

ANC bid for joint control of security forces rejected

By Peter Fabricius
Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The Government has strongly rejected ANC proposals for joint control of the security forces during the transition to a permanent new government.

Defence Minister Roelf Meyer said in a statement yesterday that "no form of unconstitutional joint control over the security forces will be accepted by us".

The statement was in response to the ANC's transitional proposals which were published in the organisation's journal *Mayibuye*.

They recommended that Codesa should appoint an interim government council which would oversee the present Cabinet and tricameral Parliament and in turn appoint multi-party committees representing all the Codesa delegations to supervise the security forces, the Budget, foreign relations and local government.

Mr Meyer said that by "unconstitutional" control he meant control by decree.

He was asked why he characterised the ANC proposals as unconstitutional when the ANC had suggested that the present tricameral Parlia-

ment should enact legislation to bring about the interim government council and its subordinate bodies.

Mr Meyer said the Government's objection was that the ANC proposals implied a legislative status for Codesa which it did not really have.

He said Codesa was looking at the possibilities of various phases in the transition. A first phase could involve adding people to the Cabinet and a second could involve changes to the composition of Parliament.

Unacceptable

Responding to the ANC proposals for the transition, the statement said they showed encouraging movement towards the Government's approach.

But there were still elements of unconstitutional structures in the ANC proposals. This was not acceptable, the statement said.

The Government was "not interested in foreign involvement in transitional governmental structures".

"Insofar as the ANC's scenario may include anything like that, it is not acceptable to us."

This referred to the ANC proposal that the "international communi-

ty should be intimately involved" in the transition, especially in the supervision of elections for a constituent assembly.

The climate of violence would have to improve before the transition could be entered.

Asked if the Government was determined not to enter binding transitional arrangements until the ANC had finally renounced the armed struggle, Mr Meyer said this was being discussed with the ANC.

The statement said the Government was not prepared to accept anything that was not compatible with its eventual constitutional goals and principles.

However, they were confident that Codesa would reach agreement on interim arrangements.

Mr Meyer said he thought that none of the present transitional plans would be the one finally agreed to.

He said the Government and the National Party would have to scale down their participation in Codesa to concentrate on the referendum campaign.

Executive members would occasionally have to send substitutes to Codesa meetings, but he did not believe this would slow down progress.

White ANC members face voting dilemma

27/2/92

Daily News Reporter

WHITE members of the African National Congress find themselves in a difficult position as they try to answer Yes or No to participation in State President F.W. de Klerk's whites-only referendum in March.

The organisation has offered no firm position on the role its white members will play in the referendum, but issued a statement soon after the announcement declaring that it was a pity the majority of South Africans could not vote so that the Conservative Party could get "the whipping of its life".

However, the organisation reiterated its opposition to an ethnic referendum.

The referendum results will announce white South Africa's position on negotiations for a new constitution.

The dilemma facing ANC members eligible to vote is on the one hand voting for the Nats in a racial poll and on the other allowing for the CP alternative.

Despite its relatively small white membership, the ANC's participation could make a difference in what is being predicted as a closely-fought referendum.

An ANC member and Durban head of the Black Sash, Mrs Ann Colvin, said that she would be voting in the referendum.

"I don't think that organisations can prescribe to their members on whether they should vote or not because that is a very personal thing. I want a new negotiated constitution and this is a showdown with the right wing.

"I haven't voted in a long time and I said that I would only vote in a democratic non-racial election. But this is a referendum and I have to act responsibly."

An ANC member who did not want to be named said that he felt "incredibly uncomfortable" voting for the Nats. "However, the Conservative alternative is too appalling to contemplate. It goes against everything in my character to vote for De Klerk but, when push comes to shove I will probably do it."

A spokesman for the ANC said the organisation would announce its decision on the referendum after a meeting of its National Working Committee.

16/1/11

ANC to avoid 'soft targets' in future, says Hani

C1712G 27/02/92

By Sandra Lieberum

IF for some reason the ANC had to resume military operations, "soft targets" would be avoided, Mr Chris Hani, general secretary of the SACP and chief of staff of Umkhonto we Sizwe, testified yesterday at the trial of ANC operative, Mr Jeremy Seeber, who placed a mini-limpet mine which injured three people.

