

AP1991-11-10-21

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

21/10/91 London

THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

Ten steps to secure 'just and honest' rule

By Philip Johnston in Harare

A TEN-POINT declaration enshrining a commitment to human rights and "just and honest" government was signed by Commonwealth leaders meeting at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe yesterday.

The text, largely framed by Britain, contains many of the points sought by Mr Major during five days of talks at the Commonwealth Summit, and was widely regarded last night as a diplomatic success for the Prime Minister.

There has been a concerted effort in Harare to encourage those states unaccustomed to democratic practices and suspect on human rights to mend their ways.

Mr Major in particular has stressed the linkage of aid to "good government" but has also sought to combine any implied pressure with practical measures — such as last week's announcement that Britain would unilaterally write off debts owed by the poorest countries.

The declaration published last night reflects Mr Major's preference for diplomatic encouragement rather than overt threats.

The declaration appears to have placed Britain once more in an influential role in the Commonwealth after years of conflict over South Africa. Mr Major is judged by most observers in Harare to have made an impressive first outing as Prime Minister at a summit which is always potentially fractious.

His ability to steer away from a renewed row on South Africa is due primarily to the changes that have taken place in the Republic since the last Commonwealth Summit two years ago. The extent to which the South African issue has been sidelined is apparent from the declaration, which refers to it only fleetingly.

However, the Conference

communique, due to be published tomorrow on the final day of the Summit, is likely to address the South African question more directly.

The declaration recommends that tactical steps should be taken to help countries wishing to entrench democratic practices.

These would include providing observers and expert assistance in the running of free elections and establishing accountable administration and a rule of law.

The Victoria Falls declaration pledges the Commonwealth's members "to work with renewed vigour" in 10 separate areas:

- The protection and promotion of the fundamental political values of the Commonwealth. These should include democracy, the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary and just and honest government.
- Equality for women.
- The provision of universal access to education.
- Continuing action to end apartheid and establish a free, democratic, non-racial and prosperous South Africa.
- The promotion of sustainable development and the

alleviation of poverty through sound economic management, effective population policies and free trade.

- Extending the benefits of development within a framework of human rights.
- The protection of the environment.
- Action to combat drug trafficking and abuse and communicable diseases.
- Help for small Commonwealth states in tackling their particular economic and security problems.
- Support for United Nations peace and disarmament initiatives.

● A Commonwealth fact-finding mission is to visit South Africa to monitor the progress being made towards multi-party democracy amid concern that President de Klerk's reform programme may be stalling.

It will be headed by Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary-General, who said in Harare last night that the summit was concerned about the escalation of violence and its possible effect on talks.

"We call on the South African government as well as all the parties in South Africa to bring the violence to an end as a matter of utmost urgency," he said.

● Fred Bridgland in Johannesburg writes: South Africa's constitutional negotiating process looks in danger of collapse as the State President, Mr F W de Klerk, and the African National Congress leader Mr Nelson Mandela exchange insults.

Mr Mandela yesterday said the ANC had been naive to trust Mr de Klerk in the light of the recent township violence, which, the ANC says, was stirred up by the police. Mr de Klerk has called the ANC claim "unfounded".

Major nurses back injury

MR MAJOR returned to Harare from a weekend visit to Victoria Falls yesterday nursing a sore back — the legacy of playing in the Commonwealth heads of government cricket challenge last week.

The Prime Minister, 47, who had been reluctant to take part in the game because of a knee injury sustained in a car accident 25 years ago, apparently over-compensated for his bad leg and put too much strain on his back.

Crawford 6.9.91

A DESAI

No idea what Islam is about

THE ridiculous letter by "Rational" cannot be left unanswered.

It is clear that this person is narrow-minded and definitely of slight intellect. He sounds as if he has never met a Muslim, neither does he have the slightest idea of what Islam is all about.

Islam is a universal religion and has nothing to do with race and creed. The annual pilgrimage to Mecca is a beautiful example of this, where Muslims of numerous origins and cultures come together in harmony.

