

CAPE TIMES 8 NOV. 1988

Mr Jan Steyn

MR JAN Steyn's pending retirement as chief executive of the Urban Foundation happily does not mean that his drive and negotiating skills will be lost to the cause of practical reform. He is to remain as chairman.

Yet this is an appropriate occasion to express public recognition of a remarkable achievement. The Urban Foundation came into existence in the crisis after Soweto in 1976 when Messrs Harry Oppenheimer and Anton Rupert resolved to lead a movement of the private sector to improve the quality of life of the urban black masses in particular.

Appalling conditions and repressive policies had led to the explosion of 1976. The time was long overdue for drastic improvement in the housing and education available to urban blacks. It was the achievement of the Urban Foundation, under Mr Jan Steyn, to demonstrate to government that black urbanisation was irreversible and a positive factor to be accepted and guided in orderly fashion. The abolition of the pass laws and the acceptance of urban blacks as citizens have been truly significant reforms for which Mr Steyn can take much of the credit.

His career has been an inspiring lesson in what can be achieved by committed private citizens working with corporate backing. It is a recipe for the future.

Church plan to protect synod blacks 'illegal'

CAPE TIMES

8 Nov. 1988

Own Correspondent

LONDON. — Controversial proposals to ensure that the Church of England's General Synod includes a minimum of 24 black members contravene the Race Relations Act and are illegal, a leading barrister has ruled as this week's synod prepares to debate the issue.

The legal clarification will strengthen the hand of opponents of the proposals, which they condemn as "apartheid in reverse", because any legislation on the issue will now require parliamentary approval.

Mr John Gummer, the Government Minister and synod member, said at the weekend that the recommendations, contained in a report from the Church's Committee for Black Anglican Concerns, "were wholly wrong and patronising to black people".

He predicted that the synod would throw out the report after Thursday's debate, despite strong support for it from the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood.

The report, chaired by the Bishop of Croydon, the Rt Rev Wilfred Wood, proposes that the number of black members should be "topped up" 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 necessary, 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 approved by the synod on Thursday, could have been enacted after a relatively 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 spectrum will unite to contest it.

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



RELEASE RUMOUR ... Rumours of Mr Nelson Mandela's imminent release, which have gained momentum over the past few months, reached fever pitch yesterday. Here Dr Allan Boesak answers questions from the press after Mrs Winnie Mandela visited her husband. **REPORT, page 3.**

**Weak rand
causes 8%
airfare rise**

JOHANNESBURG. — Airfares to international destinations will be increased by 8% on January 1 next year, SA Airways announced yesterday.

The increase was due to the continuous weakening of the South African rand against other currencies, an SAA statement said.

Lower profits for foreign carriers made it impossible for them to develop competitive travel packages to South Africa. This threatened tourism, since incoming passengers had to subsidise outgoing flights.

"It has therefore become necessary ... after representations from all major carriers, to adjust outgoing international tariffs for journeys commencing on or after 1 January 1989 by eight percent," it said. — Sapa

Mandela to be freed?

CAPE TIMES 8 Nov. 1988

Rumours sweep SA

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

Centre in Rylands yesterday afternoon — 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 "orchestrated action" 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".

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 and the US as the "last vestige of institutionalised apartheid".

Tremendous damage had been done by the release of the recent trilogy of group areas bills and the banning of the Weekly Mail, he said.

The Natal Mercury, Tuesday, November 8, 1988

THE FORUM Letters to the Editor

King's peace initiative

SIR — I refer to the report in The Natal Mercury dated Monday, October 31 under the heading 'King warns university of clashes'.

I hope, Sir, that you will publish this letter as a corrective to a statement made by The Natal Mercury that '... a 700-strong Zulu impi had been sent to the campus on Saturday to prevent a student protest on the fifth anniversary of the death of five students'.

The facts are that His Majesty the King was passing the university en route to Esikhawini where he was due to open a community centre. He had made an appointment to see the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Rector about attempts to incite students at the university. His initiative was a peace initiative. His visit had nothing to do with what the Mercury called a 'student protest'.

Anybody who attends mass meetings addressed by His Majesty the King would know that it is culturally the correct thing to do for large numbers of the King's subjects to accompany him to such venues. His Majesty and his supporters can be seen in many places in KwaZulu and in Natal. That they were there with him at the University of Zululand also had nothing to do with whatever the students were or were not planning to do on that day.

