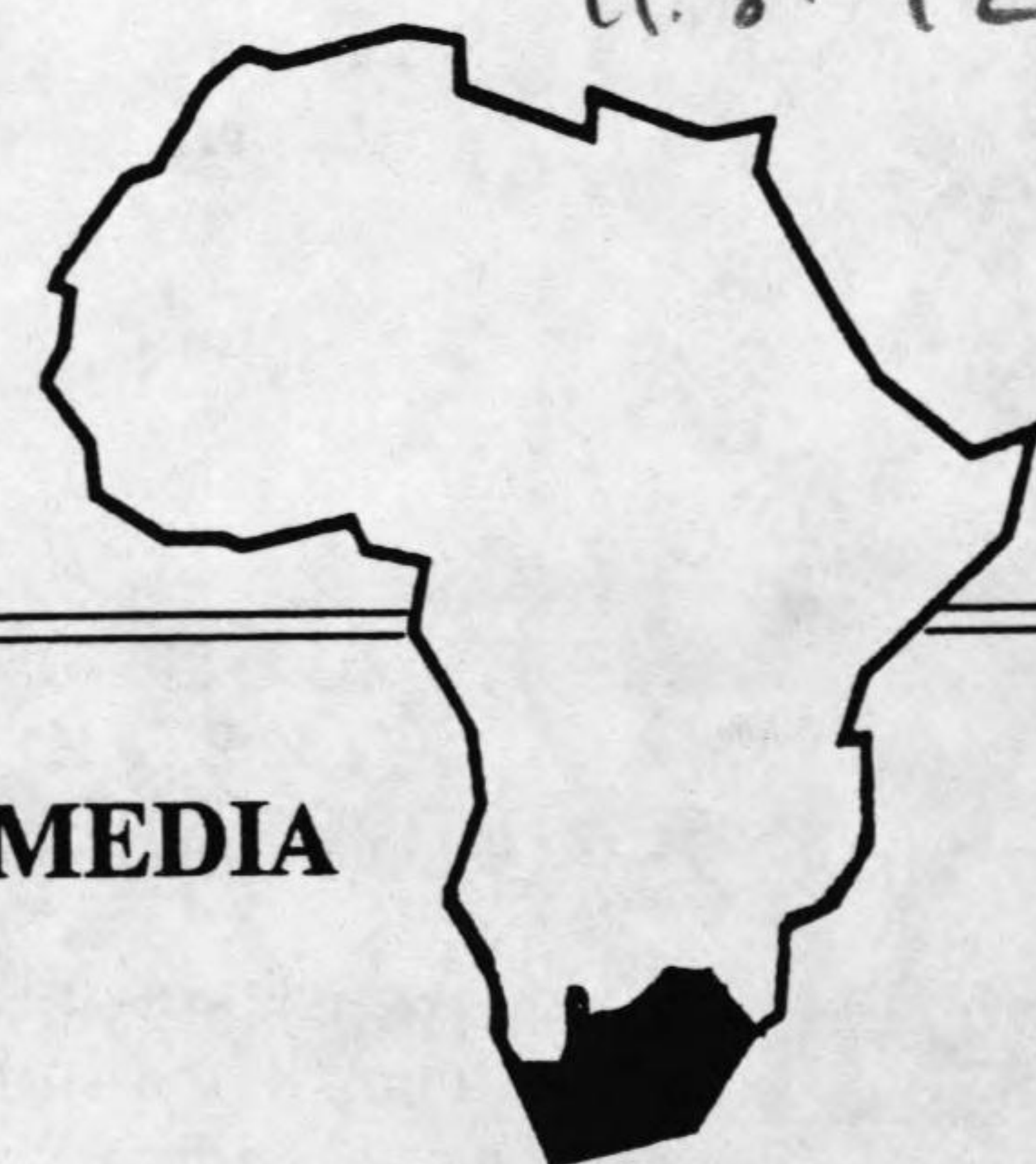


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# THIS WEEK IN SOUTH AFRICA



## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDIA

August 11 - 17, 1992

### POLITICAL UPDATE

#### PAC TO MEET GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS NEW FORUM

The PAC [Pan Africanist Congress] is poised to join the constitutional talks by meeting a government delegation in Johannesburg tonight to discuss a new negotiating forum. PAC deputy president Dikgang Moseneke said his organization had reason to believe government would meet its demand for an elected constituent assembly - the only item the PAC wanted on the agenda for the new forum. However, a government source said an elected constitution-making assembly had been agreed to by President F.W. de Klerk when he gave government's assent to this at Codesa I [Convention for a Democratic South Africa] in December. The PAC last held talks with government in Abuja, Nigeria, in April. That meeting followed the PAC's suspension of participation in negotiations at last November's preparatory meeting for Codesa. (BD/BLD/CIT/CP/CT/NM/PAT/PN/RAP/SOW/STR/TVL/VW/WM0811)

#### GOVERNMENT AND PAC SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

After a three-hour meeting in Johannesburg, which ended at midnight, Constitutional Development

