

AP1991-10-9-20

ANC 'concern'
Mercury
over violence
20-09-91
at Shaka rally

16/1/11

Political Staff

THE ANC has expressed concern about the prospect of conflict when the IFP holds a Shaka Day rally at Gamalakhe near Port Shepstone on Sunday.

In a statement yesterday, the co-ordinator of violence committee of the ANC on the South Coast, Mr Vusi Mhlongo, said they had no objection to the celebration of Shaka's Day, but were concerned about the motivation for choosing Gamalakhe.

"Gamalakhe is the last remaining stronghold of the ANC on the South Coast as a result of the violence over the past year.

"The township has been under constant attack from the neighbouring areas for the last four months."

Mr Mhlongo said people attending the rally would come armed with traditional weapons from all areas surrounding the township.

"We anticipate large groups of unescorted men walking through the township which could result in conflict with the residents."

The national chairman of the IFP, Dr Frank Mdlalose, said yesterday that, if the ANC were really concerned with violence prevention, they would have contacted the IFP structures as well as the police to express their concern.

In the climate of the peace accord signed only a week ago, he would have expected the ANC leadership on the South Coast to practise peace-seeking.

Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, president of the IFP, will address the rally.

B/Day 20.9.91

Joint venture

ANC and DP delegations led by Nelson Mandela and party leader Zach de Beer yesterday agreed in Johannesburg to form joint committees to explore areas of common agreement and facilitate joint projects.

X ANC calls for weapons ban

Natal Witness 20/09/91

JOHANNESBURG — South Africans should be disarmed and greater restrictions should be enforced on the "accessibility and ownership of weapons of war" in the building of a national defence force, the African National Congress said yesterday.

"The gun laws and large stockpiles of firearms in private hands, particularly among the white community, cry out for urgent attention. The white ultra-right has a vast arsenal of weaponry at their disposal, and weapons training is part of their political agenda," the ANC said in a statement.

The position of the homeland armies and police forces would also need to be addressed in the creation of a "truly national defence force".

The statement, on the question of private armies, said political commentators had attempted to portray MK as a private army, whose continued existence violated the terms of the peace accord signed on Saturday.

Section 3.7.3 of the accord, however, did not and was never intended to refer to MK, but to Self Protection Units, previously called self defence units, the ANC said.

Accusing the KwaZulu Police Force and the SA Defence Force of being the private armies of "one particular political party in our country" and the National Party respectively, the ANC said it would be the first to say South Africa needed one national defence force.

Meanwhile, the Government, the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) have indicated they are ready to start the nego-

tiation process immediately, says Penual Meduna of the ANC's legal and constitutional department.

Speaking at the Johannesburg Press Club yesterday, Meduna confirmed his organisation's commitment to the negotiation process and said the ANC need not wait for the Patriotic Front before entering into negotiations for a new constitution.

Discussing the transitional period before a new constitution, Meduna said the process should start with an all-party congress.

This would lead to a constituent assembly as the all-party congress would not have a legal mandate to draw up a constitution.

Musa Myeni, a Transvaal leader of the IFP, said his party objected to a constituent assembly and interim government overseeing the transitional process. He said the IFP favoured a representative body which will have to be consulted by the present government on key issues.

In rejecting the ANC's calls for an interim government, Constitutional Development Minister Gerrit Viljoen said the road towards a multi-party conference is now clear and the Government sees the importance of this conference starting as soon as possible.

Viljoen said there is already a degree of understanding with other parties as to the agenda, logistics, chairmanship and participants. — Sapa.

Townships' death rate is six a day

D-News
20/09/91

ALARM GROWING AS UDF AND INKATHA CLASHES CONTINUE

IN A particularly bloody start to the new year, more than six people have died every day in the troubled townships around Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

A wave of violence in Pietermaritzburg townships this week alone has killed at least 22 people and prompted calls for the army to return to Imbali to restore order.

Police unrest reports this week have listed eight people as being killed with "sharp instruments" in Willowfontein, Imbali, near Pietermaritzburg, on Sunday while a further three men were killed by a mob in the township on Tuesday.

According to Mr Jon Aitcheson, director of the Centre for Adult Education at the University of Natal, the total number of people killed in township unrest last year was 672. His estimate of deaths from January, 1987, to Wednesday this week was 1 816.