The events of October 29, 1983, were very tragic and I do suggest, Sir, that if you published this letter as a corrective to the report which appeared in Monday's Natal Mercury you would be playing your role in helping sure that the 1983 events did not recur.

MANGOSUTHU G BUTHELEZI
Chief Minister of KwaZulu and President of Inkatha

Heunis outlines reform progress

Spirit of optimism among Black leaders

— Minister

LEGISLATION providing for the possible appointment of Blacks to government would hopefully be considered during the next Parliamentary session, the Minister of Constitutional 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 possibility of involving Nelson Mandela.

Attack on Mauritian PM under inquiry

PORT LOUIS. — Police in Mauritius have opened an investigation into Sunday's attack by an armed Hindu priest on Prime Minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth.

Police officials said yesterday they could give no details of the investigation. 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 unhurt by the attack, in 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.

"It is the first time such a grave thing happened. I hope it was the act of a deranged mind," said Governor General Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo.

Eyewitnesses said the 150 people at the ceremony froze in terror when Samboo grabbed the Prime Minister.

"No one moves, I have six bullets. I want justice," Samboo shouted, according to an eyewitness.

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.

"I was afraid but did not panic," Lady Jugnauth said afterwards.

The incident occurred at the end of a ceremony at the Arya Samaj temple about 10 km from Port Louis.

Sir Anerood participated in another ceremony in the northern part of the island on Sunday evening, having spent the afternoon at a football match. — Sapa-Reuter.

"As 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."

Asked whether the State President Mr P W Botha's rejection of a one-man-one-vote system did not impede talks, Mr Heunis said, "I don't find it an obstacle in the sense that you mean it."

"You 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 as a solution."

"Obviously discussions must lead to a compromise."

He elaborated: "Various leaders propound various philosophies. Many of them also set certain preconditions."

"The whole purpose of the exercise of negotiation is firstly to discuss these conditions with a view to getting people round the table."

"I have often said the commitment of the government towards reform is a clear commitment."

The government's commitment towards the inclusion of Black communities in central systems was an equally clear commitment.

"I do not believe the setting of conditions is going to serve the purpose of finding solutions."

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 attention from the government was the accommodation 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 numerous 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 had already begun.

Mr Heunis said he had

no knowledge of his officials having had or having sought contact with the outlawed African National Congress.

Asked whether his officials were prohibited from talking to certain domestic and exiled organisations 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 department's policy on the hypothetical position of negotiating with UDF and Cosatu officials, Mr Heunis said, "The UDF consists 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 government, my officials and to myself."

Mr Heunis confirmed that he was currently engaged in talks with Kwa-Zulu Chief Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi on the whole question of reform procedures.

He mentioned these discussions because, he said, there was an erroneous perception that the government was not talking to the Black leaders that needed to be involved in negotiations.

A revised edition of a survey entitled "reform and the future", which contains past policy statements by the State President, Mr P W Botha, and Mr Heunis, was released at the conference by Mr Heunis's Department. — Sapa.

Tuesday 8 November 1988

Citizen

Editors take legal steps on speech by Pik

THE Weekly Mail's editors, Anton Harber and Irwin Manoim, are consulting lawyers about legal action against Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha after it was reported that Mr Botha told foreign correspondents this weekend that the Weekly Mail was one of the most "vicious" newspapers 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 public allegations that are both unfounded and defamatory," the editors said in a statement yesterday.

"There is not a shred of

truth to Mr Botha's allegations. To report on violence is very different from orchestrating it.

"We believe that Mr Botha should be asked to show whether his allegations have any more substance than those made by his colleague, Mr Stofel Botha."

In another development the Save the Press committee has called "outrageous" the arrest of demonstrators who protested 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 conduct on the part of the

authorities and it is condemned."

At least eight demonstrators were arrested on Friday when they picketed in Pretoria.

"It appears that the demonstrators dispersed on the instructions of the police and were then arrested under the emergency regulations and detained," Mr Louw said.

He added: "The Save the Press committee protests vigorously at the outrageous treatment of the demonstrators. — Sapa."

THE CITIZEN COMMENT

Unseemly

8 NOVEMBER 1988

WE accept that the Foreign Correspondents' 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' 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.

If they stay, the authorities should not, and cannot interfere with what they write, unless they malign this country without justification.

Those who attacked Mr Botha have no idea of how they should comport themselves at an occasion of such a nature.

Mr Botha deserves the apologies not only of the Foreign Correspondents' Association, which "regrets" what happened, but of 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 political activists, or like political rowdies, they demean themselves.