Minister Roelf Meyer said government and the PAC [Pan Africanist Congress] had "agreed that a democratic process must be followed in South Africa". Meyer said the two parties, meeting for the first time since April, had found that there was "more common ground than disagreement". PAC foreign affairs secretary Gora Ebrahim said the PAC had emphasized that only an elected constituent assembly could bring about a nonracial South Africa. Meyer said last night's meeting was one of several bilateral contacts taking place between government and various parties. (BD/BLD/CIT/CP/CT/NM/PAT/PN/RAP/SOW/STR/TVL/VW/WM0812)

#### EDITORIAL COMMENT: THE SOWETAN: "COMMENT"

While this seems a logical step in the political history of South Africa, the PAC's [Pan Africanist Congress] exploratory talks with the Government are welcome and overdue. The PAC is a major political organization and any future plans made without it would be unwise. This development might also help create a Codesa [Convention for a Democratic South Africa] that is perhaps leaner and more effective than the first two. Although many people were unhappy about Codesa as it was, we were not entirely dissatisfied as this was, after all, the first tentative step towards a democratic future. We must repeat, as we intend to do for as long as we can, the desperate necessity for the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) to be mollified and made a respectable partner in the negotiations. Finally, we are wasting time if the IFP is not included in the plans for the future of the country, as there will not be peace without them. (SOW0813)

### ANC SEEKS ADVICE

The ANC [African National Congress] and the PAC [Pan Africanist Congress] planned to discuss strategy with Zimbabwe this week before a possible resumption of South Africa's stalled democracy talks, political sources said in Harare at the weekend. Top members of the two groups want guidance from President Robert Mugabe's government on the line to take in constitutional talks with the government. (BD/CIT0817)

### START TALKING SAYS U.S. VOTE

The U.S. House of Representatives has unanimously passed a resolution calling for the resumption of talks within the Codesa [Convention for a Democratic South Africa] framework and asserting that it is "the responsibility of all parties to end the violence". (BD0812)

### RESUME SOUTH AFRICAN TALKS, SAYS COMMONWEALTH BODY

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) has urged South African nationalist movements and the government of President F.W. de Klerk to resume talks on setting up an interim government. "It is necessary that Codesa [Convention for a Democratic South Africa] resumes peace talks without delay and should remain unperturbed by violence and disorder," CPA secretary-general David Tonkin said. Mr. Tonkin, speaking after a CPA African region meeting in Mauritius, said Codesa had "achieved a great deal in that direction and ought to be left to complete its business". Mr. Tonkin said the group would send a committee to Johannesburg soon to

### CONTENTS

Political Update	1
Economic Update	
Social Update	
Sources	8



"help in the democratic process". (CIT0813)

### **EDITORIAL COMMENT: THE STAR: "TENTATIVE BUT PROMISING"**

In a political landscape rent by discord and centrifugal forces, it is encouraging to see tentative signs reappearing of a common resolve to find solutions. National Peace Accord chairman John Hall hopes that within a month President F.W. de Klerk, Nelson Mandela and Mangosuthu Buthelezi will meet face to face to review the National Peace Accord. That meeting, the first involving the three men in nearly a year, could be a powerful pointer towards peace. On the Right of the spectrum, "verligte" Conservative Party MPs [Members of Parliament] have been trying to nudge their party in the direction of joining constitutional negotiations. Potentially of even greater significance - because of the much larger constituency involved - are the exploratory talks which the Pan Africanist Congress held this week with the Government. The PAC, which has held itself aloof after a brief flirtation with Codesa [Convention for a Democratic South Africa] last year, says it is not opposed to negotiations, but wants them conducted within a democratic forum which should write a new constitution. (STR 0813)

### **ROOM FOR COMPROMISE SAYS VILJOEN**

There certainly is room for compromise by the ANC [African National Congress] and government, and the chances of reaching an acceptable solution are very good, says State Affairs Minister Gerrit Viljoen. In an interview with the RSA Policy Review, conducted before the two-day stayaway, Viljoen covers a broad field including: the suspension of negotiations by the ANC; his perceived shift in the ANC's opinion about Codesa [Convention for a Democratic South Africa] agreements; and the chances of reaching an acceptable solution. Viljoen said the reality that politics was about power

clearly emerged from Codesa II. The deadlock was a "beneficial shock" because it made all negotiators more realistic, and led to greater "resourcefulness and willingness to think creatively". During and after the deadlock an impression was created by ANC spokesmen that the negotiations process was back to square one. However, later bilateral negotiations had given government the clear impression that points of consensus reached by the working groups would remain valid. He said the ANC had fundamentally changed its viewpoint from agreeing that a constitution writing assembly would be bound by Codesa-negotiated basic constitutional principles, to saying Codesa decisions would not be binding. He had no doubt that South Africa would see a Codesa III. (BD/CIT0811)

