

RESIDENT de

Klerkâ\200\231s latest trip

into Africa dem-

onstrates again
how his reforms are under-
cutting the African National
Congressâ\200\231 influence in black
Africa.

The ANC is still calling for
African and all other countries
to maintain sanctions on South
Africa, including bans on dip-
lomatic and cultural relations
as well as trade. This means
that every time Mr de Klerk is
received openly and officially
by an African head of state in
his own capital the ANCâ\200\231s de-
mands are being openly re-
jected.

It appears that African gov-
ernments are increasingly
taking the view that the rea-
sons. for ostracising South
Africa have been removed by
the de Klerk reforms.

Those that want direct ac-
cess to South African trade,
techrology and aid would have
little patience with sanctions
barriers that they regarded as
| being no longer justified; or it

could be that they needed only
half an excuse to deal with
South Africa in the first place
and this is provided by the de
Klerk reforms, even though
the ANC says these are insuf-
ficient. .

Some African countries
had, after all, started dealing
openly with South Africa even
before Mr de Klerk took of-

Continuing his safaris
into Africa, President
de Klerk is this week
opening major new
contacts and making
important advances in

stage

Lok, Ny %)\\â\200\234'\â\200\234Q

Pretoria forges even closer links with Francophone African states

gaining acceptance for South Africa in the continent. This report is by GERALD LANGE, Editor, The Daily News Africa Service.

face, while P.W. Botha was still president.

A more extreme interpretation of developments is that the ANC could now have to face the possibility that some African governments suspect that its insistence on continued sanctions is aimed at gaining political power rather than seeking a solution acceptable to all South Africans.

Whatever the motivation of those governments opening their doors to the State President, the effect is to strengthen Pretoria's influence in Africa at the expense of the ANC.

The Moroccan government's motives in inviting Mr de Klerk to Rabat are perhaps even more open to speculation than were those of the governments of other African countries he has visited as president: Ivory Coast, Mozambique, Zaire, Zambia, Namibia and Madagascar.

Morocco largely follows an independent line in inter-African politics and has long been one of the strongest supporters of Dr Jonas Savimbi's rebel Unita movement in Ang-

ola. It is possible that South Africa's own close links with Unita may have led to contacts with Morocco.

What is important about Mr de Klerk's visit there is that these contacts are being openly formalised; and that they now give South Africa friendly relations with a country that is influential not only in African circles but especially among the Maghreb grouping of Arab states in North Africa and in the wider Arab world.

Morocco is a constitutional monarchy under King Hassan and is governed by a coalition of four parties. Its troubled economy has begun improving after the institution of reforms required by the International Monetary Fund. It has a relatively large mining industry and is the world's third largest producer of phosphates.

The Deputy Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Rusty Evans, sees the visit as a reflection of the changing attitudes of African heads of state and government towards South Africa and a particular mark of respect for President

s ANC

fari

de Klerk and what he is doing.

He says his department is optimistic that this spirit of acceptance will spread wider in Africa. Mr Evans sees the Rabat visit also as a reflection of the wider recognition that South Africa is getting in African capitals because of the fact that we identify with Africa.

Before he left there was speculation that Mr de Klerk would visit another African country in addition to Morocco during his present journey and observers considered it likely that this would be one of the Francophone countries.

These countries have usually had a more pragmatic attitude to South Africa than the former British territories. South Africa has long had informal relations of various kinds with the Ivory Coast and is known to have had dealings recently with Gabon and the Congo, where some of the negotiations that led to the 1988 Angola-Namibia settlement took place.

South Africa is believed to have had contacts also with Senegal, which has close relations with Morocco and has backed Morocco's claim to Western Sahara. Should Mr de Klerk visit Senegal it would be

a major step in consolidating

i
South Africa's acceptance in i
Francophone Africa.

L

RICHARDS Bay has been chosen by the sugar industry for its planned R70 million -ethanol distillery, Mr John Chance, chairman of the Sugar Association, said at an Agricultural Union function last night.

The project will use more than 10% of the sugar crop, saving jobs which are threatened because of

American and Canadian sanctions, which led to the loss in exports of 150 000 tons of sugar.

Announcement of the site follows a long investigation overseas and talks with the Government and oil industry.

But there were two hurdles, Mr Chance said. These were agreement with the oil industry on mixing ethanol with petrol and support from the Government. If these are forthcoming the plant will be producing by 1989.

Mr Chance said the industry had lost exports of 150 000 tons of sugar the product was banned from entering Canada and the U S which had to be replaced and in such a way that it would not be threatened by overseas politicians.

