

# SA may create its own version of Untag

**Strong-arm tactics:** A new multiparty armed force is on the cards to keep the peace in the upcoming elections.

By DAVID BREIER  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

STAND by for the formation of a new joint armed "superforce" to keep the peace in the elections.

The elite peacekeeping force is to include the cream of the liberation armies, including Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), as well as Government security force members, acting jointly for the first time under a newly created multiparty command.

This was one of the key recommendations tabled at the multiparty negotiations this week, as the country prepares for elections provisionally scheduled for April 27 next year.

The recommendation is being well received in both Government and ANC circles.

The technical committee on violence this week recommended at the negotiations that this new superforce should be specially trained and should act as the primary peacekeeping force in the elections.

The force is to act under a newly created multiparty command structure, to give it legitimacy across the political spectrum.

It is to fall under the control of either the Independent Electoral Commission, which is to supervise the elections, or the Transitional Executive Council, which is to ensure a climate for free and fair elections.

The task force is to play the sort of peacekeeping role Untag played in the Namibian elections — except that it will be staffed and commanded entirely by South Africans.

Sources at the negotiations stressed that the new elite peacekeeping force would consist of selected members of MK, the SA Police, the SA Defence Force and possibly other armed forces such as the PAC's armed wing Apla.

This did not in any way imply that the various statutory and non-statutory forces would be integrated before the elections, they said. MK, the SAP, the SADF and the various other police and armed forces would continue to exist during the elections.

The technical committee on violence has recommended multiparty supervision of all statutory and non-statutory armed forces in the run-up to elections. This falls short of the ANC's demand for joint control.

The committee stressed that the various armies must play no role in the elections — the new force is to be given the main task of keeping the peace.

After elections, the newly elected interim Government is to determine the functions of the peacekeeping force, in consultation with relevant parties.

## Pilatus planes can be easily converted

By JOHN MACLENNAN

THE furor over the sales of Pilatus aircraft to the SADF because they could allegedly be used in a combat role now stands revealed as an exercise in cynicism.

Not only can they be converted locally to carry weapons in very little time, but the ANC is understood to want that capability.

The Swiss government this week gave the go-ahead for the sale of 60 of the turbo-prop trainers, but not before it had been embroiled in controversy. Critics said the deal ran contrary to the arms embargo.

The fuss erupted after Swiss newspapers reported that Pilatus trainers had been armed and used in combat in some countries.

After criticism from the UN the Swiss government ordered Pilatus to adapt the planes being built for South Africa so they could not be used in any other role than trainer.

Pilatus satisfied the Swiss government with the assurance that the trainers would not be equipped with the so-called "hard points" under the wings from which weapons are suspended. Nor would they have release devices or the necessary internal wiring in the wings which activate the weapons.

But sources with knowledge of the Pilatus negotiations say the "hard points" are relatively simple metal brackets which could be manufactured and fitted here with very little trouble by a sophisticated company such as Atlas. The same applies to wiring and other fittings which the Swiss are withholding.