Sure, the world is full of narrow-minded bigots. Our own country has so many of them, Eugene Terre'Blanche being a fine example (he's certainly not Muslim).

I suggest you take some time to study the religion of Islam. Who knows? Perhaps you will become a Muslim and follow the religion of peace. XXX

MUSLIM RATIONAL

Rondebosch East

Thought for Today

"If you love me you will obey what I command" — JOHN 14.15

It is not enough to accept Jesus as our Lord. We must prove our allegiance by carrying out his commands.

2 Cape Times, Monday, October 21 1991 ★

Swedes surprise Ramsamy

STOCKHOLM. — South African Olympic chief and anti-apartheid campaigner Mr Sam Ramsamy is to appeal against a decision by a Swedish sports body partly to end its boycott of South Africa.

"I am surprised and astonished. We will appeal for the decision to be changed," Mr Ramsamy, head of the National Olympic Committee of South Africa (Nocsa) and the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (Sanroc), told the Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter on Saturday.

The board of the Swedish Sports Confederation on Friday ended a ban on sporting contacts with SA in cricket, golf, cycling, tennis, equestrian sports and yachting. — Sapa-Reuter

Queen 'may

Own Correspondent

LONDON. — Queen Elizabeth may confer knighthoods on President FW de Klerk and ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela on a royal tour of South Africa if it rejoins the Commonwealth, claims a report in the Sunday Express here yesterday.

The report from the Commonwealth summit in Harare says: "The astonishing move, revealed yesterday (Saturday), could come as soon as they (Mr De Klerk and Mr Mandela) settle their differences and create a non-racial democratic government."

'ANC policy economic death wish for SA'

Business Staff

23-10-91 Arg.

SOUTH Africa's economic recovery will be inhibited by lack of confidence within and without the country," says Mr Ernest Wilson, president of the Cape Chamber of Industries.

"Investment needs are urgent in almost every sector of our manufacturing industry but neither local nor overseas investment is likely on the scale we require, until the future constitution has been hammered out," he said in his presidential address at the chamber's annual meeting in Cape Town last night.

"In these circumstances of indecision, the ANC chose recently to signal almost an economic death wish for our country when they resurrected the spectre of nationalisation as a cornerstone of an ANC economic policy, coupled with a possible intent to default in our international debt repayments."

Economic performance in the Western Cape during the past year had been much better than in the rest of the year, Mr Wilson said.

□ AGAINST SANCTIONS

Why should exiles get preferential job opportunities?

I WAS amazed to hear a regional leader of the ANC in Natal directing a request on September 25 (SABC) to private industry to assist with the employment of about 40 000 returning "exiles."

The illogical request immediately raised additional questions about the ability and maturity of the ANC to play a major role in the government of South Africa.

How is it possible to ask for the maintenance of sanctions and high employment figures at the same time? Anybody with the most rudimentary knowledge of basic economics knows these two things are mutually exclusive.

In fact once the ANC understands this relationship they will most probably also realise that their continued request for sanctions is probably one of the most important reasons why unemployment is rife and that they are at least co-responsible for the present unemployment.

Why should any one of the returning "exiles", many of whom exiled themselves, receive preferential treatment in employment over those who stayed here and tried to build a better country?

Except for intimidation and boycotts, what earthly reason would exist for a private industry (which is creating a larger cake for all to share through taxes and so on) to employ somebody supported by an organisation whose aim is the destruction of the same industry through sanctions and talk of nationalisation?

The ANC is invited to reply to this letter, using acceptable democratic norms.

J A SCHOLTZ
Paarl

War of words after Reef train massacre

The Argus Correspondents

JOHANNESBURG. — The ANC has questioned measures adopted by the police and Spoornet to protect train commuters before the attack which left nine people dead and dozens injured.

Commuters jumped off moving trains and fled for their lives early yesterday during attacks at three stations on the Soweto-Johannesburg line.

Later in the day a huge security force contingent patrolled stations between Johannesburg and Soweto.

Commuters on three packed trains were also searched. No incidents were reported despite wild rumours that more attacks had taken place.

