en the hand of opponents of the pro-
posals, which they condemn as Â\200\234apart-
heid in reverseÂ\200\231Â\200\235, because any
legislation on the issue will now re-
quire parliamentary approval,

Mr John Gummer, the Government
Minister and synod member, said at
the weekend that the recommenda-
tions, contained in a report from the
ChurchÂ\200\231s Committee for Black Angli-
can Concerns, Â\200\234were wholly wrong
and patronising to black peopleÂ\200\235.

He predicted that the synod would

~throw out the report after ThursdayÂ\200\231s
debate, despite strong support for it
from the Archbishop of York, Dr John
Habgood.

plan to

& Nov. IS8

Syno
illegalÂ\200\231./

The report, chaired by the Bishop of
Croydon, the Rt Rev Wilfred Wood,
proposes that the number of black
members should be Â\200\234topped upÂ\200\235 if it

falls below a guaranteed quota of 24
out of the 574 new members at the

- next synod elections in 1990.

The extra members would, if neces-
sary, be selected from among failed
black candidates who received the
same or fewer votes than failed white
candidates, a provision which synod
lawyers now believe would infringe
section 1 of the 1976 Act.

Supporters of the recommendations
had hoped that the changes, if ap-
proved by the synod on Thursday,
could have been enacted after a rela-
tively minor alteration of internal
church regulations.

The synod may, however, have to go
through parliament to get the act
changed and there are fears that
MPs from across the political spec-
trum will unite to contest it.

The parliamentary process could
also mean it would not be ready in
time for the 1990 elections.

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be freed?

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umours

sweep

By ANTHONY: JOHNSON
and JIM FREEMAN

MANDELA hysteria swept South Africa yesterday with persistent rumours of the release of the ANC leader and his fellow Rivonia trialists.

While top government sources were adamant that Mr Nelson Mandela would not be released in the near future, the rumours even reached the New York and London stock exchanges.

Johannesburg brokers reported that uncertainty over how to interpret the rumour had caused gold to slip from 422.50 to 419.90 yesterday afternoon in New York.

Government spokesman said that the act of freeing a figure like Mr Mandela would require an elaborate security programme that would take weeks to plan.

The Cape Times was inundated with calls. Some callers said that children at certain high schools in the Cape Town area were already celebrating Mr Mandela's release and that exams at the University of the Western Cape would be interrupted.

Hundreds of people from a wide variety of activist and human-rights organisations flocked to the Samaj

SA

Centre in Rylands yesterday afternoon â\200\224 many with the expectation of seeing Mr Mandela and his fellow prisoners for the first time in a quarter of a century.

By last night the source or sources of the latest spate of rumours remained unclear, with government spokesmen blaming them on the â\200\234orchestrated actionâ\200\235 of anti-apartheid activists and government critics, in turn, pointing an accusing finger at Pretoria.

Dr Allan Boesak claimed that Mrs Winnie Mandela was the victim of psychological terrorism by the government which he accused of circulating the rumours.

Speculation about the release of Mr Mandela took off when Mrs Mandela flew to Cape Town yesterday for a routine visit to her husband.

Mr Essa Moosa, the human-rights lawyer who accompanied her to the Constantiaberg Clinic where Mr Mandela is recuperating from TB, claimed Mrs Mandela is here to take her husband home.

The other Rivonia trialists will also be freed today, he declared.

Mrs Mandela said her husband had told her he thought the prospect of his release in 1988 was out of the question and that any chance of release next year was highly debatable.

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Mandela's release a message

for reform

Political Staff

DURBAN. If Mr Nelson Mandela were released, it would be a signal to informed overseas opinion that the government was back on the reform path and had cast aside the right-wing threat.

This was said last night by Mr Kurt von Schirnding, director-general of the South Africa Foundation and former ambassador at the UN, when he addressed a meeting of trustees of the foundation here.

It would be wrong to think Mr Mandela's release would cure all South Africa's ills. The step could lead to rising expectations of reform,

which the government
might not be able to
achieve.