Lieutenant Henry Budhram, South African Police liaison officer in Pietermaritzburg, said a further 11 people had been killed in Zageka and Jwabuzela, Sweetwaters, on Tuesday evening.

There are conflicting reports about the killings, with various sources providing different details on the victims and the nature of the incidents.

Total township deaths are now more than 100 and there is no end in sight to one of the core problems that appears to be causing the violence: the ongoing feud between Inkatha and the United Democratic Front.

Several new develop-

VIC HANNA

ments have given cause for more alarm. These include the proliferation of people's courts which mete out brutal justice and are said to be responsible for the Willowfontain mass killings.

The massacre reportedly followed a mass death sentence pronounced by a "people's court" which found the eight men guilty of killing a youth in the area. The executions reportedly took place in broad daylight in full view of residents.

Four other people were allegedly killed on Monday in retaliation for the kangaroo court slayings, but police could not confirm these revenge killings and only three deaths in Willowfontein were listed in the unrest report for the day.

The alleged revenge killings were also accompanied by incidents of arson and looting.

There have also been reprisals involving other mass killings at Sweetwaters and at Cottonlands and there appears to be easy access by township dwellers to firearms. Gunshots between opposing factions are now commonplace and police units are increasingly being fired on.

The violence intensified at Richmond Farm this week when UDF residents from nearby Kwa-Mashu and Inkatha supporters clashed. Fighting was spread over several days and a strong police presence was necessary to quell the clashes.

Although the clash between the UDF and Inkatha is one of the major causes of unrest, there are many other factors that contribute to the ongoing violence.

The director of the Inkatha Institute, Mr

Gavin Woods, believes the township violence is, to an overwhelming extent, instigated by people aged 14-25.

"There is no doubt that on occasion, local UDF and Inkatha people of influence do mobilise the youth in their areas in an effort to purge that area of those to whom they are opposed."

But Mr Woods says that interviews have long revealed that the youth who predominate in a so-called political struggle do not nearly comprehend the ideologies or even the general politics of the organisations they purportedly fight for.

"Soon however, youth gangs emerge from the prevailing fervour and become engrossed in an on-going 'war game' despite the disappearance of the original issue."

Taxi operators in the Sweetwaters area have threatened a transport stoppage in the township unless a call for the return of the troops is heeded. Other members of the community also welcomed the presence of the SADF, which they strongly believed to be an efficient and neutral force in the maintenance of law and order.

The call for the return of the SADF is in direct contrast to Mass Democratic Movement's call for the troops to be withdrawn from townships.

Commenting on the issue of the SADF in Imbali, Mr Radley Keys, regional director for the Natal Inland Region of the Democratic Party, said the DP supported the return of the troops into the township as they had worked closely with the community and knew this was what the community wanted.

16/1/14

Weekly Mail
20-26 Sept. 1991

Labour provided blueprint

By DREW FORREST

"CHRIST! It reads like a recognition agreement!" Congress of South African Trade Unions general secretary Jay Naidoo's reaction to the Peace Accord speaks volumes about the central trade union role in the peace process.

In the limelight at the weekend peace convention in Johannesburg were the African National Congress, Inkatha and the government. But it was a show largely written and choreographed by Cosatu, insiders say.

It was Cosatu which, at a "tripartite alliance" meeting earlier this year, argued for a new, strategic approach to violence, involving a convention of all key parties culminating in an accord.

After the "Sandton meeting" of June 22, which set up a preparatory committee to draft an agreement, the federation was absorbed into an alliance team alongside the ANC and South African Communist Party.

Its co-ordinator was to be "little" Jay Naidoo (no relation), a commercial unionist with long experience of peace efforts in Natal. Tough and shrewd behind a jovial exterior and described by colleagues as an "enormously skilled negotiator", he was to prove central to the initiative.

He was backed by one of Cosatu's longest-serving and most intellectually supple unionists, South African Clothing and Textile Workers Union general secretary John Copelyn.

Labour's influence is everywhere evident in the peace accord. It shows the unionist's typical attention to detail and taste for binding, enforceable agreements rather than vague professions of principle. "We didn't want something which relied on trust and goodwill," (little) Naidoo told *The Weekly Mail*.