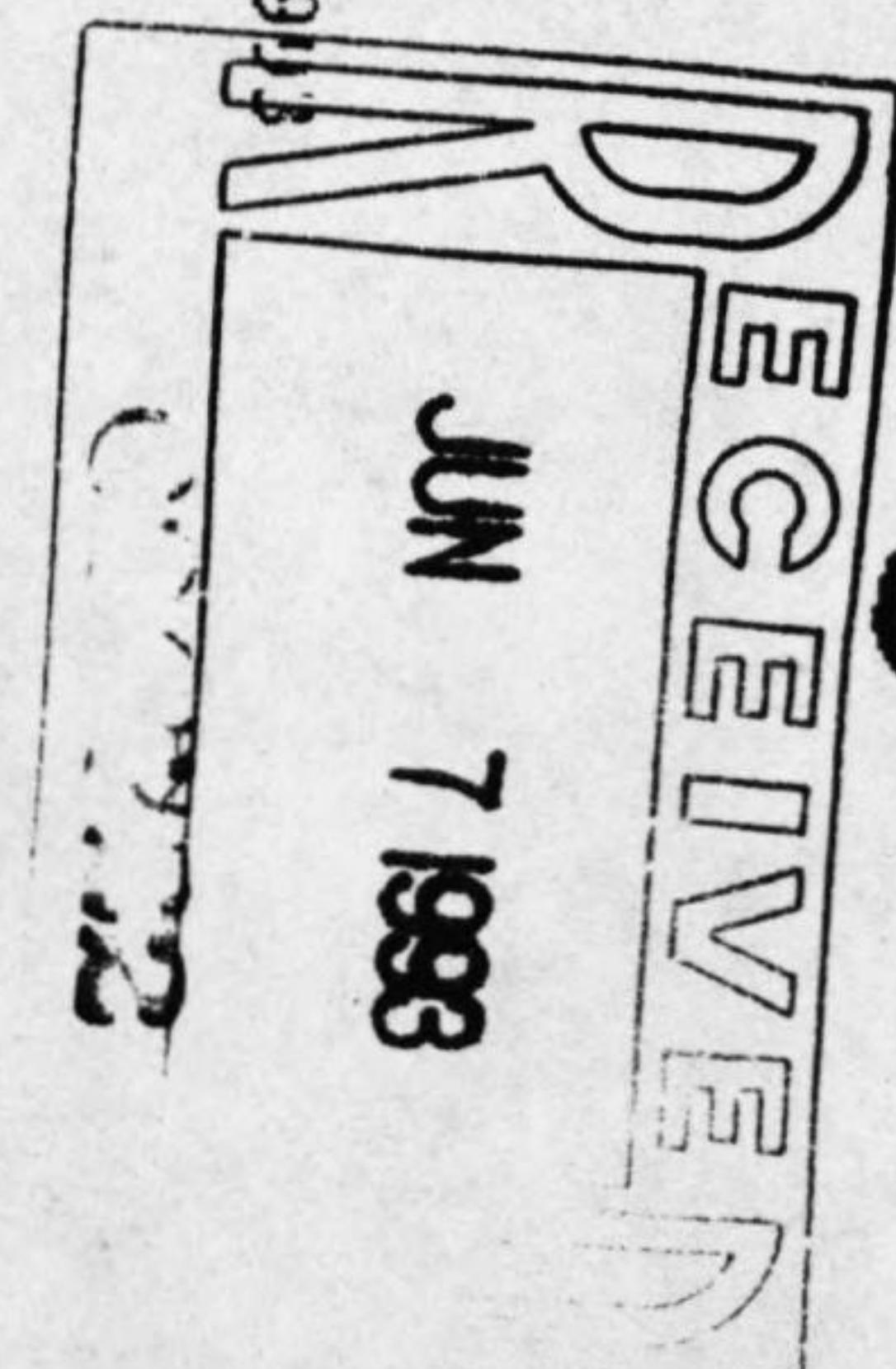
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## World body to oversee closing SA nuclear site

CAPE TOWN. — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is to supervise the filling in of the underground nuclear test shafts at the South African Defence Force's Vastrop grounds in the Northern Cape.

State President De Klerk disclosed in March that South Africa had manufactured six nuclear devices which could be converted into weapons at short notice.

He also revealed the existence of a nuclear weapons test site in the Kalahari desert, near Upington. The site, however, was never used to test any nuclear bombs.

South Africa has since given effect to its commitment to the Strategic Weapons Treaty, which it signed in 1991, by tabling legislation banning the production of weapons of mass destruction. — Sapa.

# Nelson Mandela calls for mass movement for peace

MARITZBURG — ANC leader Nelson Mandela has called for signatories of the national peace accord to meet urgently to strengthen the accord and unleash a "mass movement for peace".

The ANC president also called on all South Africans to unite around the tentative April 27 election date, to begin the healing process in violence-torn SA.

Mandela was addressing several hundred people in the Maritzburg City Hall yesterday before he unveiled a memorial statue honouring Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi, who, almost 100 years ago, was evicted from a train reserved for whites at Maritzburg Station.

