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Lutheran ministers New Nation 12/7/90 react to Bop and SA

TWO strongly worded letters were sent to Lucas Mangope and President de Klerk by thirty Lutheran Ministers and church workers of the Western Diocese, in reaction to the threat of forced incorporation of Braklaagte and Leeuwfontein into Bop.

The reaction follows the uncertainty over the future of the two villages, despite the recent announcement by the government that forced removals and incorporation, will no longer be carried out against the wishes of the people.

The letter read: "The undersigned ministers of religion of ELCSA-Western Diocese, wish to express grave concern and to draw the president's attention to the situation at Braklaagte and Leeuwfontein in the Western Transvaal.

"Nearly the entire village of Braklaagte, signed a petition against incorporation into Bophuthatswana, but the process of incorporation is proceeding.

"Due to forced incorporation, most of the old age pensioners who used to receive pensions from South Africa, have refused to collect pensions paid by the Bop government.

"We appeal to you, presi-

dent to intervene and stop the harassment of our people by Bop police."

The clergy also appealed to De Klerk to attend to Leeuwfontein. "According to our findings villagers were never democratically approached for incorporation into Bop.

"People do not want their children to attend schools run by the Bop government.

"Local teachers were forcefully transferred by the Bop government to different regions far away from their homes".

The call was also extended to the Department of Education and Training (DET), to seriously look into this matter.

The call on the DET, follows an appeal made by the South African Council of Churches (SACC) for the DET to provide books to school children.

This came after numerous protest actions had been launched by teachers and parents against the DET to provide books to schools under the DET auspices.

Condemning the DET, the SACC said in a statement: "We do not believe that there is any justification for failure by the government to provide books for the children."

Mandela's biggest worry: his allies

LONDON — Nelson Mandela's biggest political problem is not apartheid; it is not the South African Government, much less is it President de Klerk.

His biggest problem is the liberation movement.

The most difficult challenge facing the leaders of the African National Congress is to transform the raw emotions of their supporters into a disciplined political force ready to back the deal that has been struck with the Government.

In all the political essentials Mr Mandela and Mr de Klerk — who never tire of praising each other's "integrity" — are in agreement.

They agree that white rule must cease by the end of the present parliament, within four years. They agree that apartheid must be abolished and replaced by a one-person, one-vote democracy where racial discrimination has no place.

Peaceful climate

They agree that the transition to democracy should be conducted in a climate of peace and political freedom. They agree that a *de facto* alliance between the ANC and the Government should steer the process. They agree that the constitution for the "new South Africa" should be arrived at through negotiations.

They have even agreed on the broad outline of what the new political system will look like, a majority rule system with the necessary "checks and balances" — one of Mr de Klerk's favourite phrases — to ensure that the blacks do not do to the whites what the whites have done to the blacks. The negotiations will centre on how to guarantee such safeguards.

The issues over which there is disagreement, notably the ANC's commitment to armed struggle and to sanctions, are more noise than substance.

The influence of noise — in this case revolutionary rhetoric — on South African politics should not be underestimated. Much inflam-



Nelson Mandela.

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Mandela's understanding with F W de Klerk may set him apart from his supporters. JOHN CARLIN examines the two leaders' latest problems as South Africa moves towards democracy.



President de Klerk

matory potential exists there, much that can scare off the white and divide the black, complicating the political transition.

But noise is what the ANC's freedom struggle has largely been about, noise which has provoked fearful white governments into violent response. When the noise dies, so will the violence. At that point the Mandela/De Klerk plan will be put into action.

When constitutional negotiations formally begin — probably early next year — it will not be as if the two sides are venturing into virgin territory. Mr Mandela had been discussing the shape of post-apartheid SA with Ministers for three years before his February 11 release from prison.

The breakthrough came when Mr Mandela conceded, in a letter to former president P W Botha early in 1989, that the essence of any future negotiations would be to find a compromise between the black demand for majority rule and the white demand for constitutional guarantees.