This applies especially to the journalists, who make us wonder what standards are observed these days when they become participants in, rather than recorders of, events.

Pressmen rush to Cape Mandela release rumours unfounded

By Tony Stirling
and Sapa-Reuter

UNFOUNDED rumours that Nelson Mandela would be released yesterday sent hordes of international journalists scurrying to Cape Town in anticipation of the event.

Stories that he was going to be released yes-

terday were fanned in the wake of weekend reports stating that Mandela was expected to be released before Christmas and by the fact that his wife, Mrs Winnie Mandela, went to Cape Town's Constantia-

berg Clinic with her lawyer to see Mandela, who is recuperating from tuberculosis.

Apart from heavy bookings by the foreign journalist community on regular flights to Cape

Town, at least one private jet was chartered by journalists acting on the rumour.

The ANC itself is now lending credence to speculation that Mandela will be released by circulating a briefing to its of-

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Mandela rumour unfounded

FROM PAGE 1

fice chiefs that it has received information from South Africa which suggested that November 15 was a likely date for his release.

It was from this briefing that Mrs Solly Smith, wife of the ANC's chief representative in Paris quoted at the weekend after it had been sent to all external offices of the ANC from Lusaka on November 5.

The Citizen canvassed sources in Pretoria yesterday who said their view that Mandela was likely to be released any time from November 15 onwards remained unchanged.

But a new dimension to the speculation was that the release of Mandela would be linked to a future visit to South Africa by the British Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

The government is said to be anxious that if any world leader is to get any of the credit outside South Africa, it should be Mrs Thatcher.

She has consistently argued against the imposition of further sanctions against South Africa in the face of enormous pressure, particularly from the Commonwealth.

The ANC's reaction to the possible release of Mandela was interesting in that it indicated that he would not replace Oliver Tambo as the ANC's president.

The ANC quoted anonymous sources as saying Mandela had been told by the authorities that he would not be sent back to prison from the Constantiaberg Clinic.

The ANC briefing expressed fears that Mandela would be placed under the same kind of restrictions as those imposed on his co-conspirator, Govan Mbeki, after his release from prison last October.

On this aspect The Citizen's sources have stated that they do not expect Mandela to be restricted upon release, but on a clear understanding that he would be expected to operate within the framework of the law.

Thus, any calls for violence or unlawful actions could lead to action being taken against him.

The sources also believed that when Mr Mandela is released, he might remain in Constantiaberg Clinic for a period for completion of the medical treatment he has been undergoing for his ailment.

By implication this would mean restricted access to him by the Press, probably for the first few months after his release, as no hospital could be expected to cope with the kind of demands that would flow from unbridled Press access to him.

There was reported to be a strong police presence in and around the clinic yesterday when the media arrived in Cape Town in anticipation of his release.

The ANC's briefing said that if released Mandela could be expected to be given a "full place as an ANC leader."

The briefing also suggested that Mandela would be expected to play an internal role for the ANC in politics in South Africa and that he would have the authority to act as a spokesman for the ANC.

Apart from Mrs Mandela, the imprisoned ANC leader was also reported to have received a visit from Brigadier F C Munro, officer commanding the Pollsmoor Prison, to which Mandela was shifted after spending most of his 25 years in jail on Robben Island.

Brig Munro said, however, that there was nothing unusual about his visit — it was his customary once-a-week courtesy call on Mandela.

Mrs Albertina Sisulu, wife of Walter Sisulu who like Mandela has been imprisoned for more than 20 years, was yesterday quoted as saying she was "quite optimistic" that her husband would be released before Christmas.

Mrs Sisulu, co-president of the now restricted United Democratic Front, said she based this

optimism on the fact that she had heard that all the Rivonia trialists were to be released with Mandela and that she had as yet received no reply to her customary application to visit her husband at Pollsmoor Prison.

The same government sources that have suggested that Mandela will be released, have said that the release of others simultaneously or about the same time would be just, if Mandela is set free.

For Chief Minister's information

Heunis in talks with Buthelezi over reform

Mercury Correspondent

PRETORIA—Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Chris Heunis, revealed yesterday he was involved in discussions with KwaZulu Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi on the 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 democracy'.

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 Nelson Mandela and other 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 Government's attention at the moment was the accommodation of blacks in central Government.

He said he hoped legislation enabling blacks to be ap-

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 wave of negative 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 trace deliberately leaked reports apparently aimed at undermining his position.

He was not particularly

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 unilaterally.

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 Heunis said there were groups affiliated 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,' he said.

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