

South Africa Charges

U.S. Is Obstructing

Negotiation Efforts

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By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

PRETORIA, South Africa—South African Foreign Minister R.F. Botha lashed out at U.S. interference in South Africa, charging that America is encouraging black opposition and obstructing government efforts to negotiate with black leaders.

“Please America, just stay out,” he said in an interview yesterday. “Your Congress scares banks, investors (and) traders, and drives moderate black leaders away from us and then you blame us for not negotiating with them. It’s unfair.”

Mr. Botha, one of the key cabinet members in the white government here, insisted that South Africa is committed to negotiations aimed at constitutional change and full participation of blacks at the highest level.

The foreign minister’s attack reflects the South African government’s growing exasperation that its promises to ease discrimination against blacks haven’t quieted criticism from the U.S. The U.S., Congress in particular, has become an almost routine whipping boy for government leaders to deflect criticism of their pace of change.

“Whose fault is it that this vendetta against South Africa has taken on such proportion? It’s your Congress,” he said.

Mr. Botha said U.S. criticism and economic sanctions against South Africa have contributed to a cycle of unrest by undermining international confidence in the country. That is compounded, he said, by other nations following the U.S. lead.

“The negative impact on the economy will escalate as others follow the American lead, causing further unemployment and deprivation, which in turn will lead to further unrest and make negotiations more difficult,” he said.

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ANTI-APARTHEID ACTIVIST DISMISSES: -
â\200\230COMMUNIST TAKEOVERâ\200\231 ARGUMENT

by Phil Makotsi

As domestic and international pressures to dismantle apartheid mount daily, the white-minority South African government increasingly is attempting to legitimize its existence by claiming to be deferring a communist takeover it says is inevitable if Blacks come to power in that country, an anti-apartheid leader said last week.

But it is a â\200\234propaganda ploy by the South African governmentâ\200\235 designed to divert attention from the evils of the system, the Rt. Rev. Trevor Huddleston, chairman of the London-based International Defense

' | and Aid Fund for Southern Africa, said in a speech he

delivered last Wednesday at Trinity Church in Lower Manhattan.

â\200\234Western democracies have a naive and absurd

-view of the threat of communism [in South Africa],â\200\235

Huddleston said. â\200\234They tend to view the (South African) conflict in terms of East-West relations. The emptiness of such arguments should be realized.â\200\235

Mfanafuthi Makhatini, director of the New York-based International Department of the African National Congress (ANC)â\200\224an anti-apartheid political movement banned in South Africaâ\200\224said his movement was formed in 1912, before the Russian Revolution.

*â\200\234We donâ\200\231t need any country, ideology or anyone to tell us that we're oppressed,â\200\235 Makhatini said. â\200\234Does it mean that anyone who strives for social, political and economic change is a communist?â\200\235â\200\231

The Trinity Church is sponsoring a conference, â\200\234South Africa: An American Dilemma,â\200\235 that will

feature discussions in the next three weeks on South

Africa. Panelists are selected from the business, government and church communities.

Last weekâ\200\231s session featured as panelists Sheena Duncan, president of Black Sash, an anti-apartheid group based in South Africa; Frankiin A. Thomas, president of the Ford Foundation; and Welcome Msomi, .assistant director for public affairs at the Sterling International Group in Manhattan.

Dr. Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches in South Africa and 2 member of the United Democratic Front, was scheduled to be the keynote speaker at last weekâ\200\231s session, but he did

not appear.

Boesak recently was jailed by the apartheid government for allegedly inciting violence. His passport was

The ANC's Mfanafuthi Makhatini: "We don't need any country or ideology to tell us we're oppressed."

Draper, a spokesperson for Trinity Church.
"He is virtually under house arrest," Draper said. But Mak sent a letter in which he said he was strengthened by his imprisonment and vowed to continue to struggle in the spirit of [Dr.] Martin Luther King to win over our freedom.

"The moral bankruptcy of the regime is manifested in harsh repression which is eminent in the degradation of a wild beast . . .," he said. "[President Reagan] asks us to struggle nonviolently, but [he] accepts the violence of the oppressor," Boesak's letter said.

The session continues this week and Chester Crocker, assistant secretary of state for African affairs in the U.S. State Department, is expected to be the keynote speaker on a panel discussion of America's South African Policy.

Other panelists expected to participate are: Rep. Stephen Solarz, (D-NY), who sits on the House Foreign Relations Committee; J. Wayne Fredericks of the Ford Motor Company, whose firm has a subsidiary in South Africa; and Abe S. Hoppenstein, the consul general of the South African Consulate in New York.

confiscated upon his release, according to Jane P.

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