

24/11/89

Whites to stay in Imbali despite 'threats'

Witness Reporter

THE Imbali Support Group, members of which are staying in homes in Imbali to discourage attacks on individuals, said last night that they would continue with their peace initiative despite a threat from a KwaZulu MP that Inkatha would be "forced to take the law into their own hands" if they did not get out of the area.

A spokesman for the Imbali Support Group, Mr Graeme Swan, said that they wanted to restate their motivations by saying that "we are concerned with being a peace initiative that, for many, comes from a Christian concern for the individual".

"We are concerned with Mr David Ntombela's statement regarding Inkatha's 'taking the law into our own hands' as we are acting within the law and should thus be protected by it," Mr Swan said.

The Democratic Party yesterday expressed serious concern about remarks attributed to the KwaZulu MP for Vulindlela.

DP MP's Mr Mike Tarr and Mr Rob Haswell said that, if the remarks were correctly reported, they were cause for the "gravest concern and need to be urgently clarified".

However, Mr Ntombela last night denied that he meant he would "take the law into his own hands".

Mr Ntombela said that he was very angry about the presence of whites in the area, and that he wanted the police to ensure that they left.

He said that the whites should get out because they were seen to be one-sided. They had not announced themselves to the local councillors as they should have done.

He said the whites were "interfering" and making the situation worse by their presence with "UDF families".

Commenting on Mr Ntombela's order, Inkatha secretary general Dr Oscar Dhlomo said that he feared that, if the visitors were perceived to be only comforting the UDF families, their presence would create new problems.

In the eyes of the many residents, there was suspicion that the visitors were staying only with "UDF families".

Southern Africa

by Chester Crocker

NATAL
WITNESS
24-11-89

Facing the future with optimism

At the 50th anniversary of the founding of the South African Institute of International Affairs in Natal this week, Dr Chester Crocker spoke of his optimism for the future of Southern Africa. Here are his concluding remarks.

THE United States did not impose or dictate the Namibia-Angola settlement of December 1988. Nor did the U.S. and the Soviet Union, acting in parallel, do so. The role of outsiders in such conflicts must be properly understood. That role is finite. Yes, it is true that we offered the concepts and stuck with them through good times and bad; and we also provided a legitimate vehicle of communication and mediation. And it is true that Moscow at a certain point ceased its efforts to discredit our diplomacy — once it became clear that it could succeed — and actually developed its own brand of constructive engagement. But the three signatories to the New York Accords took the tough decisions, recognised their stalemate and hammered out a new common language and shared principles.

I do not mean to imply by this example that there is a direct comparability between the structure of the Namibian-Angolan negotiations and the negotiations that could produce a post-apartheid South Africa. The situations are very different. The conflict in South Africa is an internal one and it can only be resolved by South Africans. It is also sui generis, unlike any conflict elsewhere in the Third World. No one, beyond your borders, is responsible for solving it. And there are very few role models. The USSR, the only modern state that has taken separate development as far as South Africa, is caught up in a web of nationality conflicts that risks making the place literally ungovernable. States that define themselves in multinational terms for the purposes of organising power can only reap the whirlwind because nationalism is the philosophy of zero sum games. Even the second most powerful country on earth cannot make apartheid work.

For many South Africans, such comments are depressing. You are all familiar with the arguments and the reasons why your problems represent an awesome challenge. I would like to stress the other side of the story, the reasons for hope. And there are many. I will cite a few.

- The majority of South Africa's people, what-

ever they may say, know in their hearts that they are all God's children and they must share or wreck their magnificent common land.

- Look around you at the rest of the Third World of which you are a part. Who do you wish to exchange places with? Despite the best efforts of party politicians, Marxist intellectuals and, yes, the sanctioners — you have not yet killed off the vibrant economy that remains a solid pillar for a free, democratic society. You are the envy of Soviet economic reformers. The Solidarity leaders of Poland would breathe a sigh of relief if they had access to the entrepreneurial genius available right here in South Africa. Chinese intellectuals would feel liberated in the atmosphere of your universities and your non-governmental organisations, even under the wasteful and oppressive conditions of the state of emergency.

- You have, by Third World standards, "a very open society" — and if my brief visit is any indication, you may become more open. Despite the call from some South Africans for collective punishment as the road to redemption — and the invitation from others that we in the West should do our damndest — your society and economy are still an integral part of the world system. And there are signs that these signals of political masochism by South Africans themselves are on the wane.

When that happens, it signals that people on all sides are beginning to perceive their common interest in having the means to build their common future.