### **ANC SLAMS DOOR SHUT ON GOVERNMENT OVERTURES**

The ANC [African National Congress] last night suspended all talks with government "on any issue", including the release of prisoners, because of government's "evident bad faith". The decision by the ANC's national working committee extinguishes the hopes of government and the international community that talks would resume soon. Earlier yesterday, government announced its acceptance of the U.N. report, which includes several concessions to key ANC demands - sufficient, government believed, to set negotiations back on track. But its concessions fell short of the ANC's expectations. The ANC said that before it had met government at the weekend, it had believed that government was prepared to respond in writing to the organization's 14 demands. Subsequently it emerged that there had been "no visible movement on these issues" by government. At a news conference yesterday, government announced it had accepted "in principle" U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's recommendations for the release of prisoners and investigations into its security forces. Foreign Minister Pik Botha and Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee said a blanket amnesty was the only way to fulfill the U.N.'s recommendation to

"wipe the slate clean and bury the past". Coetsee said the amnesty plan was a result of bilateral negotiations between government and the ANC, where broad agreement was reached on the main principles and elements. However, the ANC criticized government's amnesty plan as holding political prisoners "hostage, as a lever to extract concessions from the ANC". It insisted on the unconditional release of political prisoners. It reiterated that, contrary to the impression government was trying to give, it did not support a general amnesty. The question of amnesty was the province of an interim government. The ANC also said the amnesty would be premature before universal franchise, and it would mean security force members implicated in violence would not be prosecuted. This the ANC rejected. (BD/BLD/CIT/CP/CT/NM/PAT/PN/RAP/SOW/STR/TVL/VW/WM0814)

### **GOVERNMENT WON'T ACCEDE TO SUICIDAL DEMANDS - DE KLERK**

The government is not prepared to accede to unreasonable and undemocratic demands which could steer South Africa on a suicidal course, State President F.W. de Klerk said last night. Speaking at the Institute of Management Consultants annual award ceremony at Megawatt Park, President de Klerk said the government was working unabatedly, despite the negative and provocative tactics of its main interlocutors, to get talks with the African National Congress going again. President de Klerk reiterated that the differences which ostensibly had led to the breakdown of the Codesa II [Convention for a Democratic South Africa] talks were certainly not unbridgeable saying that all of them were still eminently negotiable. Referring to the "New South Africa", President de Klerk said that a leader could not choose the political, economic and social realities within which he could work. However, there was no call for despair and the political hurdles should be viewed as challenges collectively to be tackled and overcome, he said. Some of the strategies and tactics which had now taken root in the country were



self-destructive and counterproductive and would only delay the reaching of the ultimate objective - a just, peaceful and prosperous South Africa. (CIT0814)

**EDITORIAL COMMENT:  
THE BUSINESS DAY:  
"BRINKMANSHIP"**

Optimism is once again in danger of being wasted. President de Klerk and ANC [African National Congress] president Nelson Mandela both made remarkably conciliatory speeches after the ANC-led strike this month. Their generosity of spirit rekindled the political and economic hopes generated by the March referendum and dashed with the collapse of Codesa II [Convention for a Democratic South Africa]. Constitutional talks, or even talks about talks, will not begin again while Mr. de Klerk's underlings squabble publicly with Mandela's underlings in a way which shows a lack of agreement and understanding, and a profound lack of trust. Both sides are demonstrating the arrogance of those sure their views will prevail. Bolstered by the referendum and unbowed by mass action, the NP [National Party] still seems determined to get its way on constitutional issues; it is, meanwhile, resolutely following a "one for you, one for me" policy on the release of prisoners and the indemnification of those who may face prosecution. Hugely heartened by the mass action campaign, the ANC has turned its 14 demands into 14 non-negotiables after Mandela seemed to soften them to the three categories of an interim government, a constituent assembly and action to counter violence. While they carry on like that, political uncertainty compounds the problems of an economy already shattered by drought, recession and a falling gold price. The longer they bicker, the greater the danger that the social instability resulting from massive unemployment may defeat the efforts of anyone to implement a reasonable political settlement. If the politicians remain unyielding, others will have to show the way. DP [Democratic Party] leader Zach de Beer has been saying for months that absurdly petty politicians are seeking victory, not

agreement; now De Beer says that if the NP and ANC leadership will not be reasonable, he will call on the people of this country to urge them to compromise. (BD0817)

**U.N. OBSERVERS  
LEAVE SOUTH AFRICA  
"VERY HOPEFUL"**

United Nations observers left South Africa yesterday saying they had high hopes for peace in the country. Speaking to reporters, Mr. Omayad described as positive the government's response to recommendations made to the U.N. Security Council by Special Envoy Mr. Cyrus Vance. (CIT/SOW0814)

**U.N. CALL FOR INQUIRY  
GETS WIDE BACKING**

The National Party (NP) and other major political players have backed the United Nations' call for a probe by the Goldstone Commission into the security forces, the KwaZulu Police and the ANC [African National Congress] and PAC's [Pan Africanist Congress] military wings. But it emerged yesterday that Mr. Justice Richard Goldstone's call for a general amnesty to encourage members of these organizations to testify about unlawful conduct would be controversial. Concern has been expressed that a pre-emptive amnesty would provide an escape route for those responsible for the killing of high-profile activists such as the Cradock UDF [United Democratic Front] leader Matthew Goniwe. The ANC and Democratic Party want full disclosure of the detail of any crimes by members of the security forces who may receive amnesty or indemnity. Yesterday National party security spokesman Hennie Smit said the NP supported in principle Mr. Boutros-Ghali's call for a probe. IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] spokesman Walter Felgate said that although the Goldstone Commission had no real grounds for probing the KwaZulu Police, the KwaZulu government would not refuse to co-operate. (STR/BD/BLD/CIT/CP/CT/NM/PAT/PN/RAP/SOW/TVL/VW/WM0811)