The killings raised the death toll in five days of bloodshed to at least 45, further rocking a fragile national peace accord.

More than 200 people have died violently since 24 political, community, church and labour groups signed the peace pact on September 14.

ANC spokesman for the Reef Mr

Bavule Vilakhazi said yesterday: "The escalation (in violence) raises serious questions about security measures adopted by the police and Spoornet in protecting commuters."

He said the massacre came shortly before the Patriotic Front conference and the pending national strike on November 4 and 5.

"We reject the claims made that the attack was in retaliation for the killing of a Zulu," Mr Vilakhazi said.

Earlier Transvaal Inkatha Youth Brigade leader Themba Khoza had blamed the ANC for the killings.

"This clash occurred when a group of ANC supporters prevented people from boarding or leaving the train," he said.

The ANC denied the charge and called the attack — the second assault on rail commuters in two days — an outrage.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus called on Mr Khoza not to make hasty allegations, but to make use of the structures of the peace accord to resolve his differences.

—Now moves towards a conference—

IT seems it helps to blow off a bit of steam now and again. After the De Klerk-ANC squabble last week there has suddenly been movement towards a multi-party conference.

After President De Klerk's outburst against the ANC and the movement's sharp retort it appeared there would be a stalemate situation for a while.

Having called the ANC "spoilers", standing in the way of what the vast majority of South Africans really want, Mr De Klerk had no choice but to sit back and wait until the ANC and its allies were ready.

Although they were irritated by this, government leaders were resigned to the fact that there would not be any further movement towards a multiparty conference until after the Patriotic Front conference in Durban at the end of the month.

Some said the ANC was acting like a naughty child and any attempted pressure to get it to the conference table at this stage could only make matters worse. A working committee of the government and the ANC which was supposed to consider some preliminary arrangements for a multiparty conference had come to a standstill.

Then Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, secretary-general of the ANC, issued a significant statement.

He said that in order to expedite the negotiation process the ANC believed it was necessary for the "all-party congress" to be convened before the end of the year. To this end the ANC was entering into a period of intense activity both within the movement and with other organisations in preparation for negotiations between all parties.

Extensive discussions on the transition process had been held with Azapo, the PAC, SACP, and Cosatu in recent months. Talks had also been held with the Democratic Party.

The ANC was now preparing to engage at once in bilateral talks with all other parties, including the National Party, the Labour Party, the Inkatha Freedom Party, parties in the non-independent homelands and the governments of Venda and Transkei.

These talks were being initiated with a view to convening the all-party congress as soon as possible in line with the desire of the majority of South Africans, Mr Ramaphosa said.

Another encouraging signal has come from Mr Nelson Mandela who said that the ANC was going ahead with plans for an all-party conference in spite of the wave of violence



Commentary by TOS WENTZEL

Following quickly on this there was a meeting yesterday between ANC and government representatives to discuss the multiparty conference. There are to be further meetings. This was the first time there had been an announcement of formal contact between the two sides on the issue.

Mr De Klerk clearly feels, above all, that the present uncertainty in the country must be countered with some move towards negotiations. From all sides there is now the desire to start in some way.

The country may be going through its most difficult phase right now.

Some of the President's top advisers have no illusions about even exploratory talks being all plain sailing. One of them said this week that the euphoria about the reform measures and the good rapport between Mr De Klerk and Mr Nelson Mandela had faded.

Now it seems to be a question of getting down to the nitty gritty and to deal with the problems that have been accumulating, problems which are being stressed more and more.

Among these are economic policies, power-sharing on the way to a new South Africa and the question of an interim government or transitional arrangements.

The government has been greatly concerned about the ANC's loose talk about nationalisation, the honouring of foreign loans and a wealth tax.

The concern is that these statements could scare off foreign investors although the ANC tries to cover itself by saying these issues are mainly being raised as points of discussion and that it is open to suggestions.

After an understanding has been reached between the main participants in a multiparty conference, Mr De Klerk will then issue invitations with movements such as the ANC as co-sponsors. One of the main issues to be dealt with at the first meeting will be the consideration of invitations to further groups. On occasions special interest groups who

will not participate throughout will be invited.