Mandela said in spite of the peace accord's shortcomings, the document had assisted in quelling violence.

"We can no longer delay our coming together again as signatories of the peace accord, to strengthen it and revisit the source of violence and give peace fresh momentum."

Solutions to the current violence could only be found through collective efforts by all political leaders, Mandela said.

"We need to unleash a mass movement for peace... We can't delay a meeting of signatories of the peace accord."

The ANC president welcomed recent reports about the phased integration of armed formations in the country into the security forces, saying this could be an important subject to be addressed by signatories.

The ANC welcomed all peace initiatives, said Mandela.

He commended a recent peace plan by the ANC southern Natal region and also by the group of con-

cerned Zulus who had both called for urgent meetings between the ANC president and Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Referring to the election date, Mandela said he was aware some people had reservations on the issue.

"We urge them all to look to the future and consider their reservations so that this momentous event becomes a unifying occasion in our strife-torn country," said Mandela.

Never before had there been such a moment in SA's history as the forthcoming election, Mandela said, urging South Africans to ensure it marked a time of healing, he said.

Earlier, Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu reiterated the call for all armed formations in the country to come together in a joint peacekeeping force controlled by the international community. — Sapa.

## Tutu to host Buthelezi, Mandela talks

ANC president Nelson Mandela said Inkatha Freedom Party president Mangosuthu Buthelezi had accepted an invitation to meet in Cape Town, Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu said last night.

Tutu said Mandela and Buthelezi had agreed at the weekend to attend the meeting, to be chaired by himself and Methodist Church of SA Bishop Stanley Mogoba.

He said a date for the meeting — to be held at Bishopscourt, his official residence — was still being discussed but hoped it would be "within the next couple of weeks".

## 'Warm response' to SA poll date

THEO RAWANA

ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa said last night Americans had responded warmly to the provisional setting of an election date for SA, and many wanted to come to SA to witness the polls.

Ramaphosa was speaking during a brief interview on his arrival from the US, where he and Constitutional Affairs Minister Roelf Meyer received honorary degrees from Massachusetts University on Saturday.

Meyer would arrive back tomorrow, Ramaphosa said.

Sapa reports that Meyer told a ceremony at the university that a constitution providing for both strong central and regional government would be successfully negotiated in SA.

"We will successfully negotiate a constitution that will provide for a SA that will

be a democratic, nonracial and non-sexist state," Meyer said.

"It will further provide for both strong central and regional government structures which will recognise our diversity, but will not undermine national unity and effective government."

"I am filled with hope and optimism for the future. That we are on the path to democracy is clear," said Meyer, government's chief negotiator at the multiparty talks.

But, he added, socioeconomic reconstruction would be a more difficult task.

"Apartheid is gone; it was wrong and after creating a new constitution we will still have to overcome many of its other consequences," Meyer said.

## Equity considering lifting SA screening ban

LONDON — The ban on British television programmes being screened in SA could be lifted within weeks of the appointment of an "acceptable" new SABC board and independent broadcasting watchdog body.

British actors' union Equity yesterday said terms for lifting the ban were also being reviewed in the light of the announcement of April 27 1994 as a date for multiracial elections.

The hardline union's previous position was that the ban, imposed on January 3 1976, should stay until interim rule was achieved.

IAN HOBBS

Equity general secretary Ian McGarry said Equity would consult ANC president Nelson Mandela, other opposition leaders and SA show business union PAWE for guidance.

If they supported the new position, the recommendation would almost certainly be put to Equity's ruling council without delay.

A postal referendum of the union's estimated 45 000 members would then be carried out. A 75% majority would be required

to end the boycott.

The process could be completed within four to six weeks.

"I hesitate to be more optimistic until we hear from the people who matter on the ground in SA," said McGarry. "Events in SA are so unpredictable and often so tragically disappointing that we have to remain cautious."

McGarry emphasised he did not want to cause premature optimism because the legacy of apartheid and the "dirty tricks" era had left the union still facing a minefield of political and legal problems.

BUSINESS DAY

BUSINESS DAY, Monday, June 7 1993