**EDITORIAL COMMENT:  
THE STAR:  
"BURYING THE PAST"**

The Government's plan for a general amnesty for all political offenses and acceptance of the U.N.'s recommendation for a 30-person observer presence on the National Peace Committee are extremely important decisions. Both have the potential to contribute greatly to controlling the political violence. But the Government has introduced one of two significant qualifications into its acceptance of these and other recommendations made by Cyrus Vance and Judge Goldstone - and it is important for us to know exactly what Pretoria's motivations is. Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee has made it clear that the Cabinet envisages a blanket amnesty which will not require individual offenders to disclose their crimes. And Foreign Minister Pik Botha has indicated that the Cabinet has doubts about Mr. Vance's recommendation for a thorough probe into the security forces. There is of course the danger that an orgy of confession could rip open so many old wounds that it retards rather than advances reconciliation. But to pretend that these dark chapters in our history never existed is probably more dangerous. The truth will out, some day. Mr. Vance is right to say the slate of distrust must be cleaned and the past buried. But first the slate should be written on. (STR0814)

**EDITORIAL COMMENT:  
THE SOWETAN:  
GENERAL AMNESTY"**

The number of people who die in prison cells or in detention is alarmingly high, and shows something is seriously wrong. Ironically these deaths are taking place when the spotlight is on the safety of people in police custody. This is also happening at a time when most people were feeling more or less comfortable that the old chilling ways of the police had ended. The Goldstone Commission will now move into the erstwhile sacrosanct area of probing State violence. This will make it easier to get the searching light of inquiry into sinister areas of political violence, say the various political organizations.



The proposal of a general amnesty will give the process room for success. There are many skeletons rattling in our country's cupboards. It is much safer to clear these cupboards now before we get a new government. No political organization is without guilt. South Africa was in a state of war for many years. Certain abnormal rules are generally observed under such difficult circumstances. (SOW0812)

#### **EDITORIAL COMMENT: THE SOWETAN: "COMMENT"**

The evidence being led before the Goldstone Commission about the tragedy of Boipatong is important as it might uncover who is orchestrating violence from the four hostels. We have always had our suspicions about the involvement of certain elements who exploit the uninformed anger of hostel dwellers. We have been concerned by the inability, or rather the refusal of Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leaders, whose members are rightly or wrongly believed to be the hostel dwellers, to do something about this exploitation. Most blacks and whites are dismayed and angry about the tragic incidents that seem to be launched from the hostels. In other words, most people are losing confidence in hostel dwellers and by extension in the Inkatha Freedom Party. The tragedy, as we perceive it, is that many hostel dwellers are not ideologically linked to political organizations. Many of them wish to live unhampered by political or tribal conflict. (SOW0814)

#### **BUTHELEZI ISSUES FRESH APPEAL ON PEACE TO ANC**

Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) president Mangosuthu Buthelezi yesterday issued a fresh invitation to ANC [African National Congress] president Nelson Mandela to join him in a bid to end the carnage in the country. Addressing the people of Msinga and neighboring districts in Natal, Buthelezi also rejected the concept of a troika consisting of him, Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk ruling the country. (BD/STR0817)

#### **BUSINESSMEN VOLUNTEER AS "PEACE MONITORS"**

About 100 businessmen have volunteered to help the national peace secretariat monitor politically sensitive activities by security forces and political organizations. Barlow Rand industrial relations executive Jan Hiemstra, who heads a subcommittee of the secretariat looking into the involvement of business in the peace process, said yesterday the businessmen would be involved on a part-time basis. He said the police and SADF [South African Defence Force] had agreed to co-operate with the monitors, who would concentrate on observing but who could get involved in facilitation if called on to do so. (BD0811)

#### **ANC NOD TO CAMPS INQUIRY**

The ANC [African National Congress] has given the Goldstone Commission and the South African Council of Churches permission to investigate its camps outside South Africa. ANC leader Nelson Mandela disclosed this on Tuesday night (8/11/92) while speaking in Umtata. He welcomed a call by Mr. Justice Goldstone for a thorough probe of the South African Police, South African Defence Force and liberation movements' military wings. (STR0813)

#### **SACC PROBE INTO ANC UNDER WAY**

A South African Council of Churches (SACC) team which plans to visit ANC [African National Congress] camps to test claims of maltreatment and disappearances also wants to inspect government installations used in the covert war against the ANC. SACC justice and social ministries director John Lamola said the SACC had been given the go-ahead two months ago to begin interviewing people who claim family members had gone missing in ANC camps in Africa. The ANC had camps in Angola and still has a presence in Uganda and Tanzania. (BD0817)