At the start of the talks there will have to be decisions on a chairman, on how the talks will be run and on how decisions will be taken.

It was an historic occasion this week when Mr De Klerk had talks with the World Council of Churches general secretary, Dr Emilio Castro. Also present was the general secretary of the SA Council of Churches, the Rev Frank Chikane.

Dr Castro said afterwards the group had prayed together at the request of Mr De Klerk.

Such a meeting with any other Nationalist president would have been unthinkable and it again illustrates the tremendous changes in South Africa.

The Cottesloe inter-church conference on racial problems in 1960 which was convened by the WCC led to criticism of apartheid and caused tremendous ructions in the Ned Geref Church because their delegates identified themselves with the original statement.

The Ned Geref Church subsequently broke with the WCC because of, among other things, pressure from Dr Verwoerd. Since then the WCC had been presented by Nationalist propagandists as being part of the international onslaught against the country.

But with Mr De Klerk's actions in dismantling apartheid such a meeting has become possible.

Before the meeting, Mr De Klerk said he had no doubt that Dr Castro's perceptions would be changed by his visit. "You will find South Africa in the middle of a very dynamic process of change. We are working towards a just society," he said.

Mr De Klerk told Dr Castro that, as far as he was concerned, some of the transitional measures on the way to a new South Africa were already in place. This appeared to be a reference to the increased accountability of the police and the security forces to the public.

Last week Mr De Klerk took a short break at his holiday house in Hermanus while the Cape Nationalist congress met in the Strand.

He had presented the party's constitutional proposals in his opening speech at Stellenbosch as being in line with successful democratic systems all over the free world.

At the congress the proposals were enthusiastically supported. It is in his own province, the Transvaal, that Mr De Klerk may pick up some trouble when the party congress there has to consider the proposals.

On the other hand, only the really faithful get to party congresses these days.

Mandela denounces FW

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The bitter war of words between Mr Nelson Mandela and President FW de Klerk escalated at the weekend.

Mr Mandela, in an interview with the SABC on Saturday, said that perhaps the ANC had been naïve to trust Mr De Klerk.

And addressing a crowd of about 4 000 at Fort Hare University on Saturday, he blamed Mr De Klerk for not ending the violence and claimed that those responsible for killing ANC members were either friends of or were "working jointly with the National Party".

Yesterday, while welcoming a group of American VIPs to South Africa, Mr Mandela accused Mr De Klerk of complicity in alleged security force involvement in violence.

Commission to probe violence

— PAGE 5

His remarks followed a weekend interview in which he told the SABC in Harare that Mr De Klerk was not the man of integrity he had believed him to be.

Addressing the visiting Americans, he said: "De Klerk criticised me for remarks I made at the Commonwealth conference in Harare, where I referred to the SA police as the country's killing machine. It is no use for De Klerk to squeal now, because that is the position."

He was responding to Mr De Klerk's questioning the ANC's commitment to the national peace accord.

"We have lost 10 000 people since 1984. The security forces have allowed this carnage to continue, despite the fact that I have taken advantage of confidential meetings to brief De Klerk on the situation.

"It is clear he has either lost control of the security forces or else they are doing exactly what he wants them to do."

LINDA VERGNANI, who attended the Fort Hare rally, reports that Mr Mandela said Mr De Klerk did not care when blacks were killed. Mr Mandela described the president as "a master of evasion" when it came to responding to his statement that the police were "the killing machine".

The police issued a statement last week claiming that 65 trained uMkhonto weSizwe members had

To page 2

From page 1

Mandela

been arrested in connection with violations of the Pretoria Minute, the DF Malan Minute and the Groote Schuur Minute since August last year.

Mr Mandela told the Fort Hare audience of more than 4 000 that the statement about the arrests was likely to be "untrue". He claimed it had been made "for the consumption of the Commonwealth conference".

Mr Mandela said Mr De Klerk had announced that the police force had been increased. "But since the signing of the Peace Accord many people have been killed, including people who are killed when they come from funerals. Where were his police?"