- It is true that many horrible things have taken place on South African soil. Physical and institutional violence still exists for the unenfranchised majority. But I would appeal that you look around you at the many societies that also experience these things and especially at those who have been able to transcend them. Every racial and cultural group in this great country has produced heroes and heroines: the best-known are heroes of domination and resistance. The time has come to celebrate your peacemakers and reconcilers — and there are many. Every generation in every country writes its own history. In countries undergoing dramatic change, history is regularly rewritten. If you succeed, it will be in part because history has become a growth industry in South Africa.

- So, I would ask that South Africans look

beyond your borders as well as within them. The external conditions you face may be the best you've had for decades. You are being invited to walk together and shape a common destiny. Most of us on the outside hope you will. Inside South Africa, a majority of people have now had the chance to look down into the abyss that awaits you — as sure as night follows day — if you do not. My own view remains, as it has long been, that South Africa has the best chance of any country on this vast continent to build a truly democratic and prosperous society.

Well, I promised that I would not deliver a sermon. I hope I haven't. Let me return to my main theme — the struggles still continuing between the vibrant, liberating philosophies that extend human freedom, and the dying ones that deny it and stultify it. History is to some degree shaped by these belief systems. But it has never been shaped by them alone: individual men and women have always played the crucial role, because only individuals — by their vision, courage and ability to learn — make the hard choices that move institu-

tions and entire societies. Think of some great individuals of our day. Many would cite Gorbachev, and I will not disagree. But I would add others — Margaret Thatcher and George Schultz are on my list, for many reasons, but especially because they had the acumen and sheer courage to interpret accurately the death of Marxism and the significance of Gorbachev.

And this is a final reason for hope. There are great men and women in the Third World as well, but they seldom have the same opportunity to shape their times. South Africa is richly endowed with great men and women in its political, cultural, religious and economic life. They have built political movements, corporate giants, labour unions, churches, newspapers and marvels of engineering. But your great political leaders have never been wholly free. Some have been held literally behind bars. Others have been imprisoned by the limiting dogmas and institutions of exclusive nationalism and racism. When they become free, they will show the world why this is a land of hope.

NATAL

WITNESS

24/11/89

MDM to campaign against strike violence

JOHANNESBURG — The "mass democratic movement" (MDM) has announced a series of marches and mass meetings beginning on November 29 to protest at "the use of violence against striking workers" in the railway and brewing industries.

"The leadership of the MDM is extremely concerned about the brutal violence and intimidation used against striking workers, and the counter-violence which has been a result of these tactics," the movement said in a statement yesterday.

Describing the demands of striking Sats and SAB workers as "legitimate,"

the MDM said it believed the disputes could be solved only at the negotiation table, and not through violence.

"Management must not think they can employ the might of the State to defeat the workers, and that the community will simply sit back and watch this injustice being perpetrated."

The marches and meetings, which would take place in various townships around the Witwatersrand, would demonstrate support for workers' demands, said the statement.

More than 24 000 Sats and SAB workers are on strike in support of wage demands. — Sapa.

The workers included striking South African Breweries and Italtile employees as well as members from the South African Railways and Harbour Workers' Union (Sarhwi). — Sapa.

Sats union demands recognition

JOHANNESBURG — The South African Railways and Harbours Workers' Union has demanded recognition and the reinstatement of all dismissed workers as a precondition for ending the two-week South African Transport Services strike by about 18 000 workers.

Sarhwi's demands which were put to Sats management on Wednesday, include that striking workers not be victimised and that they return to work as soon as a settlement agreement had been signed.

A Sats spokesman said yesterday Sats was "not averse" to recognising Sarhwi. — Sapa.

2 miners die at Elandsrand

JOHANNESBURG — Two miners died in a "fall of ground" at the 60 level of the Elandsrand gold mine near Carletonville yesterday morning, Anglo American gold and uranium division said last night.

The names of the miners were being withheld until their next of kin had been informed, Anglo said in a statement that gave no further details. — Sapa.

Police investigate charges against the New African

Witness Reporter

POLICE have informed the editor of the weekly newspaper, the New African, that four charges are being investigated against it, in terms of the Prisons Act, the Internal Security Act and the emergency regulations.

According to the newspaper's co-editor, Mr Sipho Khumalo, the police visited its offices on Tuesday and asked the editor to make a statement about the four charges.

"A Detective Warrant Officer Kruger told the New African that its editor should make a statement in connection with these charges but has declined to do so until such time, if ever, these charges reach court," Mr Khumalo said.

The charges relate to the publication of two articles on clashes between police and security guards and students at Indumiso Training College, the publication of a picture of jailed ANC leader, Nelson Mandela, and the quoting of the ANC president, Mr Oliver Tambo.

"The New African collective finds it somewhat strange that, only weeks after State President F.W. de Klerk had talked of relaxing the media restrictions in South Africa, other newspapers like New Nation are threatened with closure and we face such charges," Mr Khumalo said.

