

THE CITIZEN COMMENT

13 FEBRUARY 1991

Back in world

SOUTH AFRICA is moving back into the world community.

Sanctions are easing, there is talk of sports tours being resumed, our return to the Olympics is a matter of time, and cultural barriers are falling.

All this because of State President De Klerk's stunning reforms.

Our growing acceptance abroad does not, however, resolve our problems at home; it does not stop the increasing instability of the country; it does not prevent a resumption of the ANC-Inkatha war with the ink of the Mandela-Buthelezi peace accord hardly dry. It also does not stop the recession, or prevent business confidence being at a low ebb.

Yet it would be wrong to ignore the fact that isolation added to our problems, added to our insecurity and made life generally stagnant.

We needed to be able to hold our heads high when we went overseas — not "racist" South Africans but people moving towards non-racism and a non-racial democracy.

Our businessmen were never broken by sanctions, and their ingenuity enabled them to export their products successfully, but they needed to trade freely once more.

The arms ban made us fall back on our own resources and we built a strong and innovative arms industry.

Our economy was not destroyed, but was severely restricted by the debts crisis, lack of overseas loans and credits, and the cutback in foreign investment, and desperately needed new capital, credit and loans.

Our sportsmen suffered for lack of international competition, but though many maintained high standards, they could not beat the world's best because they could not compete against them.

Rebel tours in cricket and rugby attracted great spectator interest, but the visiting teams hardly justified the enormous enthusiasm with which they were greeted.

And in the entertainment world, we were starved of appearances by the great international stars who were frightened off by fears of being blacklisted for coming here, and we wanted desperately to see them.

We were a bruised country, a deprived country, and even when life began to change, we were still punished.

Yet there was a certain pride in not succumbing to the demands of those who wished to impose their will on us.

However, although we survived the often intolerable years of sanctions and isolation, nobody was masochistic enough to want them to go on forever.

We needed to get back into the mainstream of international life; we needed to gain acceptance; we needed to get rid of the label, "polecat of the world".

And it is happening now. Black African states are openly talking to us; the State President is on friendly terms with European and American leaders; trade sanctions are on their way out; former enemies are helping to set the stage for easing sports and cultural boycotts.

We will have rugby internationals, soccer tours, international athletic events and we will be back in the Olympics — all sooner than anyone had dared hope.

The Right will say that it means nothing, that it would prefer continued isolation and sanctions rather than have an end to apartheid, an end to self-determination, and the prospect of a Black government.

The government, for its part, is hoping that the lifting of sanctions and of sports and cultural boycotts will convince Whites that its reforms are worthwhile.

We repeat: The return to international grace will not in itself solve our problems, though the lifting of sanctions, an injectment of foreign capital and the granting of IMF loans will help to ease the transition to a New South Africa.

Let us all rejoice when the punitive measures against us are over and we are fully back in the international fold.

And let us determine the future as a decent, acceptable people whose problems will no longer be racial or racially resolved.

Pro-Saddam letters

THE spate of pro-Saddam Hussein letters in The Citizen is cause for concern, as it is obvious that many people have got their political priorities all confused.

Over the past 20 years, readers who have followed my letters in your columns will remember that I have often taken the Americans to task for the way they have needled us at every opportunity.

Despite the fact that Mr Ronald Reagan was President and was against sanctions, the American Senate and the Congress ensured that this country was not only pinned to the ground and abused, but also labelled the leper of world society — for reasons that I consider minor, considering what has happened in the rest of Africa and the world.

Having said this, I fully support Mr Pik Botha in

his support for the allied forces in the Middle East, for the simple reason that the Western and civilised world has a fanatic on their hands in the form of Saddam Hussein. He will hopefully be destroyed before he has the whole world in flames.

The allies are not against Islam. They are against Hussein. (The second Hitler, for sure)

I further support Pik Botha because the people opposing Saddam have been in support of South Africa (I exclude the USA) but in the case of Britain, Margaret Thatcher has always been our friend.

Now Saddam is trying to force Israel into the conflict — again a good friend of South Africa. I am convinced that without Israel South Africa would never have been the military powerhouse it is today.

Now let's look at the people who support Saddam, the fanatic. In South Africa we have the ANC, the PAC, Azapo, the SACC, the trade unions, not to mention the fanatics on the Far Right of the political spectrum. Even the CP's call for being neutral on the issue is a non-starter as far as I am concerned.

Then we have all the world leading terrorist organisations — I even suspect that the USSR are under-cover supporters of Saddam.

In South Africa the ones with foresight and imagination and the ones who I believe will take South Africa into a better future, namely, the Nationalist Party, Inkatha and the Democratic Party, are all in support of the allies — I am with them all the way.