#### **ANC'S TORTURE CHIEF NAMED**

The African National Congress' (ANC) inquiry into the treatment of detainees in its camps in exile has uncovered evidence of shocking abuses, for which it blames a senior headquarters official. Ex-security chief Mzwai Piliso, a former national executive committee member, has been directly implicated in some of the assaults on prisoners. The inquiry was appointed late last year by ANC president Nelson Mandela, following widely published allegations of torture in the exile camps. The report, to be submitted to Mandela next week, is expected to clear military leaders Chris Hani and Joe Modise of responsibility for abuses. The evidence that emerged indicated they had "cleaned up" the camps after taking over from Piliso. (WM0814)

#### **SOUTH AFRICA'S VIOLENCE ON AGENDA AT WINDHOEK SUMMIT**

The violence in South Africa and the stalemate at Codesa [Convention for a Democratic South Africa] will be scrutinised by the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) at its annual summit in Windhoek. Moesi said the SADCC acknowledged South Africa had a very powerful economy and there needed to be a re-arrangement of relations if the guiding principles of SADCC were to be met. These were balance, equity and mutual benefit. But the liberation movements of South Africa were at one with the SADCC, he added. Representatives of the ANC [African National Congress] were taking part in the summit, but would not be signatories to the treaty, or have voting rights. (BD0814)

#### **"ADAPT OR ELSE" - KRIEL**

Minister of Law and Order Mr. Hernus Kriel yesterday warned policemen that they would be dismissed if they failed to adapt to the realities of the new South Africa. (SOW0814)



## **SEVEN POLICEMEN KILLED IN 3 DAYS**

Eight people were wounded, four seriously, in a hail of bullets directed at a police vehicle in Alexandra, north of Johannesburg, on Saturday night. Since Friday at least 21 people, including seven policemen, have died in political violence countrywide. Dozens of others have been injured. (STR0817)

## **FW NAMES NEW DEPUTY FOR LAW AND ORDER**

President F.W. de Klerk said last night that Gert Myburgh (Port Elizabeth North) would become Deputy Law and Order Minister from Monday. He takes over from Johan Scheepers, who retains the position of Deputy Land Affairs Minister. (BD/BLD/CIT/CP/CT/NM/PAT/PN/RAP/SOW/STR/TVL/VW/WM0814)

## **GOVERNMENT INSPECTORS TO VISIT DETAINEES**

Minister of Law and Order Her-nus Kriel last night announced he was appointing six inspectors with wide powers to visit people in police custody. The inspectors would have powers to visit, without warning, any police station or cell in South Africa, where they would determine whether "all regulations and instructions pertaining to persons in custody are properly adhered to", said Mr. Kriel. They would also interview persons in custody to collect possible complaints. Mr. Kriel said the six inspectors would report directly to himself and the Commissioner of Police and would be appointed from the ranks of former magistrates. He said recent deaths in custody were being investigated by Lieutenant-General Louwtjie Malan. Mr. Kriel said he was also studying a report from the police on deaths in custody since January 1991, and would decide on what action to take "in due course". (STR/BD/BLD/CIT/CP/CT/NM/PAT/PN/RAP/SOW/TVL/VW/WM0812)

## **WORK BEGINS SOON TO MAKE TRAINS SAFER**

Work to make urban trains and stations safer - following Goldstone commission recommendations - would begin soon, the South African Rail and Commuter Corporation said. Corporation M.D. Wynand Burger told a news briefing yesterday they had consulted community groups, including the Soweto Civic Association, about introducing a rail guard corps acceptable to the community. It would be operational by the end of the year. As much as R200m would be spent on the guard in the next financial year. (BD/STR/CIT 0811)

## **ANC ALLIANCE "IS HOPING TO TOPPLE GOVERNMENT WITH FURTHER MASS ACTION"**

The ANC [African National Congress] and its allies may be preparing for a new round of mass action to force government to comply with their demands. President F.W. de Klerk telephoned ANC president Nelson Mandela at the weekend, only days after the ANC's national working committee ruled that, while talks remain suspended, the office of ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa would be the only channel through which government could communicate decisions that could lead to talks resuming. According to ANC sources, government officials at different levels of seniority have been trying to initiate discussions with the ANC in the past few days. ANC spokesman Gill Marcus yesterday dismissed speculation of an early return to talks. She said this was just disinformation spread by government. (BD0817)

## **ANC SLAMS "TROIKA" REPORTS**

The ANC yesterday "categorically repudiated" reports of a meeting involving exclusively, State President F.W. de Klerk, Mr. Nelson Mandela and Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi as "mischievous and unhelpful". It said the reports given prominence by newspapers such as The Citizen, were

calculated to revive the discredited concept of a troika form of leadership in the affairs of South Africa. (CIT/STR0813)