He condemned the "hypocrisy of the National Party Government in its attempts to fool the world into believing that its present leader is some kind of a reformer who is willing to meet the demands of the majority of the people of South Africa".

Mandela, Mbeki hold talks

CAPE TOWN — Released SA Communist Party stalwart Mr Govan Mbeki and jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela spent some of their three hour meeting yesterday discussing visits paid to Mr Mandela by South African cabinet ministers.

Mr Mbeki's visit to Mr Mandela lasted over three hours. He last saw Mr Mandela in June when he was still under a restriction order. This was the first time he was able to reveal details of a visit.

He said that he and the jailed leader had discussed a number of issues, but that the main topic had been developments arising from discussions between Mr Mandela and the cabinet ministers.

Mr Mbeki said that he could not reveal what was said about the visits and added details would be revealed at a time "most opportune to his (Mr Mandela's) organisation". — Sapa.

5 arrested in strike violence

CAPE TOWN — Five people were arrested and several workers and policemen were injured in strike-related violence in Newlands yesterday.

The clash started when about 100 workers arrived at Claremont railway station to march along Main Road and to establish a strike picket outside the gates of Ohlsons Breweries in Newlands.

2 found dead in Hammarsdale

PRETORIA — Police found the bodies of two men stabbed and hacked to death in Hammarsdale after a police patrol had come under fire, yesterday's official S.A.P. unrest report said.

The report said the police patrol had retaliated to the fire with stun-grenades, pistol fire and shot-gun fire.

When the police checked the surrounding areas they found the bodies of two men. A woman who had been stabbed was also found.

"Her present condition is unknown," said the report. — Sapa.

Police intimidation claim after poison T-shirt 'exposé'

24 NOVEMBER 1989

Ex-mayor tells of NATAL WITNESS general's 'threat'

EAST LONDON — A former security policeman and ex-East London mayor, Mr Donald Card, has claimed that the former Commissioner of Police, General Johan Coetzee, personally threatened him after he had said police had been involved in the Donald Woods "poison T-shirt" affair in 1978.

Mr Card said that he was prepared to give evidence on the incident to the commission investigating claims of a police hit squad.

General Coetzee could not be contacted for comment on Mr Card's allegations.

The alleged threat was first mentioned in a civil court case in 1983.

In an interview, Mr Card said that he had angered the security police, for whom he had worked until 1970, when he investigated the incident where one of Mr Donald Woods' children had fallen ill after putting on a T-shirt which had been sent to the family. The T-shirt had contained a chemical, minhydrin, he said, and his investigation had shown police involvement.

Mr Card said that he had been summoned to Johannesburg by the managing director of the company for which he then worked.

"He told me that he had been visited by (the then) Brigadier Coetzee and that the company's licence was in jeopardy because of my involvement in East London," he said.

The managing director said that Brigadier Coetzee wanted to see him in Pretoria, he said.

During the meeting Mr Card said that Brigadier Coetzee had admitted that a certain police officer had been responsible for putting the chemicals on the T-shirt.

Mr Card said that he had reached an agreement with Brigadier Coetzee that the matter would go no further and that there would be no more threats and "strange calls" to his (Mr Card's) home.

A further appointment was set for Thursday in East London.

On that day, the Daily Dispatch published a report in which the then Minister of Police, Mr Jimmy Kruger, said that Mr Woods had obtained the chemical on the T-shirt from a man in Komga.

"At the meeting, I told Brigadier Coetzee I was absolutely furious about the report as no one else but the police could have given this information to the minister," Mr Card said. "I had already exposed the fact that the police were responsible and this development broke the agreement we had reached that the police would not try to discredit me."

"Brigadier Coetzee asked me what I was going to do and I said there was nothing to stop me going to the Attorney-General with the evidence."

Mr Card said that the brigadier became furious and he was threatened.

He wrote to Prime Minister Vorster, who replied that "he treated threats of that nature with the contempt they deserved".

Mr Card said that the threat had first been made public during a court trial where the Daily Dispatch was sued for alleged defamation by a security police warrant officer. — Sapa.

Imbali

In a well-meaning effort to help defuse the violence in Imbali a group of whites, who have formed the Imbali Support Group, are staying with families in that township. This practical help deserves support yet it has not won favour with some Edendale residents. A KwaZulu MP has accused these whites of squatting. He has told them to leave the area as soon as possible and warned that opponents of the scheme would be "forced to take the law into our own hands" — a sinister threat if ever there was one. On the other hand the Inkatha secretary-general, Dr Oscar Dhlomo, has expressed some support for the plan.