CANDIDAPAX

Bloemfontein

ANC and IFP meet over ambush crisis

Natal Witness

13 FEBR. 1991



The co-chairmen of the Inkatha Freedom Party and African National Congress peace committee, Frank Mdlalose (left) and John Nkadameng (right) after their visit to the scene of Sunday's bus attack. KwaZulu Legislative Assembly member, David Ntombela, is in the background.

by CRAIG URQUHART

ON a day of mudslinging between the Inkatha Freedom Party Youth Brigade and the ANC midlands regional branch over who was responsible for Sunday night's bus attack, a high-level joint delegation yesterday flew to Pietermaritzburg to address the crisis.

The co-chairmen of the joint Inkatha Freedom Party and ANC peace committee, Frank Mdlalose and John Nkadameng, expressed their condolences to the families of the victims of the attack. They stressed that the peace initiative was still on course and there was no indication that either party wanted to abandon the agreement.

The delegation appealed to anyone from either organisation who witnessed the attack or who knew what had happened to get in touch with them or the police. The incident is to be raised at a meeting of the joint committee in Durban on Monday.

Earlier in the day, the ANC midlands branch accused Inkatha supporters of initiating Sunday's bus attack in kwaShange which left 18 people dead and vehemently denied that any ambush took place.

The Natal Witness has received reports from several sources that an attack in Gezibuso — an ANC stronghold — which left two people dead, sparked off the bus massacre.

Police spokesman Lieutenant Henry Budhram said approximately 500 people entered Gezibuso at 4 pm on Sunday afternoon and shot dead Betty Gumbi and Maister Zondi — both elderly residents — and seriously injured another woman. However, Budhram said police had no evidence to connect the killings with the bus attack.

ANC midland's chairman Harry Gwala said residents in kwaShange, which overlooks Gezibuso, witnessed the shooting. He said shortly afterwards the KZT buses arrived in kwaShange and the passengers began attacking residents in the area.

He said the first victim in the attack, "Mr Ngcobo" was a kwaShange resident.

"After that residents in the area mobilised and struck back," Gwala said.

He said that he had statements from several witnesses to the incident and added he intended taking the matter "much further".

The Natal Witness learned that only three 9 mm bullets struck one of the buses, piercing its outer skin. In addition, it appears that no one was injured inside the bus as there was no blood.

Chief's house attacked in Ndalenif

Witness Reporter

VIOLENCE flared up in Ndaleni township near Richmond on Monday night when the home of Patrick Majozi, KwaZulu chief in the area, was attacked by men armed with R4 and AK47 rifles and handgrenades.

Police spokesman Lieutenant Henry Budhram said Majozi, who was at home with family and friends at the time of the attack, immediately notified the police.

Budhram said that when the police arrived, the attackers had already fled and that no one had been injured in the attack.

He said police found four AK47 rounds and three R4 rounds and three handgrenades had exploded around the house and

the men had attempted to burn the house down.

Damage to Majozi's house is estimated at R5 000.

The chief's bodyguard said the shooting started at 9.15 pm and was followed by "several big blasts".

He said that the chief was a "target" in the area which is an ANC stronghold and that his house was burned down exactly a year ago in a similar attack.

However, it is unclear whether the attack was linked to the recent violence in the neighbouring township of kwaMagoda which left at least six people dead and 150 houses razed.

In a statement released yesterday, Vusi Khumalo of the IFP Youth Brigade said it was estimated that "at least five AK47 rifles were used in the attack as well as other small arms".

However, police say that only shotgun and R1 cartridges were found at the scene of the attack.

Gwala's version of the incident comes amid a scathing attack on him from the Inkatha Freedom Party Youth Brigade which labelled him, among other things, "a warlord".

In response to Gwala's statement, KwaZulu Legislative Assembly member David Ntombela said that instead of sympathising with the victims he was trying to defend the killers.

Another KwaZulu Legislative Assembly member, Velaphi Ndlovu, last night called on Gwala to come clean and say whether the ANC had ambushed the bus or not.

He said Gwala obviously knew who had killed the two people in Gezubuso and who had ambushed the bus and should give that information to the police.

The accusations came just hours after a joint statement issued by the two organisations and signed by deputy president of the ANC, Nelson Mandela and IFP chairman Frank Mdlalose on behalf of KwaZulu Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi expressing condolences to the families of the people who were killed.

"We undertake to bend all our efforts to uncover the roots of these acts of violence and commit ourselves to leave no stone unturned in the search for peace and political tolerance among our people," the statement said.

- Ntombela said that yesterday evening an Inkatha supporter received facial injuries after the bus in which she was travelling was apparently stoned in Edendale.

VIEWPOINT

'91 May See Dismantling Of Apartheid

By ELMER SMITH
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Paste a picture of that historic handshake into your anti-apartheid scrapbook.

It's an enduring image that South Africa's oppressed majority may recall some day as a key scene from their long freedom struggle.