Mr Von Schirnding
said the Group Areas
Act was seen in Europe

vestige of institutiona-
lised apartheidâ\200\235.
Tremendous damage

had been done by the re-
ogy of group areas bills
and the banning of the
Weekly Mail, he said.

and the US as the â\200\234last :

lease of the recent tril-

Heunis outlines reform progress
~ Spirit of optimism
among Black leaders
Minister *

LEGISLATION pro-
viding for the possible
appointment of Blacks
to government would
hopefully be consider-
ed during the next Par-
liamentary session, the
Minister of Constitu-
tional Development
and Planning, Mr
Chris Heunis, told a
- news conference in
Pretoria yesterday.

Discussing his progress
in initiating negotiations
~with Black leaders, Mr
Heunis said he could not
comment on the possibili-
ty of involving Nelson
Mandela.

Attack on
Mauritian
PM under

inquiry

PORT LOUIS. â\200\224 Police
in Mauritius have opened
an investigation into Sun-
dayâ\200\231s attack by an armed
Hindu priest on Prime
Minister Sir Anerood
Jugnauth.

Police officials said yes-
terday they could give no
details of the investiga-
tion. Sources close to the
inquiry said a key issue
will be whether - Hindu
priest Sadhanand Samboo
(68), acted on his own in
attacking Sir Anerood. .

They could not say
when the investigation
would be completed or
what charges might be
laid. &
. Sir Anerood was umn-

hurt by the attack, iin
which Samboo grabbed
the Prime Minister,
pinned him to his seat and
pointed a loaded pistol at

him. Two shots were fired
as police overpowered the
priest.

THE CITIZEN ~

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~ â\200\230It is the first time such
a grave thing happcnd. 1
hope if was the act of a
deranged mind,â\200\235 said
Governor General Sir
Veerasamy Ringadoo.

Eyewitnesses said the
150 people at the ceremo-
ny froze in terror when
Samboo grabbed the
Prime Minister.

â\200\234No one moves, I have

" six bullets. I want jus-

tice,â\200\235 Samboo shoute.d,
according to an eyewit-
ness.

Sources close to the
police investigation said
Samboo had purchased

the gun two months ago.

Investigators found five |

bullets in its magazine,

the sources said.

{

â\200\234] was afraid but did |

not panic,â\200\235 Lady Jug-

. nauth said afterwards.

The incident occurred

at the end of a ceremony

at the Arya Samaj temple
about 10 km from Port
Louis.

Sir Anerood partici- |

pated in another ceremo-
ny in the northern part of
the island on Sunday
- evening, having spent the
afternoon at a football

match. â\200\224 Sapa-Reuter."

â\200\234As you well know his position is currently under consideration by the government and until - such time that a final decision has been taken I would not like to speculate on that.â\200\235

Asked whether the State President Mr P W Bothaâ\200\231s rejection of a one-man-one-vote system did not impede talks, Mr Heunis said, â\200\234I donâ\200\231t find it an obstacle in the sense that you mean it.

â\200\234You have to understand that various political leaders propound different solutions. There are people who propound the concept of a one-man-one-vote system. The government rejects that

â\200\230as a solution.

â\200\234Obviously discussions must lead to a compromise.â\200\235 3

He elaborated: â\200\234Vari-

~ous leaders propound

various philosophies. Many of them also set certain preconditions.

â\200\234The whole purpose of

the exercise of negotia-

| tion is firstly to discuss

these conditions with a view to getting people round the table. ;
â\200\234I have often said the commitment of the government towards reform is a clear commitment.â\200\235
The governmentâ\200\231s commitment towards the inclusion of Black communities in central systems was an equally clear commitment.

â\200\234I do not believe the

setting of conditions is going to serve the purpose of finding solutions.â\200\235

If people had certain conditions the conference table was the place to discuss them, Mr Heunis said, and they should not shout at each other in the

Press.