Surely, with the high unrest death toll in Natal the people affected by this ongoing murdering and mutilation should welcome any attempt to bring peace and security to the region. The tragedy is that, having been forced to think in terms of colour for the last 41 years as a result of legislation, it is difficult to change our attitudes. Everyone concerned needs to be reminded of the recent statement by Gavin Relly: "South Africans won't become colour-blind until we learn to see things in black and white. Not black or white."

FW 'acting like dictator'

CITIZEN 24 NOV 1989

IN arbitrarily making the announcement that beaches were open to all races, State President Frederick de Klerk was telling South Africans that he was ruling by decree. In other words, that he was adorning the mantle of a dictator.

The proper place to revoke the Separate Amenities Act or any part of it is in Parliament, where all political parties can debate the subject.

Otherwise, if our lives are to be managed and controlled solely by the State President, then we are living in a dictatorship.

Was it not this very tendency he saw in the former State President, and did he not say that he wished to see the powers of the President reduced by divorcing the work of the leader of the National Party from the Presidency?

State President De Klerk is a dreamer, or he is being placed under tremendous pressure from the international community to bring about Black majority rule.

Can he really see a political rapprochement with the African National

Congress, or is it merely something to be desired? The new South Africa he constantly talks about is like a cuckoo cry which promises nothing to the Whites and all to the Blacks.

It is also extremely guileless of him to think that Walvis Bay will remain under control of South Africa and to assure its inhabitants that they are safe.

Even before the ink on Namibia's independence scroll is dry there will be clamours from the United Nations for South Africa to give up what "rightfully belongs to Namibia".

You can also be sure that the Western nations of Britain, United States, France and West Germany will not give South Africa any support.

The State President has said that "nowhere in the world has a White minority clung to power without a revolution". I might add that nowhere in the world have different ethnic groups shared power and nowhere in Africa have Whites been allowed to

share power with Blacks.

South Africa, of course, is going to be different. It has found the secret of how Blacks and Whites can live together like kittens in a basket. However, I sense a feeling of fear about the implementation of the reform process, a fear, it seems to me, that will lead the Whites to unconscious suicide.

State President De Klerk talks about five years of reform when, ultimately, he hopes to introduce a constitution giving everyone full political rights. If the constitution is gerrymandered in such a way as to give Whites some comfort and confidence and a sharing of power, the Blacks will not stand for it. The "armed struggle" must be seen to succeed totally.

It has to be a one-man, one-vote election and we all know the answer to that. But has he considered that the Blacks may not be prepared to wait five years? I don't think they will

S KENNEDY

Malanshof

Major changes in SA, Soal tells US debate

By DAVID BRAUN
The Star Bureau

WASHINGTON — In spite of President de Klerk's instincts to maintain the status quo, South Africa will continue to move along the road of reform because the white community has moved from a position of separateness to one of negotiation, a leading member of the Democratic Party has said in the US.

Mr Peter Soal, MP for Johannesburg North, told a meeting at Dartmouth College this week South Africa was in a period of extensive change. Diplomatic sanctions should be maintained against Pretoria to facilitate the process, but not economic sanctions, which would hurt the economy and throw people out of work.

He was taking part in a debate with the African National Congress representative at the United Nations, Mr Themba Ntinga.

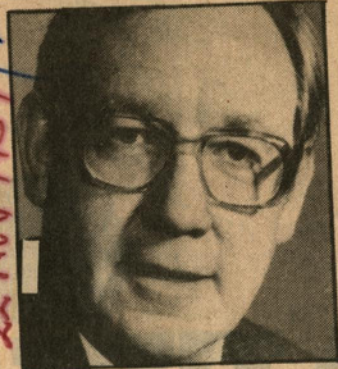
Mr Soal was originally scheduled to address the meeting as the only speaker.

Violation

However, students negotiated with the university authorities to include Mr Ntinga.

They had argued Mr Soal should not be allowed to address a college meeting because this would be in violation of the United Nations academic boycott of South Africa and the boycott on dealing with representatives of the South African regime.

The meeting, attended by



Mr Peter Soal ... SA will continue on road of reform.

about 400 people, was at times highly emotional. Some students waved banners which said "Peter Soal go home" and "Soal sold out".

Mr Soal and Mr Ntinga essentially made the same appeal for a future South Africa.

Whereas the Democratic MP called for the immediate abolition of apartheid laws followed by negotiations that would result in a non-racial government of equal, universal adult franchise, Mr Ntinga wanted a united, non-racial, democratic state.

Mr Soal agreed with Mr Ntinga that the ANC should be unbanned (at one time he called on a group of students to hold higher a banner which said "Unban the ANC").

Mr Ntinga said the Government of Mr de Klerk was no different to that of Mr P W Botha and the situation in the country was not improved.

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