They will recall that Mangosuthu Buthelezi smiled at Nelson Mandela, and said "Hello my brother," and that Mandela addressed him as "Prince Buthelezi."

And in that odd way that the passage of years telescopes time, they may not remember that with that historic handshake, the carnage in which more than 1,000 people were hacked, burned and beaten to death didn't end.

After a while, it won't matter that the bitterness and hate — even the maiming and murder — went on long after that picture was snapped in front of the Royal Hotel in Durban on Jan. 28, 1991.

What matters is that they met for nine hours, that they agreed to urge their followers to "cease all attacks on one another," and that together, they will tour the violence-prone areas.

The historical importance is that they recognized the right of Buthelezi's Inkatha and the African National Congress — of which Mandela is vice president — to function as political parties.

No one looking back on that meeting many years from now will recall that the next day, eight more people were murdered.

Peace is always at a premium in an atmosphere where hate thrives. Long after the

flames flicker out, the resentments smolder.

In American race relations, for example, it took decades to get us from open hostility to a semblance of racial tolerance. Some of us aren't there yet.

What little progress we've made in race relations since the official end of American apartheid in 1954 has been barely discernible.

It's only a year since Mandela's triumphal return from a generation in prison re-energized South Africa's anti-apartheid movement.

And it is a tribute to the power of his image that the biggest change since then has been in the rising expectations of his followers.

Yes, his release was just the first of a series of bold moves by South Africa's president, F.W. deKlerk.

Unbanning the ANC and allowing ANC President Oliver Tambo to return from exile are much more than symbolic.

DeKlerk seems stubbornly determined to usher his nation into an era of racial tolerance and to open the way, at least, for power sharing.

But the real power in a capitalist nation is economic, not just political.

Even the most enlightened nonwhite South Africans concede they are a long way from sharing the wealth.

In a recent off-the-record briefing with a South Africa official, I got an idea just how far away.

One early development in the post-apartheid era, he predicted, will be the closing of mines because black workers will demand livable wages.

This is not a man who seemed to long for a return to the days when blacks knew their place.

The bitter irony, he admitted, is that many South African firms haven't built enough of a cushion — even after centuries of almost free black labor — to meet the moderate demands of their workers.

Like the freedom riders who endured indignities to integrate lunch counters for people who couldn't afford the food, many nonwhite South Africans will soon learn that political empowerment is just a beginning.

But it's an important beginning.

DeKlerk's recent call for the elimination of the Populations Registration Act — which classifies all South Africans by race — is significant.

It may be even more significant that he favors the prompt repeal of the laws that reserve four-fifths of South Africa's land for whites. Even though the vestiges of apartheid are likely to long outlive those laws, 1991 may be regarded some day as one of the most important years in the history of the long slow march.

We will remember it as the year Mandela and Buthelezi shook hands. It may even be remembered as the year South Africa outlawed racism.

And after enough time soothes the soreness of hate, it won't even matter that it took so long.

Elmer Smith is associate editor of the Philadelphia Daily News opinion pages.

FEB. 13 1991



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AP

ANC vice president Nelson Mandela (left) shakes hands with Zulu Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi in a historic meeting.

2 Witnesses Balk; Winnie Mandela Trial Teetering

By CHRISTOPHER S. WREN
New York Times

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — The government's prosecution of Winnie Mandela on kidnapping and assault charges appeared to be in jeopardy Tuesday after two witnesses balked at testifying against her following the disappearance of a third.

Mandela and three co-defendants are being tried on four counts of kidnapping and four counts of assault with intent to commit grievous bodily harm in the 1988 abduction of four young men. The incident occurred more than 13 months before her husband, Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader, was released from prison.

One youth, Stompie Seipei, was later found with his throat cut. Winnie Mandela's chief bodyguard, Jerry Richardson, was convicted last year of murdering the 14-year-old boy.

At his trial, the three surviving youths testified that Winnie Mandela initiated their beatings in her home before Richardson and her other bodyguards took over the assault. The government planned to call the three to repeat their testimony at this trial.

But on Monday, prosecutor Jan Swanepoel told Justice M.S. Stegmann that one of the youths, Gabriel Pelo Mekgwe, had apparently been kidnapped.

Tuesday, Swanepoel said the other two witnesses were now "too scared to come to court."

The witnesses are essential to the government's case, which is supported by blood samples taken



Associated Press

Heading To Court: Winnie Mandela, wife of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, is escorted to court on Tuesday to face charges of kidnapping and assault.

from Winnie Mandela's house and other evidence.

The prosecution also wants to introduce evidence of other kidnapping incidents by Mandela's bodyguards to show a pattern of lawlessness.

Under South African law, the youths could face two years' imprisonment for refusing to testify, unless they can show good reason for not appearing. But Swanepoel said he was reluctant to seek such punishment.