Mr Mandela said: "So many of our people have died, sometimes 30 people died in one day. De Klerk has never made a single statement in which he has condemned such attacks and has called for the arrest and punishment of the criminals. He has never even extended his condolences to the bereaved. What kind of head of state is this? I'll tell you what type of leader he is. De Klerk is a man who is concerned solely with the whites, with his people. He doesn't care for the lives of black people at all and that is why you've never heard him condemn this violence."

Mr Mandela said the real reason for the violence, which the president was "not prepared to stop", was that "the ANC should be destroyed, that everybody should fear to have anything to do with the ANC".

Speaking at Hartswater in the Northern Cape at the weekend, Mr De Klerk accused the ANC of acting in direct contravention of the National Peace Accord with "unfair, unfounded and malicious" allegations about police involvement in violence.

INKATHA

Call it Bothagate

PLEASE allow me to respond fully to the rather offensive and propagandistic allegations by Mr Colin Douglas, DP Youth Chair (Western Cape), (The Argus, July 30).

The so-called Inkathagate scandal raises questions *not*, as Mr Douglas suggests, about the Inkatha Freedom Party's authenticity as a political party but rather about the state's underhand attempts at discrediting what it perceives to be a growing additional power-bloc to contend with.

Bothagate (as it should more aptly be described) has, if anything, unified the party as never before. It has rallied even greater support for its excellent leadership and, sadly for Mr Douglas, it has precipitated a renewed interest in the party and its policies.

Judging by the response of our political opponents, Bothagate has simply underlined the critical importance of the IFP as a key player on the political stage in South Africa. Why else would some people be so overly desperate to destroy a party which allegedly has no policies and no support?

The reality of the matter is that the IFP is seen by, *inter alia*, the ANC/SACP alliance as a huge if not insurmountable obstacle to their designs for political hegemony in South Africa. They know that as long as there is a predominantly black party whose membership figures

(two million plus) greatly overshadows their own, they (ANC/SACP) can never claim to represent the majority of the people.

The short term strategic aims of the ANC/SACP as well as some state operatives is plain to see: Let us greatly simplify the negotiation process by making it a one-on-one dialogue which is far more suited for cosy deal-making.

To this end the IFP power-bloc must be sidelined at all costs. Needless to say, this is an extremely dangerous game with untold disastrous consequences for democracy and stability in the entire sub-continent.

No amount of propaganda will ever be able to remove the IFP as a very real political force, with real mass support, organisational skills and discipline unrivalled in present-day South Africa.

As to IFP membership figures for the Western Cape: Mr Douglas is simply perpetuating the (often) erroneous reporting of the "alternative" Press. No IFP official ever claimed that we have 40 000 members in the Western Cape. I'm really not interested in playing a numbers game with Mr Douglas — it would be an unfair contest especially since the DP Youth's annual conference planned for July was cancelled due to a lack of interest!

The IFP (Western Cape) has only very recently started laying the foundations for a very strong and active party structure. We are delighted with our progress which is structured, for very good strategic and tactical considerations, around a diligent and low-profile approach.

Mr Douglas wishfully labels the IFP as a phoney party. Soon he and others will see just how "phoney" we really are! A luta continua!

NICHOLAS MYBURGH

Stellenbosch

PREFERENCE is given to letters containing the writer's name. Although a pseudonym is acceptable, all letters should carry the name, full residential address or office address (preferably not a P O Box number) and signature of the writer as evidence of good faith. The Editor reserves the right to shorten letters and to select those for publication.

ANC BIAS?

He hit the nail on the head

YOUR evasive response to a letter from Eric Alexander (The Argus, August 1), in which he questions your objectivity and points at your pro-ANC bias, proves that he hit the nail on the head.

In the same issue, Hugh Robertson once again breathed fire against Mr F W de Klerk.

I have never read any repudiation from you, as Editor, against the crazy, one-eyed views of your journalists Robertson and J Qwelane. Neither do you present the opportunity to journalists with opposite views to bring perspective and balance into your editorial chair. You owe it to us readers.

