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SUNDAY TRIBUNE, JULY 9, 1989

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Roy Rudden

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| [HISTORIC INITIA

8 By Quraish Patel ;
2 INKATHA is preparing to join rival
black political organisations, including
the African National Congress, in a hjs-
toric initiative to end apartheid,

This move follows the formulation
of proposals by delegates from the
United Democratic Front, the Cangress
of South African Trade Unions and In-
katha at talks aimed at settling up a
peace conference to end the violonee in
Natal's townships.

The rival organizationsâ\200\231 jeint Propos-
als are contained in a document which
has prepared the way for ANC presi-
dent Oliver Tambo to mcet Inkatha
president Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

'so at that meeting will be UDF
president Archie Gumede and Cosatu's
Elijay Barayi.

The serics of meelings between the
organisations, sources belicye, is being
arranged in the Lope of forging a long-
term unity with implications heyond
the problem of violence in the town-
ships. Sources say the meetings be-
tween the four presidents could acceler-
ate the drive for an inlernal negotiated
settlement with the Government,
hacked by the major Western powers.

In his presidential address to Inka-
tha's national council on Friday, Dr Du-
thelezi said the document

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END APARTHEID

could lead to a powerful,
united force in politics.
"He said he could see
future historians tracing
a whole new political era
and the final collapse of
apartheid to the docu-
ment.

Aspects of the proposal
were being debated at In-
katha's annual confer-
ence yesterday,

Without disclosing the
P < main contents of the doc
. umen(), Dr Buthe said:
"It is proposed that the
E four presidents meet and

that the agenda is the ex-
amination of the docu-
ment drafted after their
meetings,
"It is proposed that the
presidents appoint two
committees: one would
be a permanent consulta-
tive committee which at-
tends to ongoing needs to
overcome difficulties be-
tween the organisations.
The other is a joint
peace committee which
- will be set the task of or-
ganising a peace confer-
ence (which would) bring
about an organising com-
mittee representing Inka-
tha, the UDF and osalu.

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ce which would be re-

sponsible for a mass rally in a troubled area. There would also be separate joint peace committees to organise rallies in the widest possible range of areas where vigilance has taken place.â\200\235

Dr Buthelezi said:
â\200\234These proposals cannot be faulted from the point of view of Inkatha's politics,. We must do nothing from our side that scuttles them.

â\200\234I must say that on

face value the document
now being presented to
the four presidents â\200\224
myself, Oliver Tambo,
Archie Gumede and Eili-
jah Barayi â\200\224 is positive
and represents a very
major advance towards
really meaningful black
politics,â\200\235 Dr Butheclezi
said,

â\200\234We could well be en-
tering into an era in
which black politics is
given a completely dif-

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denied that the meeting had

taken place at all.

Late yesterday â\200\224 in response to an inquiry by the Sunday Times, which had heard of the meeting from unimpeachable sources -- the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobhe Coetsee, issued a statement to news agencies confirming that the two men had met for 45 minutes,

Mr Coetsee said: â\200\234President Botha met Mr Mandela informally in Tuyn-

huys on July 5, when the latter paid a courtesy visit to the State President.

â\200\234No policy matters were debated and no negotiations conducted,

â\200\234President Botha and Mr Mandela, however, availed themselves of the opportunity to confirm their support for peaceful development in South Africa.

â\200\234The conversation took place in a pleasant spirit.

â\200\234The possibility of further steps or negotiations was not discussed.

â\200\234I was present during the visit.â\200\235

Mr Mandela was taken to Tuynhuys from the bungalow he occupies in the grounds of Victor Verster Prison near Paarl.

The meeting â\200\224 and the discussions which presumably preceded it â\200\224 were shrouded in the deepest secrecy.

It is likely that only selected guards were used to escort the VIP prisoner. Officials were informed only on a "need-to-know" basis, the tightest form of State security.

First hints that something important was afoot surfaced in Lusaka and London

in late July.

ANC sources in the Zambian capital said yesterday it was clear that there was â\200\234something in the airâ\200\235.