The distillery would produce 150 million litres of ethanol a year enough for blending and to supply Natal's needs from 2010 0001 tons of export sugar and 150 000 tons of molasses.

.- It will use sugar cane from the region and will probably be sited at the existing Felixton sugar mill. There is considerable potential in the nearby KwaZulu area for expanding production, and it is vital to the expansion of sugar.

Skilled labour :

k

Richards Bay is ideal for an ethanol distillery, which produces a lot of effluent which can be piped to sea through the existing system used by the Mondi pulp mill and the old Triomf fertiliser factory (now owned by Indian Ocean Investments).

It is understood that the distillery will be an industry project

with the management put out to one of the sugar companies, as happens with the Transvaal sugar distribution depot. The plant will be capital intensive, giving employment to 50 skilled technicians rather than to unskilled labour. Mr Chance said the decision was vital to the future of the

sugar industry. v
â\200\230In a broader field it must also indicate whether the Govern-
ment is willing to assist agriculture in planning its own |-
salvation. / -

â\200\230We believe that the steps which it has already taken in re-
gard to agriculture in general, will find a counterpart in its
ability to assist the sugar industry.â\200\231

He considered that records had indicated that there should
i be no concern about a continuing security of supply, firstly to
the consumer and secondly to the ethanol distillery. AR

While some critics considered that agricultural output was
erratic, it was clear the sugar output during the Demoina cy-
clone and through the droughts and floods of the past'six years
had been totally sufficient for all consumer needs with enough
available for an ethanol jyâ\200\224â\200\224â\200\224

_plant. l

ALa aanand

&

PRERLNICEE E57 o

â\200\230Even after ipe receud
ftoods the sugar industry was
back in full production much

.sooner than the local oil
refineries.â\200\231

Mr Chance said the indus-
try. had 25000 farmers and

provided a living for an esti-
mated 1 000 000 people.

The loss of 200 000 tons out
of total production of more
than 2000000, is a severe
blow to the industry, which
owes its bankers more than
R300 million.

AN A e i /
o, . & L L ety l/

Page 1zâ\200\224i-â\202tnld-s-n. Mo-dcy Omb-rn. 1990 N/
Herald-Sun

NEWS - PICTORIAL 1
The key to .

"Mandela

OURNE City Councilâ\200\231s deci-*
/ sion to give South African black
leader Nelson Mandela the Free- -

om of the City is an ill-consi-
msmmmmmm dered abuse of a historic act that
should be above politics. ?

No one could fairly detract from Mr
Mandelaâ\200\231s courageous stand against.the -
evils of the white South African regime â\200\224 .3
which cost him 27 years of liberty. But the .
real substance of opposition to the coun-
cilâ\200\231s decision is its unavoidable and in-
tensely political overtones. il

Already, Australiaâ\200\231s aboriginal activists
have attempted to link Mr Mandelaâ\200\231s visit
with their own grievances â\200\224 an attempt
the ANC leader has rejected, with an eye
to the main chance â\200\224 using Australiaâ\200\231s}--
homage as backdrop for pursuing-thej
cause back home. LEs

But understandable Aboriginal oppor-
tunism is not the real problem. The basic
danger in the councilâ\200\231s move is that it will
be viewed not only around the world, but
in South Africa, where his command of
events shows signs of waning, as recogni-
tion for a man who, in reality, is leader of
only one of several black factions in-
creasingly at each otherâ\200\231s throats.in pur-
suit of their own agendas. South African
President F.W. De Klerk freed Mandela
without getting an undertaking that the
ANC would renounce violence. The ANCâ\200\231s
platform is for a socialised South Africa.

In Australia Mr Mandela has been
accorded Guest of Government status. At -
taxpayersâ\200\231 expense, he will be swanned
around the land and seems set to become
the icon of every ratbag element trying to
bathe its own peculiar ideological view in
the reflection of his transcendent light.

At the Town.Hall, the Labor Left were
able to persuade enough councillors to
enable it to award him the accolade. Two
councillors boycotted the final vote, in-
cluding Independent Cr Richard Mel-
drum, who has rightly argued the council
has no business sticking its nose into
international politics.

With their enthusiasm for Mr Mandela,
the Lord Mayor and his supporters have |
risked politicising the council in the same
damaging way that Ken â\200\234Redâ\200\235 Livin
stone did when he ran the Greater Londo
Council. As Livingstoneâ\200\231s fate demon '

trated, this is a risky road to tread.