## **MR. MANDELA ON THE HOMELANDS**

There were certain "little individuals" whose repressive rule in some homelands was worse than that suffered under apartheid South Africa, African National Congress (ANC) president Nelson Mandela told a jam-packed hall of students at the University of Transkei on Wednesday (8/12/92). He urged liberation movements to welcome civil servants and "patriots" in the unnamed homelands into their fold, and to encourage people to reject leaders who "climb to power over the corpses of our people". Mr. Mandela said although President F.W. de Klerk had responded very well to the reform initiatives undertaken by the ANC, he failed to normalize the situation in these homelands because they were "run by his puppets". On the breakdown of negotiations, Mr. Mandela said the Government's intransigence on certain issues had led to the 14-point list of demands being presented by the ANC. The issues included the type of majority needed to approve a new constitution, government's insistence on a senate or upper house "of losers" to veto decisions, the refusal to agree to a constituent assembly drawing up the constitution, and violence in South Africa. Mr. Mandela said he was optimistic about the future of continued negotiations. (SAPA0812)

## **NP DEFEATS HNP IN FLORIDA BY-ELECTION**

The NP [National Party] won the Florida by-election last night with a majority of 3 000 votes. The by-election came about after former Finance Minister Barend du Plessis retired from politics earlier this year. Local Government and Housing Minister Leon Wessels said he hoped this would be the last of the whites-only elections. (BD/BLD/CIT/CP/CT/NM/PAT/PN/RAP/SOW/STR/TVL/VW/WM0813)



## **DR. T: WE'LL SETTLE FOR A SMALLER HOMELAND**

The Conservative Party (CP) will settle for a smaller national Afrikaner homeland, without incorporating Colored Afrikaners, CP leader Dr Andries Treurnicht said last night. He also said he rejected any negotiations with the African National Congress because the organization was multi-ethnic and not representative of a single people. (CIT/BD0811)

## **CP'S FIVE REBELS RESIGN FROM PARTY**

Five dissident CP [Conservative Party] MPs [Members of Parliament] resigned from the party last night. They are Andries Beyers (Potchefstroom), Free State leader Cehill Pienaar (Heilbron), Moolman Mentz (Ermelo), Rosier de Ville (Standerton) and Chris de Jager (Bethal). We have had enough. We just keep bumping heads with the hardliners," De Ville said. (BD/BLD/CIT/CP/CT/NM/PAT/PN/RAP/SOW/STR/TVL/VW/WM0814)

## **NP WELCOMES BREAKAWAY**

Commenting on the split in the CP [Conservative Party] caused by the resignation of five dissident members, the NP [National Party] said the directionless and unimaginative guidance of the CP leadership had been powerless to prevent the process. "The National Party welcomes the fact that those who broke away from the CP caucus are prepared to negotiate. It is a positive development which has been long awaited," the NP said. (CIT0814)

## **SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE PRAISED IN ANGOLA**

United Nations representatives in Angola and the Angolan Government praised the South African Air Force (SAAF) for its excellent work in assisting in the establishment of election points in that country. Brig. Dick Lord, who was in charge of the operation, told a press briefing at the SAAF headquarters in Pretoria that the operation, in 11 of Angola's 18 provinces, took the Air Force less time than anticipated. (SAPA0811)

## **NEW MISSIONS**

South Africa is opening four new overseas missions, extending its presence in the former Soviet bloc and initiating diplomatic contact with the Far East. Missions were being established in Kiev in the Ukraine, St. Petersburg in Russia, Bangkok in Thailand and in Singapore, Foreign Affairs director-general designate Rusty Evans said yesterday. (BD0812)

## **STATEMENT BY THE STATE PRESIDENT, MR. F.W. DE KLERK ON AUGUST 13, 1992**

The Government has decided to create a new post with a view to expanding its communication with the media. It has accordingly been decided to appoint Mr. D.W. Steward, currently Head of the South African Communication Service, to this post as Government spokesman with effect from 1 September 1992. His main task will be to facilitate with regard to the provision of current information, the presentation of background briefings and the organization of regular public press conferences by myself and/or members of the Government. He will furthermore provide the Government with general communication advice and will assist with the coordination of Government communication.

## **ECONOMIC UPDATE**

### **U.N. CASH FOR FORMER EXILES**

Thousands of former political exiles are to be given loans from United Nations funds to launch their own small business ventures. As many as 14 000 new mini-firms are expected to be created under the scheme, which the planners estimate should generate jobs for about 100 000 unemployed workers. The project will be set in motion with an initial R1 million allocation for loans of up to R6 000 - expected to create about 2 000 new business enterprises. (STR0811)

## **U.N. CASH ADDED TO BUSINESS PLAN TO CREATE JOBS FOR RETURNED EXILES**

Loans for more than 700 proposed small business ventures in South Africa from U.N. funds are being assessed as part of an initiative to create employment for returned exiles and former political prisoners, officials confirmed yesterday. A special loan scheme set up at the end of June by the National Co-ordinating Committee for Repatriation (NCCR) received a cash injection of R1m from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and is being operated in conjunction with the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC). (BD0812)

## **U.S. BUSINESS GROUP PLANS FINANCIAL BOOST FOR PEACE**

The American Chamber of Commerce has launched a campaign to raise R1 million for the National Peace Accord (NPA). "We're mailing invitations to about 350 companies and hope to net at least 60 (companies). The first 60 companies would be founder sponsors which we hope will continue to sponsor the peace initiative." The money will be used to assist the NPA in setting up and maintaining conflict resolution structures in communities plagued by violence. (STR0813)

