

Still no ban on spears, but...

Govt, ANC reach 'broad consensus'

THE ANC and government reached "broad consensus" in top-level talks yesterday, almost certainly averting a crisis over negotiations as the ANC's ultimatum expired.

President F W de Klerk said in a statement that he, ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela and their advisers spent six hours discussing the violence on Wednesday. The advisers continued talks yesterday, achieving an "outline agreement".

"Good progress was made," De Klerk said last night, reiterating his earlier evaluation of Wednesday's talks on the eve of yesterday's ANC deadline. The ANC last month threatened to pull out of negotiations unless government met seven demands aimed at ending township violence.

Despite the progress yesterday, De Klerk's statement said both sides agreed that some issues had to be discussed further "on an urgent basis".

Sources said Mandela took a hard line during the talks, but added that the ANC would no longer insist on the dismissal of Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok and Defence Minister Magnus Malan.

The statement made no mention of government's proposed conference on violence. The ANC is refusing to attend if the summit is convened by government, while Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthezi is unwilling to attend a conference convened by church groups, which he apparently considers too closely linked to the ANC.

To overcome this impasse, government yesterday proposed a peace conference convened jointly by itself, the ANC and Inkatha, but held under the auspices of church groupings.

This is understood to be one of the issues concerned would be consulted.

De Klerk appealed to all South Africans to find a way of removing "the curse of violence from our society".

Government sources indicated De Klerk was expected to discuss the meetings with the Cabinet next week, while Mandela would raise agreements reached and outstanding issues with the ANC's national

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maining issues to be resolved.

De Klerk's statement said that in addition to the measures he had already announced, government had decided to implement others to end or drastically curb "intimidation, fighting and killing".

"Crucial among these is an immediate prohibition in unrest areas of the carrying of dangerous weapons in public, excluding at this stage, spears.

"The government is also reviewing existing legislation to address the issue of the carrying of dangerous weapons in public in the country as a whole."

These measures, announced on Wednesday, came into effect yesterday.

It appeared that the two sides had deferred taking any firm decision on the carrying of cultural weapons, with government arguing that whether political meetings constituted cultural gatherings was a question for the conference on violence.

The statement said government was consulting all interested parties on working towards an agreed and acceptable definition of cultural occasions.

De Klerk said government would act without hesitation against any misuse of cultural weapons, such as spears, for criminal or non-cultural purposes.

He reiterated government's policy requiring police professionalism and impartiality.

He also repeated government's policy to upgrade hostels and convert existing facilities into family units. However, it remained important to provide acceptable single-sex accommodation. The commun-

executive committee, probably today.

Sapa reports that ANC Women's League PWV branch chairman Winnie Mandela yesterday rejected De Klerk's stand on spears. The league's national executive committee said it would continue its mass action campaign against violence.

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Stringent new unrest measures announced

Staff Reporter

Stringent new unrest measures, including a ban on all open-air meetings for 14 days and intensified security force operations, will go into effect in nine violence-wracked Witwatersrand townships from today.

Announcing the security package — known as "Operation Stabilise" — last night, Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok said it would be the first of "various planned measures" to combat township violence.

The townships affected by the announcement — Soweto, Alexandra, Meadowlands, Diepkloof, Dobsonville, Tembisa, Tokoza, Kaitshong and Vosloorus — have all already been proclaimed "unrest areas" in terms of the Public Safety Act.

However, anticipated stricter controls on Zulu "traditional" weapons were not among the measures announced by Minister Vlok.

The package includes the deployment of more SAP and SADF reinforcements, road blocks, "cordon and

search" operations, stricter enforcement of the 9 pm to 4 am curfew and a 14-day ban on open air meetings.

This last measure excludes "bona fide church and sports gatherings as well as funerals".

Permission to hold other open air gatherings can be granted by the Regional Commissioners of Police.

Mr Vlok also appealed to all leaders to urge their followers to refrain from violence "and to take firm steps to ensure this message reaches all their supporters".

Reacting to the announcement, ANC spokesman Gill Marcus said the ANC had taken note of the new measures and would react "in due course".

Welcoming the measures, Inkatha Freedom Party central committee member Senzo Mfayela said: "We believe the price South Africans ... are paying is so high that every responsible leader and every responsible political organisation needs to do everything in their power to end the bloodshed."

Lift sanctions, Tokyo urged
JAPAN's biggest business organisation, the Keidanren, is pushing the Tokyo government to follow the EC's lead and step up moves to lift more sanctions against SA. Keidanren chairman Goshi Hiraiwa told a news conference on Wednesday the organisation would submit a report to the government, following a mission to SA late last month.

SA 'not involved in Angolan war'

South Africa was not involved in fighting in Angola but was trying to play a reconciliatory role between the MPLA and the rebels, Foreign Minister Pik Botha said yesterday.

Speaking in the debate on his vote, he said: "South Africa is not in any way involved in Angola."

South Africa actively supported the peace process in Mozambique, he added. — Sapa.

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