Mandela is confident of reaching agreement

Sowetan
13/02/94

16/1/11

ANC deputy president Mr Nelson Mandela said he was optimistic his organisation and the Government would be able to resolve the questions of a constituent assembly and an interim government.

Speaking on SABC's late night current affairs programme, "Agenda" on Monday night, he said though the ANC and the Government had started "talks-about-talks" from different positions, remarkable progress had been made and agreements had been reached at the end of their previous two summit meetings.

"And that is why I am very optimistic that even on the question of a constituent assembly and an interim government, we will be able to reach agreement.

Problems

"There have been some problems which have cropped up, and some of them are so serious that they can even displace the peace process...I consider them to be very grave mistakes, but on both sides (the ANC and the Government) there are men and women who require peace, and that gives us confidence."

On the question of continued political intolerance and violence among supporters of the ANC, the Inkatha Freedom Party, and the Pan Africanist Congress, despite recent peace initiatives, Mandela said it would be unrealistic to expect that a single meeting between the ANC and the IFP would resolve the question of violence.

"We require to do much more ground work," he said.

Clashes

"Until a machinery has been set up and that machinery begins to work efficiently, you must expect that there will continue to be clashes."

He reminded that a "joint-machinery" had been set-up with Inkatha providing for joint tours of strife-torn areas by IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi and himself, while a joint ANC/PAC-liasion committee was being established to address problems of political intolerance.

Mandela said the ANC had proposed that a so-called patriotic front meeting, a congress of the "oppressed" people, take place prior to a multi-party conference, in order for such organisations to pool their resources.

Conflict

"We want to eliminate all conflict and differences of view in order to arrive at a peaceful resolution of our affairs," he said.

He stressed that IFP would be included in such a patriotic front, but added: "We may phase it, because we will first want an agreement with people we have worked a little bit closer with than Inkatha."

He said the ANC would persuade other organisations in the proposed front to accept Inkatha in their midst.

Concerning the recent peace meeting between ANC/IFP leaders, Mandela said it had been essential for the ANC not to "come out weak" from any meeting with Inkatha. - Sapa

ANC probes kidnapping allegations

Sowetan
13/02/91

16/1/11

THE ANC was taking the allegations of ANC involvement in the disappearance of a state witness in the Winnie Mandela trial very seriously, spokesman Gill Marcus said yesterday.

Reports on the sensational kidnapping of Gabriel Pelo Mekgwe would be "looked at" by the movement.

Marcus said she could not say what type of investigation would be launched or whether top officials would be conducting the investigation.

"The only thing we know is what has been reported. We will look into what this means. The allegations that ANC offi-

cials were involved are very serious.

"The organisation will look at whatever necessary steps must be taken," she said.

Meanwhile the Rand Supreme Court entrance was yesterday lined with members of the "Winnie Mandela Support Adhoc Committee" holding placards.

"Stop harassing our mother", read the placards, which carried an early picture of the Mandela couple and a quote from Nelson Mandela: "My wife was harassed by the State for 30 years. Now I'm here to give her my support".

Crowds outside the court had waned and

movement in and out was more disciplined.

The number of ANC marshalls had dwindled - following Monday's police request that they have permits.

Mrs Mandela, jovial on leaving the court room, joked with police in the elevator coming down - to the amusement of her counsel, George Bizos SC.- Sowetan Reporter

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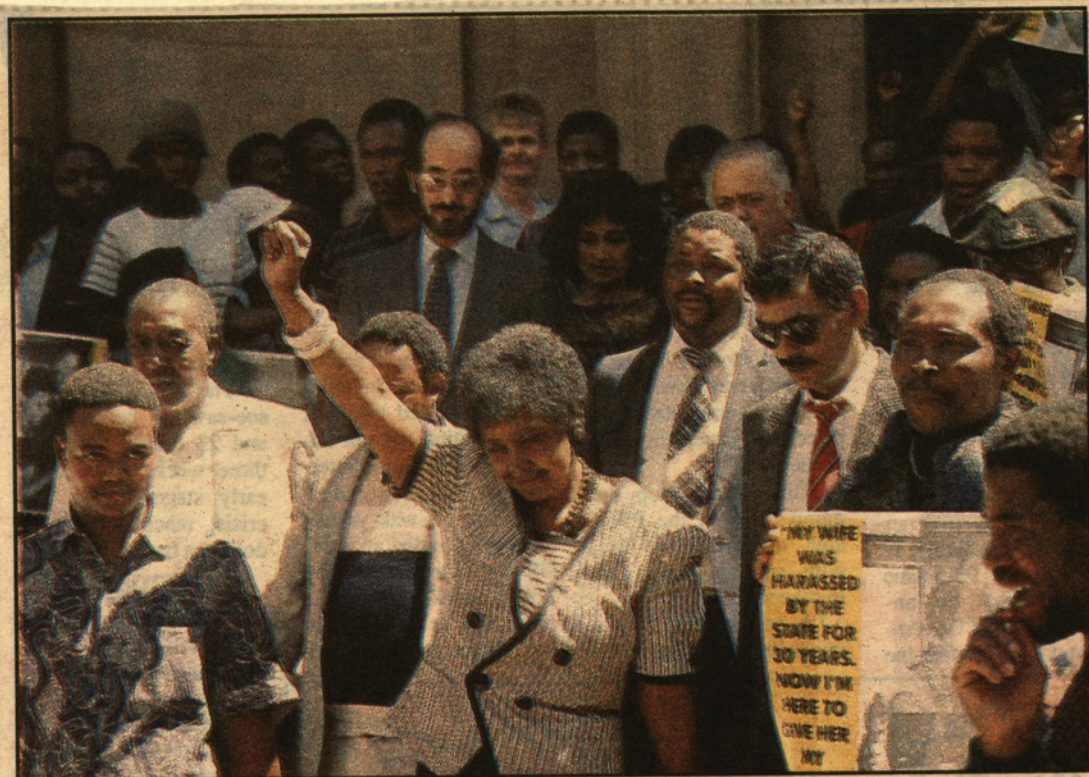
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Amandla...Surrounded by supporters and lawyers Mr Ismael Ayob and Mr George Bizos (in the background), Mrs Winnie Mandela salutes the crowd at the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