## **OAU WELCOMES SOUTH AFRICA AS EXHIBITOR AT FAIR**

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) leadership has approved for the first time South African participation in an African trade fair next month alongside 31 of its members states. Safto marketing executive Ann Matthews said yesterday the OAU secretariat had agreed to let South African exhibitors take part in the Regional Export Fair in Bulawayo next month. (BD0813)

## **SOUTH AFRICA, RUSSIA SIGN TECHNOLOGY PACT**

South Africa and Russia yesterday signed a declaration of intent providing for wide-ranging co-operation in the development and marketing of



mineral technologies. The agreement, signed yesterday by Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett and Russian Federation Atomic Energy Minister Nikitich Michailov, is principally aimed at the creation of joint commercial ventures. The immediate aim of the agreement is to embark on a program which could lead to the worldwide commercialization of the resin-in-pulp extraction process for goldbearing ores. (BD/CIT0813)

### **BRITAIN, SOUTH AFRICA SIGN A NEW AIR TREATY**

The new bilateral air services agreement between South Africa and Britain, which allows for free competition, was signed by South African Transport Minister Piet Welgemoed in London yesterday. (BD0812)

### **COLLECTION OF REVENUE STILL BEHIND BUDGET'S ESTIMATES**

Revenue collected for the exchequer for the first four months of this financial year increased by 4,9 % compared with the equivalent period in the previous financial year, figures released at the weekend by the Central Statistical Service (CSS) show. But the 22,576bn collected in the period April to July represented 26,6 % of the amount voted for the financial year - down from 28,8 % collected last year and well below the 33 % needed to keep pace with budget estimates, Sapa reports. (BD0817)

### **GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY CUT SQUEEZES SMALL BUSINESS**

The Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) had been forced to cut loans by almost 30 % because of government's virtual elimination of its subsidy, SBDC MD Ben Vosloo said yesterday. Meanwhile, inquiries from aspirant businessmen about loans were pouring in at the rate of 2 000 a day - almost double the rate of last year. The cuts the SBDC had been forced to make come at a time when SA's employment outlook is far from bright. The SBDC has estimated that only 7 % of the 380 000 people writing matric this

year will find employment next year. In its first 11 years the SBDC claims to have created 310 000 jobs at an average cost of R9 000 a job. Government this year cut state capital funding for the SBDC from R100m to under R8m. (BD0811)

### **DE BEERS SHARES LOSE SPARKLE**

Shares of De Beers - South Africa's biggest company - dropped sharply on the JSE yesterday afternoon after it reported a 26 percent drop in earnings and warned that the final dividend may be cut. It blames the setback on the recession in Europe, Japan and North America and on sales of illicit uncut diamonds from Angola. (STR0812)

### **DE BEERS DENIES MISLEADING MARKET OVER STATE OF DIAMOND INDUSTRY**

De Beers chairman Julian Ogilvie Thompson has dismissed suggestions that the group has misled the market over the parlous state of the diamond business. He said De Beers' decision to announce it might have to cut its final dividends, which surprised and shocked most analysts, was based on a sudden deterioration of the outlook for the diamond market in July. He denied reports that only weeks before the interim results were published, the group had informed some stockbrokers the final dividend would not be cut. De Beers director Berti Lincold said directors had met stockbrokers in recent weeks. While they had said it was unlikely the interim dividend would be reduced, it was too early to comment on whether the final dividends were at risk. Ogilvie Thompson said the decision was taken at a board meeting on Monday, and the market informed as soon as possible. The group declared a total interim dividend of \$0,251 a De Beers/Centenary linked unit, marginally above last year's amount, but lower in rand terms at 69,6c (71,3c). (BD0814)

### **MARKET REELS AS DE BEERS STOCKS PLUNGE**

De Beers shares fell nearly 10 % on the JSE yesterday as the stock

market staggered in the aftermath of the group's warning that it might cut its final dividends for only the second time in its history. The De Beers collapse triggered the largest fall in the all share index since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait last August. The overall index plunged 101 points to its lowest since October 21 1991, closing at 3 208. Dealers held out little hope for a JSE recovery in the short term, with shares likely to fall lower this week. They could see "blood on the market floor". (BD/BLD/CIT/CP/CT/NM/PAT/PN/RAP/SOW/STR/TVL/VW/WM0813)

### **GOLD PRICE DIP ADDS TO JSE GLOOM**

The slide in stock market prices on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange continued yesterday as further bad news in the form of a sharply lower gold price depressed sentiment and sent investors hurrying for cover. Overall the JSE dropped by another 54 points yesterday to bring its decline to 154 points since the beginning of the week. (STR/BD/BLD/CIT/CP/CT/NM/PAT/PN/RAP/SOW/TVL/VW/WM0814)