Labour's stamp is also evident in the provision for binding arbitration, both

as a way of resolving disputes over the accord and breaches of the codes of conduct.

There can be little doubt that the two-year "Saccola" talks between labour, capital and, ultimately, the state over the Labour Relations Act formed an important background to the peace initiative. "They gave us an insight into negotiating with the state in a multilateral context," Naidoo said.

The peace process may have been Cosatu-driven, but it also showcased the cream of South Africa's political shakers and movers.

Among the ANC's key men were Thabo Mbeki, described by one source as "a stunning negotiator", Aziz Pahad and former Cosatu assistant general secretary Sydney Mufamadi. The latter, who combines union and political skills, made a powerful impression:

"He's reasonable, strategic, charming, understated. Definitely someone to watch," was one comment.

ANC supremos Nelson Mandela and Cyril Ramaphosa made decisive interventions in the closing stages on the dangerous weapons issue.

Representatives of enlightened capital played a broker role, bowing out at the closing stages when the politicians took over.

"Government came in because of business, and once government was in, the IFP had no choice but to participate," observed one source.

Key business leaders included Anglo American director Bobby Godsell, who is emerging as a central figure in a range of transitional forums — a unionist described him as "honest, charismatic, far-sighted and clever".

Barlow Rand's Andre Lamprecht, once prominent in labour's demonology as a "union-basher", played a vital

backroom role, and unionists also pay tribute to the South African Chamber of Business's urbane John Hall as "an able defuser of tensions".

Perhaps the biggest surprise for the alliance was the expertise of the government team, and particularly of Defence Minister Roelf Meyer. "They were as good as the best employers," said one union man.

"We expected lock forwards in ballet shoes — negotiating is a new game for government," said Naidoo. "We were surprised by their skills and the way they've internalised negotiations."

Far less cohesive, sources say, was the IFP team, although Frank Mdlalosi and Walter Felgate ultimately emerged as the key negotiators. At the stage when the process was broken down into five working groups — on codes of conduct, the security forces, socio-economic reconstruction, monitoring and implementation and process itself — different IFP members sent out different signals.

They were clearly hobbled by their political bosses: two agreements on dangerous weapons clinched in the forum were thrown out by Uthandi. There were also signs that the IFP was uncomfortable with a tight accord, seeing it as too restrictive.

"It was useful for business and the state to see what (IFP president Mangosuthu) Buthelezi is really about," said one alliance source. "There was general outrage at the appearance of an impi outside the convention — people saw it as orchestrated intimidation."

Unionists are cautiously optimistic about the accord, stressing that it differs from its predecessors in of its multilateral character, detailed mechanisms for co-operation and dispute settlement and high international profile.

SA accord in peril as violence flares

**David Beresford
in Johannesburg**

SOUTH AFRICA'S peace accord was looking increasingly shaky yesterday as fresh violence flared in Natal, and both the police and government appeared to be trying to isolate the African National Congress.

Police yesterday reported at least six people killed around the town of Richmond in Natal. In one incident gunmen ambushed a minibus apparently belonging to a local Inkatha leader, killing three and seriously wounding seven.

Coming on the eve of "Shaka Day", — when the Zulus commemorate the life of their ancestral emperor — the flare-up raises fears that the province may be facing a bloody weekend.

Public attention in South Africa has been focused on the past two days, however, not on political violence, but on "ordinary decent crime".

In an apparent attempt to play down political violence, police announced that criminals had killed 22,000 people in South Africa in the 15 months up to February this year, while 3,000 died in political unrest during the same period.

The government was once again busy yesterday out-maneuvring the ANC in the propaganda war over political violence. Their latest gambit is to accuse the ANC of being in breach of the peace agreement by failing to disband its military wing, Umkonto we Sizwe.

The government is demanding its disbandment because of a clause in the peace agreement declaring that "no private armies shall be allowed".

*The
Guardian
20/9/91
London*

Natal clashes leave 10 dead

Ten people were killed in clashes in Natal province, bringing to more than 20 the number dead in political violence since Saturday's South African peace accord.

Gunmen killed seven supporters of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom party in two ambushes on mini-vans, police said yesterday. Two men and a woman were stabbed to death in Magoda township in southern Natal. — Reuter

*Daily
Telegraph
20/9/91
London*