

Chief asks DAILY NEWS churches' 1 Aug. 1986 attitudes to violence

ULUNDI: Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi today called on South African churches to state "quite unambiguously" their positions on sanctions and violence and commended King Goodwill Zwelithini of the Zulus for his courage in challenging Anglican and Catholic church leaders on these issues.

Chief Buthelezi pointed out that the Anglican Church was affiliated to the South African Council of Churches, which had indicated support for the African National Congress mission in exile whose "official policy was to kill people".

He urged the broad mass of Christians in South Africa to speak out now on whether they supported disinvestment, sanctions and violence.

The controversy over church attitudes arose when King Goodwill accused Anglican and Catholic leaders at the weekend of supporting sanctions and violence without consulting their

followers. This brought a denial from the Anglican Bishop of Natal, the Rt Rev Michael Nuttall.

Chief Buthelezi described Bishop Nuttall's attempts to dissociate the Anglican Church from the stance taken by its leader Bishop Desmond Tutu "in his personal capacity" regarding sanctions as "patently ridiculous — apart from the fact that the King made no mention whatsoever of Bishop Tutu in his address".

The King (who, like Chief Buthelezi, is an Anglican) had every right to articulate his distress about issues such as sanctions and violence which affected his people, the chief said.

The SACC spoke on behalf of its affiliates throughout South Africa and the world. The Anglican Church had never, to his knowledge, distanced itself from stances taken by the SACC, Chief Buthelezi said. —Sapa

cent landmines laid on the borders of the Transvaal, should be regarded as non-combatants.

On the contrary, he said, the farming community as a whole was a prime target for attack because it had been drawn into the South African security system.

Nor did negotiation receive serious attention. Negotiations, Mr Tambo emphasised, need not await the cessation of violence. They could begin whenever the South African Government chose.

His comments left a firm impression that the gap between the ANC and the South African Government is simply too wide to be bridgeable.

Mr Botha's minimum demand that the ANC forswear violence before negotiations begin is clearly unacceptable to the ANC leadership, old and young.

At the same time, the ANC's first and minimum condition for talks to begin is the release of Mandela, Mbeki and others.

Further conditions, Mr Tambo pointed out, would in any event follow even if the first condition were met.

This hardline stance rests upon a perception of Nationalist policy as being bankrupt. The ANC views the South African Government as able only to react to events, not to direct them.

Reform programme

As a result, the ANC leadership clearly believes it has the initiative and it is trying to step up the pressure.

Mr Tambo explained that it was the aim of the ANC not only to step up its own attacks, in keeping with the Kabwe decision to send all resources to the front line, but also to organise support by so-called 'mass units' — military groups of varying size drawn from the local populace.

Apparently anxious that President Botha's reform programme will co-opt potential ANC allies, the ANC loses no opportunity to attack or denigrate any attempt by the Government to reform apartheid.

Repeating (apparently deliberately) the words of the Leader of the Opposi-

tion in the Assembly, Dr F van Zyl Slabbert, Mr Tambo said apartheid could not be reformed, only abolished.

Indeed, Mr Tambo took credit for destroying the community council system by insisting that all councillors resign.

Inevitably, he conceded, some of those who did not resign were killed.

Now the ANC hopes to take the matter further by establishing its own 'democratic councils' for each community, elected on the basis of one man, one vote, without regard to race.

Mr Tambo spoke warmly, both in the broadcast statement and at his Press conference, of those people, including whites, who opposed apartheid even if they did not support the ANC.

'Mixed economy'

His most conciliatory comments appeared to be directed to these factions and parties, and he went out of his way to say that the Freedom Charter permitted a 'mixed economy', that South Africa after 'liberation' would be multiracial, and that it would be a democracy in which he expected a variety of parties to emerge.

Neither labour nor big business, white conscripts nor liberal opponents of apartheid, nor indeed, students at Stellenbosch, were excluded from his appeal for support to overthrow apartheid.

In pursuing its aim of making 'apartheid unworkable and the country ungovernable' the ANC is broadcasting specific instructions for a new campaign against the pass laws, and is asking the unions — especially the mine-workers — to live up to their 'revolutionary tradition'.

However, Mr Tambo left no doubt that in this year of Umkhonto, the keynote was violence and the slogan was 'attack'.

In Pretoria, a police spokesman said last night that Mr Tambo was trying to throw up a smokescreen to cover ruthless ANC attacks on innocent people.

The ANC had in the past admitted responsibility for most of the attacks on civilians but blaming such attacks on undisciplined terrorists could only be described as trying to beg the question, Sapa reported.