### **DROUGHT THREATENING JOBS**

Up to 69 000 jobs could be lost in the agricultural and associated sectors as a result of the past year's drought, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekers says. He told the Northern Cape Agricultural Union annual congress in Kimberley yesterday that if it was accepted that the gross value of the agricultural sector in 1992 would be 14 % lower than in 1991, the GDP growth rate would fall by 1,8 % and 69 000 jobs would be lost in these sectors. Van Niekerk said other serious macro-economic consequences included a decline in agricultural production which could raise the inflation rate by 0,8 %. The current account on the balance of payments could also be weakened. Van Niekerk said some farmers blamed government for maintaining interest rates at an artificially high level. However, government did not dictate monetary policy to the Reserve Bank. He said government had launched the most comprehensive aid package yet. (BD0812)



## R150m PAID OUT TO FARMERS

More than R150m in government drought aid had been distributed since April, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk said yesterday. The largest amounts had gone to interest subsidies on carry-over debt (R55m), debt consolidation (R39,5m), interest subsidies on production credit (R26,6m) and relief for stock farmers (R25,3m). (BD0814)

## SOCIAL UPDATE

### EDITORIAL COMMENT: THE SOWETAN: "SCHOOL CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN MASS ACTION CAMPAIGN"

When we express dismay about calls for school children to join political action we speak from bitter experience. We are particularly sensitive to the problems that school children in Soweto normally experience. As they are the most highly politicized group in the country they tend to extend such action long after others have stopped. We were thus totally unhappy about their participation in the mass action that took place a week ago. While we understand the commitment from Sadtu [South African Democratic Teachers' Union] about their contribution and involvement in political demonstrations, there are too many difficulties in involving school children. Major political organizations like the ANC are, in fact, against the involvement of pupils in political action. For, while the ANC and its allies made their point in a powerful fashion in their two-day strike, the school children in Soweto stayed out of class for the entire week. (SOW0812)

### OLYMPIANS GET ROUSING WELCOME

South African sports stars returning from Barcelona yesterday were given a tumultuous welcome by an enthusiastic group of fans, friends and family. While some waved South African flags and yelled for the Springboks, another group sang

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika, chanted freedom songs and ululated. Extinguishing the flame set alight outside the airport before the athletes left, National Olympic Committee of South Africa president Sam Ramsamy said they had gone to the Games to take part and not to get medals, so the silver medals were a wonderful bonus. (STR/BD/BLD/CIT/CP/CT/NM/PAT/PN/RAP/SOW/TVL/VW/WM0812)

### EXPERTS AGREE - SPRINGBOK BACKS ARE WORLD CLASS

South Africa could have won a full scale Test series against New Zealand. This was the opinion of several former Springbok rugby players after the All Blacks won the one-off Test 27-24, after leading 10-0 at halftime, at Ellis Park on Saturday. "There is no doubt - we would have beaten them, but because of limited preparation and a lack of experience, we lost the Test. "The All Blacks did not make many mistakes and stuck to the basics, but we produced an enterprising display of running rugby," said former Springbok captain Wynand Claassen. (CIT/BD/BLD/CP/CT/NM/PAT/PN/RAP/SOW/STR/TVL/VW/WM0817)

### SOUTH AFRICA ADMITTED TO SOCCER WORLD CUP

South Africa, who rejoined the international soccer community last month after a 28-year absence, was granted permission yesterday to enter the 1994 World Cup along with Namibia and Benin. (CIT0811)

### SOUTH AFRICA THRASHED BY ZIMBABWE

South Africa were thrashed 4 - 1 by Zimbabwe in their first African Nations Cup qualifying clash at Harare's Nations Sports Stadium yesterday. The home side led 2-1 at halftime. This was South Africa's first official CAF fixture and the occasion seemed to get to some of the players. (CIT/BD/BLD/CP/CT/NM/PAT/PN/RAP/SOW/STR/TVL/VW/WM0817)

## FRIENDLY CITY SCOOPS 1997 WORLD GAMES

The city will host the 1997 World Games, the biggest sporting event to be held in South Africa. Port Elizabeth clinched the event from Brisbane after a visit by two members of the International World Games Association last week. The decision was taken by the Association's executive committee in the Hague, Netherlands. (BD0817)

*Note: The current exchange rate is  
US\$1.00 = R2.77*

## SOURCES

Sources from which this newsletter is compiled are:

Sowetan (SOW), Citizen (CIT), Business Day (BD), Star (STR), Natal Mercury (NM), Pretoria News (PN), Beeld (BLD), Sunday Times (ST), Sunday Star (SSTR), Argus (ARG), City Press (CP), South African Press Association (SAPA), Transvaal (TVL), Sunday Tribune (STRIB), Cape Times (CT), Weekly Mail (WM).

### Circulation Figures:

Business Day (BD) - 32,000  
Beeld (BLD) - 62,000  
Citizen (CIT) - 242,000  
City Press (CP) - 128,000  
Cape Times (CT) - 119,000  
Natal Mercury (NM) - 62,000  
Pretoria News (PN) - 42,000  
Rapport (RAP) - 360,000  
Sowetan (SOW) - 200,000  
Sunday Times (ST) - 530,000  
Transvaal (TVL) - 42,000  
Weekly Mail (WM) - 27,000

NB: This news summary reflects the wording and terminology of various newspapers. It does not reflect the views or choice of words of this Consulate General. Comments are welcome.