While he could not confirm that the meeting had actually taken place, one source said; â\200\234We've heard the rumour ... itâ\200\235s buzzing around town.â\200\235

However, in Cape Town, Mr Jack Viviers, spokesman in the State Presidentâ\200\235s

office, responded to inquiries by denying the two then had met.

Later he called the Sunday Times to say:
"No such meeting took place at Tuynhuys,"

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Several hours later, following further inquiries by the Sunday Times, Mr Coetzee issued his statement,

Although only scant details have been released about the matters discussed by the two elderly but still towering figures in South African affairs, news of the meeting is likely to make a major impact abroad and at home,

Western leaders have been urging the South African Government to open negotiations with ANC and called insistently for Mr Mandela when the leader of the National Party, Mr F W de Klerk, visited European capitals last month.

Yesterday a spokesman for Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the British Prime Minister, reacted positively when told of the meeting. He said that No 10 Downing Street had not heard of the encounter,

He added: "It's what we've been calling for all along."

"A meeting by itself, however, is not enough---we are looking for nothing short of Mr Mandela's unconditional release." Asked last night to comment, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr P'ik Botha, said: "It is important to note that these are two South African leaders who met each other - without mediation from outside. At the same time, this meeting will have wide, positive support which will benefit all the people of South Africa,

it was probably one of the most important events of our time."

National Party leader Mr F W de Klerk affirmed that he was kept fully informed of the meeting.

However, as a member of Mr Botha's cabinet he did not want to comment on matters held by the head of state.

It is the State President's prerogative to whom he wishes, and to abide by his

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â\200\230 which, he said, could lead to 4]
A powerful new united foree in
: South African politics.

It had been prepaced for a
meeting between himself and
the presidents of the ANC,
UDF and Cosatu.

The Supday Times corre-
dent in Harare reported

y that Chief Buthe-
lezi and ANC president Qli-
~ ver Tambo arc expected Lo
~ meet in Lendor later this
month or early in August to
iscuss an end to the violence

ich has racked the i

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day. that if further progress followed, it could be compared with the Camp David meeting between Mr Anwar Sadiat and Mr Menachem Begin which led to the achievement of peace between Israel and Egypt.

RESIDENT BOTHA and Mr Nelson Mandela

et in Cape Town this week.

« The historic encounter one of the most sensational developments in South African politics for decades took place in Tuynhuys on Wednesday.

Official confirmation came after a Tuynhuys spokesman

By PETA THORNYCROFT in Harare,
JEREMY BROOKS in London

and LESTER VERTER and DRIES
VAM HEERDEN in Preteria

decisions on such matters, Mr De Kierk said,

My Mandela's Jawyer, Me lamail Ayob, sald last night ke had "no {des the meeting had taken place.

No tution of this was made by Mr Mandela during our talks this wock, said Mr Aych on his return from Cape Town yesterday,

Within South Africa, news of the meeting comes at a time when a major shift is taking place in alliances and in strategies towards inter-racial negotiation.

At the NP federal congress last week, (he ruling party seemed to shift its position on the question of talking to the ANC,

Instead of the usual insistence that the hanned organisation must first renounce violence, it marginally softened its position by declaring that people who have a commitment to peace would be permitted to take part in negotiations.

Options

It is unlikely that the NP would have raised objections to the Botha-Mandela meeting since the State President is no longer leader of the party and sees himself as a head of state above party politics.

As such he is well placed to explore options for talking to the ANC without compromising the party from which he has lately quietly distanced himself even to the point of not attending a farewell banquet in his honour.

Mr Botha's attitude towards the release of Mr Mandela was outlined in a speech to Parliament on April 17,

He said the ANC leader had a role to play in achieving his freedom.

If he is prepared to contribute to a peaceful settlement of South Africa I will personally welcome it, he said.

In such a case, Government would react open-heartedly.

He said it would be futile to release Mr Mandela if this led to his re-arrest and increased conflict,

I hope he realises this, No head of government who is responsible for the promotion of good order can lend himself to processes which result in group domination, the defeat of democratic principles and the destruction of private initiative and free enterprise,

Informed sources said yesterday that Mr Mandela would also have used informal channels of communication to consult with the leadership of the ANC before agreeing to meet Mr Botha.