In other words, Mr Mandela recognised the validity of the Government's insistence on "protection for minority (meaning white) rights". It was that, as much as anything, that gave Mr de Klerk the green light to try to break the deadlock of revolt, repression and revolt of his predecessor's rule.

Behind the scenes discussions between Mr Mandela and the Government, and more recently between ANC and Government strategists, have gone beyond identification of the conundrum to seeking solutions.

The ANC has called upon able black lawyers who keep a low profile to put its case in the talks with the Government, backed by a team of bright, usually young, ministerial technocrats.

These advisers, with the help of academics summoned by ANC leaders and Ministers to provide informed input on the nature of transition politics, have confirmed in recent weeks what Government officials have been hinting at publicly: that a two-chamber legislature is what is envisaged for the new South Africa.

Ill-defined talk

One chamber, like the Commons, will be elected by the entire population on a common voters roll. The party which wins a majority will be the government.

It is on the details of the second chamber, where the checks and balances will come in, where specific agreement has yet to be reached. In broad terms this is where the various population groups will be able to have their say, but the problem lies in how to

define such groups without recourse to racial definitions.

There has been ill-defined talk among Government officials of "cultural groups", each of which would somehow accommodate people of different skin colours. Another problem lies in the veto powers this second chamber would have over Government. Will these be blocking or delaying powers?

A probable solution lies in the arithmetic of the system. If agreement is reached on a requirement of, say, a two-thirds majority in the second chamber before a Bill can become law, then, without having to resort to race mechanisms, a way might be found to ensure that the whites — and other minorities — retain a significant degree of power.

A further guarantee, and here solid agreement does exist, will be provided by a Bill of individual rights and an independent judiciary.

So far advanced are discussions between the ANC and the Government, such is the personal chemistry between Mr Mandela and Mr de Klerk, such is the awareness of the need to join forces if negotiations are not to fail, that it is tempting to ask: why don't half a dozen leaders from each side get together and sort out the whole thing over dinner?

The fact that this cannot be done is what presents Mr Mandela, and to a slightly lesser extent Mr de Klerk, with their most immediate challenges.

Mr Mandela said upon his release from prison that there was no question of negotiating an agreement behind the backs and above the heads of the people. Not only is this not feasible on moral grounds, as Mr Mandela sees it, but on practical ones.

If the new constitution lacks popular legitimacy it is worthless. Mr Mandela, like Mr de Klerk, must deliver his constituency.

When Mr de Klerk promised "drastic change" and an end to racial discrimination during the parliamentary election campaign last year, very few National Party supporters imagined that this was the last time they would be voting for a white parliament.

The increasingly popular Conservative Party screams that he is acting without a mandate. The President's task is to persuade a previously complacent but now fearful and confused white population that democracy will make their lives better, not worse.

Mr Mandela faces a tougher test because black politics, far from complacent, has been characterised by energetic militancy.

'Facilitating'

While Mr Mandela was writing to P W Botha about the need for compromise, ANC comrades remained locked into the politics of revolution. Mr Mandela was indeed negotiating — he would say "facilitating" — behind the backs of his people.

Now his task is to steer them towards acceptance of his plan to end apartheid by peaceful means, a plan based on the recognition that since the white Government is far from weak, its demands must be taken into account.

Mr Mandela's task is to wean his people away from their outdated revolutionary goals (the only response to the bullying governments of the past) towards a maturer understanding of the limits in the real world, of political action.

Publicly Mr Mandela must remain a slave to the call to arms and the call for sanctions — two of the sacred articles of faith of "the struggle".

Otherwise he risks losing a baffled constituency to the hardliners of, for example, the simplistic and ideologically unreconstructed Pan Africanist Congress.