Mr Hani testified in mitigation of sentence. Yesterday Mr Seeber (25), pleaded guilty before Mr J J Esterhuizen in the Johannesburg Regional Court to charges of attempted murder and contravening the Explosives Act.

Mr Seeber claimed that on September 26, 1986, while he was a Wits student, he received instructions from his commander and subsequently placed the mini-limpet mine in a towelling dispenser of the gents' cloak room next to the upstairs bar in the Devonshire Hotel.

He said that he was acting as "a soldier of the ANC", and that the idea was to convey to the business community the message that they should stop supporting the government.

The prosecutor pointed out that the Devonshire Hotel was frequented not only by businessmen, but

also by a large number of Wits students.

Mr Hani yesterday said that the command of the ANC and of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the military wing of the organisation "accept moral responsibility for acts carried out by its soldiers".

However, he pointed out that — "I was sitting in Lusaka. I didn't choose the target."

He further pointed out that the capacity of the mini-limpet mine was limited, and that he had spoken to Mr Seeber and knew that the target had first been reconnoitred.

According to Mr Hani the issue at present was not "whether the act was right or wrong".

He said it had to be viewed against the backdrop of the Botha regime and the total onslaught strategy.

While the initial objectives of Umkhonto we Sizwe had been not to attack civilians during 1978/79 — in Luanda a decision was taken to begin a people's war and during 1985 at an ANC conference there was a call for an escalation in

the people's war and "the difference between hard and soft targets tends to disappear in an intensified struggle," Mr Hani submitted.

According to him, the security forces had hit soft targets, namely civilians in cross-border raids and this had led to a hardening in the ANC attitude.

He confirmed a submission made by Mr Seeber that to disobey orders and not place the limpet mine, would have led to a court martial for Mr Seeber.

According to Mr Hani, at the stage a section of the business community was making a lucrative profit out of armaments and military vehicles.

A further point of view expressed by Mr Hani was that he did not think Mr Seeber should be punished for his act, just as it was not ANC strategy to advocate "Nuremberg-type trials" in South Africa for apartheid.

The witness reiterated that it was unlikely that Mr Seeber would commit similar acts, since at present the military operations have been suspended and the armed struggle would be suspended at a certain stage if all went well.

Mr Steven Friedman — a political scientist called by defence council, Mr G Marcus (instructed by Mr N Manóim) — told the court his assessment of the realities was that the ANC no longer had the capacity to wage a protracted guerrilla war.

The defence submits that Mr Seeber's actions were political, while the prosecution contends that they were criminal and violent.

ANC alliance calls for negotiations to be defended

THE ANC/SACP/Co-satu alliance yesterday called on all those who consider negotiations the best vehicle to usher in a peaceful future for South Africa to do everything in their power to defend the process, but stopped short of calling for a categorical Yes vote in the March 17 Whites-only referendum.

A statement issued after office bearers of the three groups met in Johannesburg yesterday, nevertheless rejected the referendum as ethnic and racist.

"We reject the referendum, which is ethnic and racist, and condemn President De Klerk for

taking this gamble with the future of our country," said the joint statement.

But they went on to point out that the negotiation process was under threat from the Right-wing, which sought to undermine Codesa.

"It will not be in the in-

terest of South Africans to revert to old-style baaskap and White domination. But, the Right-wing is not concerned with the interests of the country."

Bloodletting

"Should the designs of the Right-wing forces be achieved, thousands of South Africa's children, Black and White, will be used as cannon fodder in a situation that can only mean more bloodletting," said the statement.

It added there was a need to defend the negotiation process and arrive speedily at a peaceful settlement that the majority of all South Africans looked forward to. — Sapa.

Private sector raises R1-m to promote Yes

THE private sector has raised more than R1-million in two days in a campaign to raise funds to promote a Yes vote in the forthcoming referendum.

Joint chairmen Dr Chris van Wyk and Mr George Thomas of the newly established Private Sector Referendum Fund campaign, said in a statement yesterday the response had been "most heartening".

"Our media campaign is firmly in place with space booked in a wide range of newspapers

throughout the country. We have also booked airtime on M-Net and Radio 702, and a very encouraging development is that the CCV channel and SABC radio have agreed to carry our campaign, and this will ensure a very wide audience."