Five hurt in bomb trap

Mercury Reporter

THREE policemen, including a colonel, were among five men hurt last night when a booby-trap bomb exploded as they were investigating an earlier blast at an electrical sub-station in Durban's Jacobs industrial area.

Sgt R van der Merwe, 27, was in a critical condition in Addington Hospital early today, while Col Robert Welman, 49, and Mr M Dunn, 52, a Durban Corporation electricity department official, were both in serious condition in the hospital.

One policeman and another corporation worker were treated and sent home. All the injured were white.

Mr Dunn had been seen standing waiting for an ambulance after the blast, his shirt in rags and skin hanging from badly burned arms and legs.

The men had been sent to investigate an explosion in Austerville Drive which had been heard as far away as Morningside.

A police spokesman said they had been in the grounds of the sub-station when a second bomb went off about 25 minutes after the first. The flash of the blast had caused the injuries.

Said Mr H Adams, who was at the scene shortly after the first blast: 'I was knocked off my feet and when I looked over my shoulder I saw three men come out of the sub-station with flames on their backs.'

Col Welman's synthetic fibre shirt disintegrated in the blast and he was left standing in only his shorts.

We'll go for white areas, says Tambo

NATAL MERCURY 10/1/86

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LUSAKA—The president of the African National Congress, Oliver Tambo, yesterday detailed its plans to intensify a campaign of violence in 1986 to turn sporadic terrorist activity into a full-scale 'people's war'.

The campaign included plans to widen the conflict beyond the borders of the townships into white areas, to continue attacks on white farming communities and to enlist the support of various groups within South Africa.

In the crossfire

Throughout a Press conference lasting nearly two hours, Mr Tambo reaffirmed and elaborated the contents of a bellicose, 18-page statement issued by the ANC, and broadcast by Mr Tambo himself, on Wednesday night.

He gave no sign of a softening of the ANC's position and no indication that he regarded negotiations with South Africa as more than a theoretical possibility.

Special Correspondent

Civilians, Mr Tambo said bluntly, would be caught in the crossfire as the ANC stepped up its attacks and although the ANC itself would not deliberately attack such 'soft targets' as schools, supermarkets and shopping centres, he did not rule out the possibility that over-zealous cadres would do so.

Mr Tambo suggested, but did not actually say, that this was the explanation for the Amanzimtoti bomb attack just before Christmas.

He burst out laughing when a questioner suggested that the unit responsible for the attack should be disciplined for exceeding ANC policy.

The Press conference was held before about 150 people, many of them members of the diplomatic corps, at

the United Nations Namibia Institute here.

Foreign journalists, including South Africans, had been cleared without fuss or formality through Zambian immigration provided their names were on a list compiled by the ANC.

Their bags were closely searched as they entered the building, but they were not subjected to body searches. There were no arms or uniformed men in evidence.

Mr Tambo, flanked by ANC leaders and watched closely by security guards, sat before rows of bookshelves that contained, among other things, 45 volumes of the complete works of Lenin.

However, the occasion was free of

any show of Left-wing or revolutionary symbols.

The ANC leaders, neatly dressed in business suits and ties, resembled members of a Western business convention more than revolutionaries intent on launching and pursuing a full-scale war.

Mr Tambo's comments, though delivered in a slow, schoolmasterish tone and phrased with care, confirmed in detail the uncompromising stance taken when the leaders of the banned organisation met at Kabwe in Zambia for an historic policy-making session last June.

Permission to quote him was granted last night by the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange.

At Kabwe the ANC leaders had determined to concentrate their resources on the 'front line' — inside South Africa itself — and to attack military and strategic targets without regard to the risk towards civilians.

Escalating warfare

Closely questioned on this point yesterday, Mr Tambo predicted increasing civilian casualties, saying they were unavoidable in a situation of escalating warfare.

At one stage, as foreign journalists tried to determine the implications of the policy, he burst out: 'I don't see why I need to be cross-questioned like this.'

On Mr Tambo's left during the conference sat the rising young star Thabo Mbeki, son of Govan Mbeki who has shared prison with Nelson Mandela for more than 20 years, and veteran secretary general, Alfred Nkomo.

On his right were long-time leaders Thomas Nkobi and Dan Tloome and the watching crowd was the young Palo Jordan, a close associate of assassinated communist, Ruth First.

All these men and a large section of the spectators applauded talk of increasing violence and wider warfare.

They joined Mr Tambo in laughing at the man who suggested disciplining cadres that deliberately attacked targets.

Similarly, Mr Tambo gave scant respect to a suggestion that farmers and their families, like the victims of