He said in a statement the most important matter presently receiving at-

tention from the govern- |
ment was the accommo- |

dation of Black communities in central government.

Recent events such as

the decrease in violence,

the active participation of communities in the municipal elections and discussions he had with nu-

merous Black leaders had

created a new spirit of optimism.

This spirit had made it possible to continue on the road of reform in a more. tranquil and motivated atmosphere.

One could not look forward to the imminent termination of the state of emergency however, because he did not want to suggest that violence has been completely countered.

He would however do everything possible to

. bring together leaders that had already been identified for discussions.

' This process begun. - :
â\200\230Mr Heunis â\200\230said he had

no knowledge of his officials having had or having

sought contact with the
outlawed African Nat-
ional Congress.

Asked whether his of-
ficials were prohibited
from talking to certain
domestic and exiled orga-
nisations in their efforts
to get talks underway, Mr
Heunis said, "The same
rules apply to my officials
as to myself and that is to

negotiate with people that |
__seek peaceful solutions."

Explaining his depart-
ment's policy on the hy-
pothetical position of ne-
gotiating with UDF and
Cosatu officials, Mr Heu-
nis said, "The UDF con-
sists of various bodies.
There are people in the
UDF that I believe seek
violence, there are also
people that seek peaceful
solutions. Those that seek
peaceful solutions are
welcome to talk to gov-
ernment, my officials and
to myself."

Mr Heunis confirmed
that he was currently en-

aged in talks with Kwa-
Zulu Chief Minister Chief |
Mangosuthu Buthelezi on
the whole question of re-
form procedures.

He mentioned these
discussions because, he
said, there was an erro-
neous perception that the
government was not talk-
ing to the Black leaders
that needed to be in-

had already |
i oo My

involved in negotiations.

A revised edition of a
Survey entitled "reform

and . the futureâ\200\235, which
contains past policy state-
ments by the State Pres;. .
dent, Mr P W Botha, ang |
eunis, was released i

. at the conference by Mr

Heunisâ\200\231s Department, â\200\224 I
Sapa. : : ,

Tuesday 8 November 1988 CWQQA

Editors take
legal steps /
on speech by

THE Weekly Mail's
editors, Anton Harber
and Irwin Manoim, are
consulting lawyers
about legal action
against Foreign Minis-
ter, Mr Pik Botha after
it was reported that Mr
Botha told foreign cor-
respondents this week-
end that the Weekly
Mail was one of the
most 'vicious' news-
papers he had seen and
that it 'contributed to
more violence in this
country'.

'Not satisfied with his
government's decision to
silence us, Mr Botha now
attacks us by making pub-
lic allegations that are
both unfounded and de-
famatory,' the editors
said in a statement yester-
day.

'There is not a shred of
Pik

truth to Mr Botha's alle-
gations. To report on vi-
olence is very different
from orchestrating it.

'We believe that Mr
Botha should be asked to
show whether his allega-
tions have any more sub-
stance than those made
by his colleague, Mr Stof-
fel Botha.'

In another develop-
ment the Save the Press
committee has called 'ou-

' the arrest of
demonstrators who pro-
tested in Pretoria against
the suspension of the
Weekly Mail last week.

Committee chairman,
Mr Raymond Louw, said
in a statement yesterday
'this is totally intolerable

â\200\230the Press committee pro-

authorities and it is con-
demned.â\200\235

At least eight demon-
strators were arrested on
Friday when they pick-
eted in Pretoria.

â\200\234It appears that the
demonstrators dispersed
on the instructions of the
police and were then ar-
rested under the emer-
gency regulations and de-
tained,â\200\235 Mr Louw said.

He added: â\200\234The Save

tests vigorously at the
outrageous treatment of
the demonstrators. â\200\224

Sapa.

conduct on the part of the

THE CITIZEN

COMMENT

Upseemiy,

WE accept that the Foreign Correspondents's Association had nothing to do with the unseemly behaviour of some of its members and guests at the association's annual dinner in Johannesburg on Saturday night.