Strategies

"

In black political circles, too, there have lately been hugely important shifts in attitudes towards a negotiated settlement of South Africa's central political problems.

Various organisations in the mass democratic movement from the ANC to the United Democratic Front and the trade unions -- have for weeks been discussing strategies for negotiation.

Urged by foreign powers last and West to seek solutions through negotiation rather than through armed struggle, there has been intense debate to prepare a practical bargaining position.

It will be the central issue when Cosatu, the umbrella trade union body, holds its congress in Durban this week. Representatives from other organisations who are not restricted or in exile will be observers among the expected 2 000 delegates,

At the same time, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi disclosed in Umlundini on Friday that there had been a thaw in the longstanding iciness between his Inkatha movement and the ANC, UDF and Cosatu.

He revealed the existence of a document

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Mandela |

politics, the Cape Town meeting could prove to be an event of truly historic importance.

One observer said yesterday

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Roy Rudden

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Roy Rudden

By PETA THORNYCROFT and SHAUN HARRIS

ANC President Oliver Tambo and Inkatha leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi are to hold 'end the bloodshed' peace talks in London within a month.

An ANC source said negotiations towards dialogue between the two leaders who have been at loggerheads for decades had been going on for some time.

And locally, an important decision, vital to a joint attempt by the UDF, Cosgale and Inkatha to end the endemic political violence in Natal, will be taken later today at Inkatha's annual conference at Ulundi, KwaZulu.

The Sunday Times was told that the ANC was deeply worried by the spiralling bloodshed in Natal.

tasks

The banned organisation is believed to have anticipated that some of its supporters might be confused by the meeting between Mr Tambo and Chief Buthelezi, given the ANC's long-standing anger at the Zulu leader's anti-sanctions and anti-violence stance.

It has come to a point where, regardless of the political risks, the ANC wants an end to the fighting in Natal. Apart from trying to end the

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ANC set
to meet
Inkatha

slaughter which is an immediate task. The ANC's longer-term aim has always been unite among blacks. But the primary objective is to

stop the jalling now,â\200\235 said the souree.

There are some in the ANC who believe that jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela has exercised considerable influence from behind his prison walls in getting Mr Tambo and Chief Buthelezi around a negotiating table.

They point to Mr Mandelaâ\200\231s letter to Chief Buthelezi written from Victor Verster Prison earlier this year as being a starting point in the process towards peace in Natal.

Of all the much-publicised meetings between the ANC-in-exile and people from inside the country, political observers believe the one between Mr Tambo and Chief Buthelezi will be the most significant to date.

Ever since Mr Tambo left South Africa in 1960 after his second banning order -- and the subsequent banning of the ANC â\200\224 to head the organisation's external mission, relations between him and Chief Buthelezi have grown increasingly hostile.

Chief Buthelezi has often indicated he would be willing to meet Mr Tambo, but the ANC has always turned him

down. 5
Rallies

Meanwhile, at Ulundi today the more than 5 000 conference delegates will be asked to consider a proposal to accept and implement the â\200\234joint peace planâ\200\235 â\200\224 & result of earlier meetings in Durban between delegates from Inkatha, Cosatu and the UDF â\200\224 or reject it and continue with the series of peace rallies Chief Buthelezi has been conducting in the region.

However, it is unlikely the joint peace plan will be scuttled. Chief Buthelezi made it clear in his presidential address to Inkatha's National Council on Friday night that he favoured the initiative,

The only matter open to
debate today will be whether

Inkatha decides to accept the Â«

joint plan,

Although the Inkatha
leader would not disclose de-
tails of the proposal Â\200\224 he
wants (he presidents of the
ANC, Cosata and the UDF to
consider it first Â\200\224 he did
sketch an outline of what it
atcompassed,

After next monthÂ\200\231s meet-
ing of the Â\200\234big fourÂ\200\235 Â\200\224 Chief
Buthelezi, Mr Tambo, the
UDF'y Archie Guincde and
Cosatu's Elijak Darayi - to
examine the combined docu-
ment, it is proposed that two
committees be appointed.
One would be a permanent
consultative committee to
try to overcome Â\200\234difficul-
tiesÂ\200\235 between the respective
organisations, and the other a
joint peace committee,

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