There is much theatre involved, accordingly, in Mr Mandela's public persona — hence the gap, often commented upon, between his public and private pronouncements. The moment will come when he and the ANC will have to come clean. The timing will be determined by the success of the delicate re-indoctrination campaign. — The Independent News Service.

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ARCHBISHOP Desmond Tutu travelled from Cape Town to the St Barnabas Anglican Church at KwaThema in Springs on Sunday to attend the 50th anniversary of the man whose teachings influenced him to join the Anglican Church in the late 40s.

Rev Canon Zacharia Sekgapane, 89, who retired to his home in Mooidorpie at Itoseng in 1972 started his career as rector of the St Andrews Church in Payneville. Presently he is serving as a pensioned priest in various congregations.

While serving at the St Mary's Church in Koster from 1966 to 1968, he sadly saw villages such as Molotstad, Mabalstad and Mudubung forced to move to the homelands.

He was chaplain and lecturer at the Catechist School started by the late Bishop Wade. He also successfully negotiated the granting of a site in Mooidorpie to build a church.

Tutu, who was described by his peer, Lesley Sekgapane, son of Zacharia Sekgapane as an ordinary young boy, was only seven

Tutu hails his mentor

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when he decided to join the evening services that were conducted by his father.

"We used to play football together with Tutu, when one day he decided to accompany us to the evening services.

"He was charmed by the way the old man went about with his services and this influenced him to take up the ministry," Sekgapane said.

The service attended by about 800 people listened as Tutu delivered a sermon and congratulated Rev Sekgapane on his 50 years service with the Anglican church.

In Tutu's opening speech

he related how he rose from the Methodist to the Anglican ministry with the help of Sekgapane.

He quoted the story of Simon from Cyrene who helped Jesus to carry the cross: "Here I was as a little boy but saw in this old man something that influenced me to take up the ministry, little knowing that I would end up being Archbishop of the Anglican Church.

"I owe you my life. You influenced me in a way that no one could have predicted," Tutu said.

Church councillor and assistant regional director of the Highveld region, Isaiah Zwane, said that this big

day started from a small beginning when Tutu was merely a boy.

The Anglican Bishop of South Eastern Transvaal, the right Reverend David Beetge also expressed, in a letter, congratulations to Rev Sekgapane on behalf of the diocese of South Eastern Transvaal.

"I regret very much that I will not be with you today. We thank God for you and for your faithfulness to Him in your life," he wrote.

The ageing Rev Sekgapane said: "that he thanked God for having spared him and allowed him to serve in his priesthood up to this point in time".

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Confusion over ANC talks date

Sowetan

12-7-90

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THE Government and the ANC could still meet at ministerial level this month for talks about talks.

Government sources said a specialist group from the Government could meet an ANC delegation under deputy leader Mr Nelson Mandela to try to resolve the thorny problem of releasing political prisoners and allowing exiles to return.

SOWETAN Correspondent

However, this has added to the confusion over the actual date for the meeting between the parties.

The ANC said earlier this week that the two groups would meet next Tuesday. However, Mandela is only expected back in the country the next day.

On Tuesday newspa-

pers reported that the Government was "mystified" by reports that the meeting would take place next Wednesday, July 18.

When the two parties do eventually meet again, it is expected the ANC would give its response to the report by an ANC-Government working group on ways to tackle the problem of prisoners and exiles.

Response

The ANC response was originally expected on July 10 but various problems have cropped up, among them the fact that Mandela is still out of the country.

The Government sources were commenting on reports that the next round of talks would only take place during the second half of August.

ANC spokesmen said the delay would be caused by the fact that Mandela would need to rest after returning from his international tour next week.

However, the sources said yesterday they believed Mandela would be working for about two weeks after his return and would then "take a spell of leave".

They believed a brief meeting could take place before he took leave.

The meeting would tackle the issue of political prisoners and exiles and would also set a date and agenda for a fuller round of talks, which would probably take place after August.

This round would also be involved with addressing the stumbling blocks to negotiations proper.