Picture by Sello Motsepe

16/11

Mandela: one year on

Mzerny
13/02/91

THE apotheosis of Mr Nelson Mandela is enshrined in eponymous council estate cul-de-sacs and red-brick commonrooms throughout Britain. But in South Africa, a year after the messiah's release from prison, there are reservations, even doubts.

He cuts a tremendous figure, of course: pencil-thin, confident, with those eyes that tell you: 'I've been there and I made it back.' But youthful militants are unhappy with his moderation, white reformers fret about his leadership qualities and some people in the rural areas — whisper it softly in Hampstead — have never heard of him. One survey showed that many black schoolchildren — taking their cue from wall graffiti — believed his first name to be 'Free' or 'Viva'.

For a 73-year-old, the globe-trotting of the past year has been punishing, but the

Mandela: his name means money.

Mandela name means money and the ANC is short of cash. Quite apart from the cost of establishing the normal political apparatus, there is the burden of resettling perhaps 20 000 exiles. As one ANC official said: 'We can't give these people a cow and a hut and tell them to get on with it.'

So Mandela, accompanied by the exotic Winnie, traipses round a string of fashionable cities accepting First World plaudits, trying to tap his hosts for a few readies, and hoping to persuade them not to drop sanctions just yet.

In the latter task he has been fighting a losing battle. Sanctions are disintegrating, and the Government is making a show of having lost interest in the entire subject. Asked about the UN oil and arms embargo last week, Foreign Minister Pik Botha just shrugged: 'Buying arms is not so important to us any more, and we have no problem buying oil.'

As President de Klerk has proceeded with his reforms, even anti-apartheid stalwarts like Australia's Mr Bob Hawke have begun to hum a different tune. (Having disposed of the English cricketers, Mr Hawke is keen on a Springbok tour). International solidarity for the beleaguered black nationalist movement has been replaced by impatience that the ANC cannot get its act together.

The ANC's disorganisation (one of their high-

rankers, subsequently change his mind about what they had agreed. 'It's clear to me that people are taking decisions for him.'

At the ANC's 'consultative conference' in December the signs were ambiguous. 'The leadership has grasped the principle that they are the servants of the people, and that they must seek guidance from the masses,' Mandela said. It put one in mind of James Callaghan's celebrated remark, after a roasting from a Labour Party conference in Scotland: 'I did'nae ken. But I ken the noo.' But repentance has its limits, especially for a Tembu prince. When conference insisted that his negotiations with President de Klerk be conducted in public, he called the demand 'totally unreasonable'. And he went on to attack 'men and women who use the platforms of organisations for unprincipled discussion, who play to the gallery, whose aim is to prove how revolutionary they are, who are incapable of putting forward constructive ideas, and who are quick to pull down what others have built.'

His unscripted irritation was directed at the militants — people like Peter Mokaba, leader of the ANC Youth Wing. It was Mr Mokaba who urged last year that the 'struggle' be taken into white areas, a notion that hardens from a possibility to a certainty with every passing day.

Reconciled

16/1/11

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Wednesday 13 February 1991

'No population growth in 2000 due to Aids'

BY the turn of the century, it is estimated the population growth will have ceased, due to the impact of Aids.

This was predicted by Mr T P Hartwig in an address at an investment conference at a Johannesburg hotel yesterday, as he explained the use of data to construct a theoretical computer-based model which projects future infection, illness and deaths due to Aids.