However, the association has to accept responsibility for the behaviour of the people

who not only made 'venomous attacks' on the government and its policies, but also booed, hissed and shouted at the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha who addressed them.

It may be argued that the Minister invited contentious questions and should not have been surprised if he received a rough hearing.

However, Pressmen (or their guests) are supposed to observe the normal restraints that are expected on such occasions and to treat their guest of honour in accordance with the civilised standards that are expected of them.

Whether it is a Press Club or a Foreign Correspondents's Association in Washington, London,

Johannesburg or any other city, the audience is expected to give the speaker a fair and attentive hearing and, in the case of a government Minister, journalists are required to address him with the respect that his position demands.

We accept that many foreign correspondents in this country are antagonistic towards the government and tend to slate its Ministers and policies at every turn.

News agency messages refer to the 'White minority government,' or the 'voteless Black majority,' or the 'South African-supported rebels' in Angola or Mozambique, and so on.

The impression created is that the South African government is not legitimate, that it oppresses the majority and were it not for the government's backing, the rebel movements would not exist.

We do not see the Cuban government referred to as the Marxist Cuban Government, or the Zimbabwean, the Mozambican or Zambian

government as a one-party Marxist government, and so on.

But such is the hostility towards South Africa

that it is regarded as necessary to qualify the South African government's status.

It's a damned shame and the government should do something about it.

It is not a question of freedom of the Press or

the rights of correspondents to report as they see fit; if their activities are inimical to South Africa's interests and if they act in any way that suggests they are biased and are deliberately blackguarding this country, action should be taken against them.

Those correspondents who act in accordance with the tenets of their profession, recording

events fairly if critically, will have no cause to fear any action. :

As for the rowdiness shown towards Mr Pik Botha, we regard it as the height of bad manners to hiss, boo and jeer at a Cabinet Minister and make him an Aunt Sally for verbal attacks.

We may remind foreign correspondents that they are not here by right; they are expected to be unbiased observers and not to take an active role in the country's politics. '

If they cannot stomach conditions here, they are welcome to remove themselves. 3

If they stay, the authorities should not, and - cannot interfere with what they write, unless they malign - this country. It Just: it's a

moan who acknowledged that it's a matter of how they should comport themselves at an

- occasion of such a nature.

Mr Bodnadwern the apologist of which regrets what happened, but not those who, for whatever reason, turned this occasion into a raucous and unseemly event that reflects badly on journalists, who are members of an honoured profession, and the guests who took part.

To put it bluntly, if journalists (or their guests) behave like a bunch of savages, it's like

themselves.

rowdies, they demean the occasion. 'Hence the speaker's objection to those who, at the occasion, behaved like a bunch of savages. 1

d\lâ\200\231rei¬\201smen rush to Cape
= hoeg = X Tho TR â\200\224
Mandela release

rumours unfounded

Cape Town in antici-
Pation of the event

Stories that r'he was

expected to be released

.+ -before Christmas and by
â\200\234m v & veithe fact that his wife, Mrs

; Winnie Mandela, went to

berculosis. :
Apart from heavy

bookings by the foreign ...

journalist community on
regular - flights * to''Cape

speculation that Mandela
will be released by circu-

lating a briefing to its of-Â»---

UNFOUNDED ru- By Tony Stirling Town, at hleasctrgze private
mours that Nelson and Sapa-Reuter Jet was chartered by jour-
Mandela would be re- nalists acting on the ru- |
leased yesterday sent terday were fanned in the berg Clinic with her law- Mmour. ;
hordes of international ~Wake of weekend reports yer to see Mandela, who The ANC itself is
now
journalists scurrying to stating that Mandela was is recuperating from tu- lending credenc
e to

going to be released yes- . Cape Townâ\200\231s Constantia-

Tâ\200\224

" The ANCâ\200\231s briefing on the fact
said that if released Man- dthadbltdi¬\202ntl'i¬\202:
dela could be expected to Rivonia trialists were