They appealed to businesses interested in supporting the fund to deliver their cheques to Private Sector Referendum Fund, First National House, 10th Floor, 11 Diagonal Street, Johannes-

burg, or post them to PO Box 260022, Excom 2023.

Donors who wished to transfer funds directly into the fund could do so by depositing their donations in account 000683345 at the Standard Bank Library Gardens, branch code 00100500. Payments made by this method should be confirmed by fax to Private Sector Referendum Fund, fax (011) 836-4665. — Sapa.

JCCI urges a Yes vote in the referendum

THE Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) yesterday expressed itself in favour of a Yes vote for the government in the coming referendum.

In view of the critical importance of a positive outcome for the forthcoming referendum, the JCCI today took the unprecedented step of urging the metropolitan business community to support the continuation of the reform process, and called on other business associations not to remain neutral on this vital event, a statement said.

"As a non-political organisation, we would have remained neutral in normal circumstances, but in this case it would be irresponsible for us to do so," said JCCI president, Mr Mike Cato.

He said that the

chamber's leadership had carefully considered all options, and had decided that the current process was the only realistic one that could give South Africa a future marked by economic growth, job creation, international investment, and social harmony and progress.

He said a No vote would be disastrous for South African business, and the national economy. It would signal a future marked by economic stagnation, international isolation, and increased unemployment, crime and violence.

It would also lead to a reversal of all of the positive developments that had so far occurred — a set-back that would be disastrous, and far more difficult to change a second time. — Sapa.

Mitchell: I ordered UDF deaths

by VICKY QUINLAN
Supreme Court Reporter

16/1/14

SOUTH African Police Captain Brian Mitchell admitted in the Supreme Court yesterday he had ordered special constables to kill UDF members in Trust Feed in December 1988.

Mitchell, testifying in his own defence, said his instruction had meant to convey to them they were to attack groups of United Democratic Front members, not to break into a house and attack women and children.

Although he had not specified exactly where the UDF members in Trust Feed would be, he said he thought the special policemen would get information from local Inkatha leader Jerome Gabela, with whom they were staying. He denied he had ever pointed out any house for the special policemen to attack.

He told the court that on the morning of December 3, 1988, when he saw who they had in fact shot, he was shocked.

Describing the politics of the area in which he operated, Mitchell said he saw himself as a soldier fighting in a civil war on the side of the government. He also sympathised with Inkatha because they never made areas ungovernable. However, Mitchell said he perceived Gabela to be weak and towards the end of November 1988 it was clear the UDF were "getting the upper hand" in Trust Feed.

Mitchell expressed his feelings about Gabela's "lack of backbone" to the head of the Riot Unit in Pietermaritzburg, Captain Deon Terblanche. Terblanche said he would take this up with Inkatha leaders in Pietermaritzburg.

On November 30, 1988, Gabela and two other Inkatha members went with Mitchell and Terblanche to the Inkatha offices in Edendale

known as Marawa House, where the Inkatha men talked with local leader David Ntombela.

While they waited outside, Terblanche told Mitchell of "elements" within the Riot Unit that assisted Inkatha in taking over an area, or not allowing an area to be taken over by the UDF. That evening, six special constables were brought to New Hanover by Terblanche's friend, Constable Willem de Wet, who told Mitchell these men hated the UDF. De Wet and Mitchell then took them to Trust Feed.

Mitchell told Mr Justice Wilson he had studied the auxiliary system used in what was then Rhodesia and perceived special policemen to be a similar auxiliary force in South Africa. "From the beginning, they were to be used against the UDF," he said.

He said on the day of the attack, he, Constable Jason Burton and reserve constable Stuart van Wyk went to Trust Feed and picked up two

special policemen from Gabela's house. These men, Burton and Van Wyk, were dropped off at Mbongwa's store which was on fire.

While Mitchell was on his own in the van, he met two other special policemen whom he told to come with him "to attack the UDF". He said he was concerned, however, to get Burton and Van Wyk out of the area before this attack began. However, shots were heard before he was able to do so. When Van Wyk mentioned the shots, Mitchell said he walked away from him so he would not have to explain.

A special policeman eventually approached Mitchell and told him they had killed people. However, Mitchell instructed the man to return to burn Mbongwa's house.

The next morning, Mitchell, Van Wyk and Burton returned to the scene. Captain Terblanche was already there and Mitchell told him what had happened.