"By 1995, about 10 per cent of the working population of South Africa will be infected with the Aids virus. Thirty thousand people will be sick and 25 000 will die during the year," Mr Hartwig said.

"And by 1998, the percentage positive will have risen to 40 per cent, with

175 000 sick and 130 000 that will die. Thereafter, the picture gets progressively more disastrous. We would prefer not to quote figures beyond this," he said.

"The present problem in South Africa is relatively small, but growing rapidly," Mr Hartwig said, "but towards the end of the decade the problem will become increasingly visible".

"The impact on the economy will be small in the next five years, but during the second half of the decade, the drain on resources, possibly a lack of manpower and certainly loss of confidence could have a serious economic effect," he said.

"We cannot even begin to assess the impact of Aids in terms of human suffering," Mr Hartwig concluded — Sapa.

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THE CITIZEN

Buthelezi asks Italy to press EEC for aid

ROME. — IFP leader Chief Mangosuthu yesterday asked the Italian Government to press the EEC to consider very seriously a type of Marshall Aid plan to combat poverty in South Africa and thus put it on the road to real democracy.

He made the plea in a memorandum for his meeting here with Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti whose country currently chairs the European Economic Community.

The Inkatha president asked Mr. Andreotti to thank the EEC for lifting restrictions on new invest-

ments in his country and said State President De Klerk was continuing to justify convolutions that change would now occur in South Africa.

Thousands upon thousands of Blacks were living in "awesome squalor" around every urban centre, he said. In the Durban area alone there were about three million people living in shanty towns, squatter areas and terrible slums.

They had great destructive potential because

most were unemployed. There were no schools for their children, no health and welfare services and no running water or sewerage or refuse-removal facilities — they did not even have places where they could bury their dead in decency.

Meanwhile, he said, the radical left is waiting in the wings ready to swoop, always ready to undermine the politics of reason.

There was also an extreme Right-wing section which was now preparing

to die rather than live in a society in which the White man had no privileges.

Unless we really dealt with White fear, we will end up with accomplished change that will be destroyed by events which will make any attack by a Uitenhage or a Renamo on a government seem child's play by comparison.

Dr Buthelezi said a free, democratic South Africa — allowed to prosper — free of the shackles of sanctions — would bring huge economic and social benefits to the woe of Southern Africa.

For Chief Minister's information (2 pages)

Buthlezi in plea for EC aid to beat poverty

Political Reporter

THE Italian Government has been urged to press the European Economic Community to consider a type of Marshall Aid plan to combat poverty in South Africa and put it on the road to real democracy.

The Chief Minister of KwaZulu and president of the Inkatha Freedom Party, Dr. Mangosuthu Buthelezi, made the plea in a memorandum for his meeting in Rome yesterday with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.

Italy is the current chairman of the EC.

The IFP president asked Mr. Andreotti to

thank the EC for lifting restrictions on new investments in South Africa and said President de Klerk was continuing to justify convictions that change would now occur in the country.

Thousands of blacks now living in 'awesome squalor' around every urban centre had great destructive potential, Dr Buthelezi said, because most were unemployed.

He said a free, democratic South Africa would bring huge economic and social benefits to the whole of southern Africa.

Natal Mercury 13/2/91

Missing witness in Mandela trial leaves church with ANC officials

GABRIEL Mekgwe, the missing State witness in the Winnie Mandela trial, left the Methodist manse in Soweto with three ANC men on Sunday night, according to impeccable sources.

It is not known whether Mekgwe accompanied the men, one of whom is a senior ANC official, voluntarily.

Mekgwe, Hkê Barend Mono, another of the three young men allegedly kidnapped from the same manse in 1988 and taken to Mandela's home in Diepkloof, is known for his strong devotion to the ANC.

A 14-year-old boy, Stompie Moeketsi Seipel, was allegedly

abducted with the three men. He was later found dead in an open field in Soweto.

It is possible to piece together some of the events leading to Mekgwe's disappearance on Sunday night, just hours before he, Mono and the third young man, Kenneth Kgase, were due to be called by the State in the trial of Mandela and her three co-accused: John Morgan, Nompumelelo Falati and Xoliswa Falati.

Mekgwe, who has been living in a "safe house" in Johannesburg's northern suburbs, went over the weekend to attend a funeral in his home town of Potchef-

stroom. He returned to Johannesburg on Sunday evening but missed his lift to the northern suburbs.

Not knowing what to do, he went to the Methodist Church manse in Soweto, where he lived as a "refugee" a couple of years ago when the situation in Potchefstroom became too hot for him as activist.

The Reverend Paul Verryn, who is in charge of the manse, was not there when Mekgwe arrived. Mekgwe had only been at the manse for about a half hour when the three ANC men arrived. It is not known what transpired

between Mekgwe and the three men. But no physical coercion was used to induce him to leave with them, according to sources.