be given a full place as he be released with Mandela
an ANC leader. and that she had as yet re-
The briefing also sug- ceived no reply to her cus-
gested that Mandela ication to visit
|| would be expected to play her husband at Polismoor
| an internal role for the Prison. :
. ANC in politics in South The same government
" Africa and that he would sources that have sug-
have the authority to act that Mandela will
as a spokesman for the be released, have said
ANC. that the release of others
Apart from Mrs Man- | simultancously or abog
dela, the imprisoned ~ the same time would el
ANC leader was also re-. just, if Mandela is
ported to have received a e
visit from Brigadier F C that
Munro, officer command-
ing the Pollsmoor Prison,
. to which Mandela was
shifted after spending
~most of his 25 years in jail
. e on Robben Island.
L 3 A Brig Munro said, how-
the speculation was that 'w@wm that there was noth-
the release of Mandela The soutces also be- ing unusual about his visit
that would be linked to a fu- lieved that when Mr M. it was his customary
ture visit to South Africa dela is released. he might once-a-week courtesy call
by the ï-201%hhiï-201nâ that e i . on Mandela.
ister, - Margaret - Mrs Albertina Sisulu,
Thatcher. o e T et St e
The is said treatment he has been like Mandela has been
to be anxious that if any undergoing for his ail- imprisoned for more than
world leader is to get any skt s 20 years, was yesterday
of the credit outside By *that implicats this quoted as saying she was
outh Africa, it should be would mean restricted ac- L optmmsticâ that
Mrs Thatcher. cess to him by the Press, her husband would be re-
NI e o i dli b e Mrs Sisulu, co-presi-
mdfni-201am as no hospital could be dent of the now restricted
o particularly would flow from un-
The ANC's reaction to ol Press access to
_the possible release of Thens ses scnmsed 20
in that it indicated that he. P @ Strong. police.pres-
< ence in and around the
e Y B NS i amiacd . Core

Mercury Correspondent

PRETORIAâ\200\224Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Chris Heunis, revealed yesterday he was involved in discussions with KwaZulu Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi on a question of reform,

Addressing a Press conference at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, Mr Heunis said he mentioned this because there was a general misconception that the Government was not talking to black leaders,

Chief Buthelezi recently said he was prepared to start negotiations with the South African Government on . bringing about 'a proper democracyâ\200\231.

. The chief minister stipulated, however, that the present

constitution would have to be abolished, along with the Group Areas and Population Registration Acts.

Mr Heunis acknowledged yesterday that some leaders insisted on the release of

Molweni Mandela and others, political prisoners and the abolition of discriminatory legislation before taking part in negotiations,

Approved

However, he had indicated these were the very issues which should be negotiated, he said.

Mr Heunis said the most important matter receiving the Governmentâ\200\231s attention at the moment was the accommodation of blacks in central Government,

he said he hoped legislation enabling blacks to be appointed to the Government would be approved by Parliament during its next session,

pointed to the Government would be approved by Parliament during its next session,

Yesterday's Press conference was interpreted as the

latest move in Mr Heunis's drive to establish his credibility after a war of attrition publicity.

Following Press reports about the secretive sideways movement of two of his top officials and speculation that he might be deposed, Mr Heunis has enjoyed considerable prime time TV coverage and front page news items in the NP-supporting Press,

He declined yesterday to discuss the two officials, adding that he was not personally involved in any efforts to truncate deliberately leaked reports apparently aimed at undermining his position,

He was not particularly

e

concerned about the reports, he said.

Mr Heunis said reform measures taken by the Government would almost certainly be rejected by those

for whom it is intended' if imposed. posca ull

Solutions

We expressly want to steer away from any semblance of prescriptive behaviour and one-sided action.

Asked if the Government would talk to groups such as the UDF and Cosatu, Mr

Hed to the UDF which favoured violence.

There are also people who seek peaceful solutions. Those who seek peaceful solutions are welcome to talk to the Government, my officials and myself,

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