Mekgwe is reported to have agonised over whether to testify in the Mandela trial because of his loyalty to the ANC. But by the time he left for Potchefstroom last weekend, he had decided to give evidence.

It is not known where Mekgwe stands now. In court yesterday, State prosecutor Jant Swanepoel, SC, expressed concern over the intimidation Mekgwe's two companions may feel because of his disappearance.

Sowetan Cor-

NEWS IN BRIEF

ANC, Inkatha meet over killings

HIGH-level delegations from the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party met in Maritzburg late yesterday to discuss Sunday night's massacre at KwaShange and to visit the scene of the killings.

ANC delegation leader and co-chairman of the joint peace committee John Nkandeni, and head of the Inkatha delegation, Frank Mdlalose, both said afterwards last month's peace initiative was still "very much on course".

Mdlalose said the full committee of Inkatha and the ANC would review the situation on Monday.

Horror over bus massacre mounting

LEADERS of both the ANC and Inkatha have reacted with "shock and horror" to the Sunday night Maritzburg bus massacre which has seen the death toll rise to 18.

A joint statement issued by the two organisations and signed by ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela and by Inkatha Freedom Party chairman, Dr Frank Mdlalose on behalf of IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthezi expressed condolences to the families of the people who were killed and wished a speedy recovery to the injured.

"We undertake to bend all our efforts to uncover the roots of these acts of violence and commit ourselves to leave no stone unturned in the search for peace and political tolerance among our people," the statement said.

And the ANC has invited Inkatha, the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) and other anti-apartheid organisations operating in Natal to jointly institute a commission of inquiry into the incident to "collectively uncover who are the persons and agencies responsible for this carnage".

Yesterday feelings were running high in the area with thousands of Inkatha supporters gathering at Taylor's Hall. They were heavily armed with traditional Zulu weapons and were poised to avenge the killings.

Southern 13/2/91

2 Witnesses Balk; Winnie Mandela Trial Teetering

By CHRISTOPHER S. WREN
New York Times

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — The government's prosecution of Winnie Mandela on kidnapping and assault charges appeared to be in jeopardy Tuesday after two witnesses balked at testifying against her following the disappearance of a third.

Mandela and three co-defendants are being tried on four counts of kidnapping and four counts of assault with intent to commit grievous bodily harm in the 1988 abduction of four young men. The incident occurred more than 13 months before her husband, Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader, was released from prison.

One youth, Stompie Seipei, was later found with his throat cut. Winnie Mandela's chief bodyguard, Jerry Richardson, was convicted last year of murdering the 14-year-old boy.

At his trial, the three surviving youths testified that Winnie Mandela initiated their beatings in her home before Richardson and her other bodyguards took over the assault. The government planned to call the three to repeat their testimony at this trial.

But on Monday, prosecutor Jan Swanepoel told Justice M.S. Stegmann that one of the youths, Gabriel Pelo Mekgwe, had apparently been kidnapped.

Tuesday, Swanepoel said the other two witnesses were now "too scared to come to court."

The witnesses are essential to the government's case, which is supported by blood samples taken



Associated Press

Heading To Court: Winnie Mandela, wife of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, is escorted to court on Tuesday to face charges of kidnapping and assault.

from Winnie Mandela's house and other evidence.

The prosecution also wants to introduce evidence of other kidnapping incidents by Mandela's bodyguards to show a pattern of lawlessness.

Under South African law, the youths could face two years' imprisonment for refusing to testify, unless they can show good reason for not appearing. But Swanepoel said he was reluctant to seek such punishment.

13/2/91

Mandela is confident of interim govt accord

SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG, Tuesday: Mr Nelson Mandela was confident his African National Congress (ANC) and the Pretoria regime would reach agreement on an interim government in South Africa, he said here yesterday on the first anniversary of his release from 27 years in prison.

The two sides had reached agreement at two historic summits in May and August last year. Mr Mandela, the ANC deputy president, said in an interview on state-run television.

He said he was optimistic the same could happen on the ANC's demand for a constituent assembly and an interim government.

On February 1, President F. W. de Klerk reiterated the Government's view that an interim government was not necessary as the Government was in power legitimately.

The August summit saw the ANC suspend its 29-year guerrilla war waged against Pretoria, while the Government agreed to allow about 40,000 political exiles to return and to release some 3,000 political prisoners.

Turning to a renewed wave of black-on-black violence in the country, Mr Mandela said: "It is unrealistic for the public to expect that a single meeting between the ANC and Inkatha would resolve the question of violence."

On Sunday, 17 people were killed in Natal province when two buses transporting supporters of Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party were ambushed by alleged ANC supporters.

More than 5,000 people have been killed in Natal since 1985 in a virtual Zulu civil war between ANC and Inkatha supporters, while close to 1,000 people were killed in townships around Johan-

nesburg in August and September last year when the fighting spilled over to the Transvaal province.

Mr Mandela and Mr Frank Mdlalose, the chairman of the Inkatha Freedom Party, issued a joint statement yesterday expressing their "shock and horror" at the Natal slaughter.

In an attempt to forestall yet another cycle of violence, the ANC and Inkatha leadership said they would try to solve Sunday's killings.

The two organisations said: "We undertake to bend all our efforts to uncover the roots of these acts of violence and commit ourselves to leave no stone unturned in the search for peace and political tolerance among our people."

Speaking generally about the violence, Mr Mandela said: "We require to do much more groundwork than we have been able to do in order to resolve this problem."

He added that in Inkatha there were "many men and women that are as committed to peace as we (in the ANC) are".

Following Mr de Klerk's announcement on February 1 that remaining apartheid legislation would be abolished this year, there has been a softening in the world's attitude towards South Africa.

Mr Mandela said the objective of sanctions had not yet been achieved. He said he had not threatened the European Community last Friday when he said there would be "turmoil in South Africa" if the EC decided to lift sanctions.

When black people in South Africa "discover that they are all alone ... they are going to increase pressure on the Government, there are going to be widespread mass action", Mr Mandela said.

Agence France-Presse

however, it is being expanded to include domestic production. As part of this expansion, consideration is being given to the inclusion of imported products. The National Residue Survey includes monitoring of pesticides in citrus fruits but does not include juices or concentrates. DPIE is unaware of any State or Territory programme specifically for monitoring residues of pesticides in fruit juices or concentrates.

A range of regulatory and educational measures is being undertaken by the States and Territories to reduce the presence of pesticide residues in locally produced products. It should be noted that legislative responsibility for use of pesticides in Australia is a State or Territory matter and that the Commonwealth government has strongly advocated measures to minimise residues in food through the various coordinating mechanisms available to it.

In the international context, the Australian Government strongly supports the acceptance of internationally agreed standards for pesticide residues. Australia participates in the development of the standards recommended by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The monitoring of high risk products for chemical residues in the import inspection programme and the proposed inclusion of imported products in the National Residue Survey are other measures aimed at reducing the likelihood of pesticide residues in imported products.

Mr Nelson Mandela

(Question No. 412)

Mr Taylor asked the Prime Minister, upon notice, on 14 November 1990:

(1) Was Mr Mandela, Leader of the African National Congress (ANC), accorded head of state status during his recent visit to Australia; if not, what status was he accorded.

(2) Is the ANC (a) no more than a political party, (b) not the largest political party in South Africa and (c) affiliated with the South African Communist Party.

(3) Following the precedent set by Mr Mandela's visit, will other South African political leaders, including Mr de Klerk and Chief Buthelezi, be invited to Australia with similar status; if not, why not.

Mr Hawke—The answer to the honourable member's question is as follows:

(1) Mr Mandela and his party of 12 officials visited Australia as Guests of the Government. As Mr Mandela is not a head of state, he was not accorded protocol treatment reserved for a head of state e.g. a ceremonial welcome involving a guard of honour and a gun salute. Such provision was consistent with arrangements made by other countries visited by Mr Mandela.

(2) (a) In the Government's view the ANC is not merely a political party but is a major partner in the political process currently underway in South Africa. At the same time it has no right to contest elections and it has no formal status within the existing political structures in South Africa.

(b) Because it has not had the opportunity to test its popularity at an election, the full extent of ANC support is uncertain. The Government, however, regards the ANC as being foremost amongst black political movements in South Africa, although we have refrained from recognising it as the sole authentic representative of the black population.

(c) The ANC is part of a broad alliance which includes not only the South African Communist Party but also the United Democratic Front and the Council of South African Trade Unions. All of these organisations have a shared commitment to dismantling apartheid. However, I am advised that there are no formal links between the ANC and the South African Communist Party.

(3) The Government's program for visitors from South Africa is directed towards prominent and authentic representatives of the oppressed majority. The South African Government is already amply represented in Australia by the South African Embassy. The Government has never opposed a private visit to Australia by Chief Buthelezi, who works within the existing political structures in South Africa.

Commission on Human Rights

(Question No. 439)

Mr Hollis asked the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, upon notice, on 4 December 1990:

At what level will Australia be represented at meetings of the Commission on Human Rights.

Dr Blewett—The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade has provided the following answer to the honourable member's question:

Australia will occupy a seat on the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) for a period of three years commencing in January 1991. The Australian Delegation to the CHR is normally led by our Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva.

Membership of UNESCO

(Question No. 440)

Mr Hollis asked the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, upon notice, on 4 December 1990:

Further to the answer to question No. 25 (Hansard, 21 August 1990, page 1208), has Australia raised the question of membership of UNESCO with (a) Brunei, (b) Solomon Islands and (c) Van-