You surely must realise that The Argus can have a very positive effect on the future of our country. By being objective and avoiding the more popular, rabble-rousing, slanted sensationalism you would be doing a lot of good to our disjointed country. So why don't you try?

JOE STEYTTLER

Mandela hits back at FW

ANC president Nelson Mandela yesterday accused President F W de Klerk of being "less than frank" and of complicity in alleged security force involvement in violence.

His remarks followed a weekend interview in which he told the SABC in Harare that De Klerk was not the man of integrity he had believed him to be.

Mandela said that perhaps the ANC had been naive to trust De Klerk.

Addressing visiting Americans including Randall Robinson at a Johannesburg hotel, he said: "Mr de Klerk criticised me for remarks I made at the Commonwealth conference in Harare, where I referred to the SA police as the country's killing machine. It is no use for Mr de Klerk to squeal now, because that is the position."

Business Day

21/10/91 DAVE LOURENS P1

He was responding to De Klerk's questioning the ANC's commitment to the national peace accord.

"We have lost 10 000 people since 1984. The security forces have allowed this carnage to continue, despite the fact that I have taken advantage of confidential meetings to brief Mr de Klerk on the situation. It is clear he has either lost control of the security forces, or else they are doing exactly what he wants them to do."

Mandela said he was delighted his guests on the Democracy Now Tour would be able to "see for yourselves the scars left by the wave of violence sweeping the country".

Four dead, 10 injured after Inkatha rally

FOUR people were shot dead and 10 injured yesterday, allegedly by Inkatha supporters returning from a rally in Soweto.

Two men were killed and nine injured when the occupants of a minibus opened fire on residents in Selby Hostel, West Street, Johannesburg. In a separate incident two men were killed and one was seriously injured when occupants of a train carriage shot at people on a platform.

Police spokesman Ida van Zweel said a minibus with 15 people in it drove up to the entrance of the Selby hostel just after 4pm. Shots fired at the hostel killed two residents. A man was arrested.

BUSINESS DAY 21/10/91 DARIUS SANAI P1

Selby hostel residents are predominantly Xhosa-speaking. Witnesses said that the gunmen were wearing red headbands.

Sapa reports that as a train carrying Inkatha members pulled out of Phefeni station in the afternoon, there was automatic gunfire from the carriages.

Soweto police spokesman Col Jac de Vries said two people were killed. Asked whether it was certain the shots were fired by Inkatha members on the train, De Vries said: "You can quote me on that."

• See Page 2

Police manhunt for killers of seven

BUSINESS DAY 21/10/91
SEVEN people were shot dead and two wounded at Phola near Ogies, east of Johannesburg, at the weekend, police said.

Sapa reports a group of about 20 men were believed to be responsible for the killings and police had launched a massive manhunt for them, police spokesman Capt Cornea Goosen said.

The two wounded men were in a serious condition in the Witbank hospital.

The violence broke out on Friday when two men were shot dead. Three people were gunned down on Saturday, while another body with bullet wounds was found yesterday.

THEO RAWANA reports a further three people — including two policemen — were killed and several were wounded in shooting incidents around the country over the weekend.

A Merafe Hostel resident was arrested after two men, firing at a group of people from a minibus, injured one person.

Police spokesman Col J L de Vries said arms and ammunition were found on the man. He said the man would appear in court soon.

Sapa reports that police confirmed a man was killed and two wounded when gunmen opened fire from a white minibus on a group of men in Vosloorus on the

East Rand on Friday night.


In Daveyton on the East Rand a gunman wounded three men on Friday before disappearing.

In Thokoza, a 20-year-old man was shot and wounded by police yesterday after the police had been shot at.

A police spokesman said a group of about 20 men opened fire on the police as they were returning to a Casspir. A policeman returned fire, injuring one man.

Two police constables were shot dead in Soweto on Friday and Saturday. Their deaths brought to 32 the number of policemen killed in Soweto this year, police said.

Business Day p 3
**US 'tour' ^{21/10/91}
ready to aid
new nation**

DAVE LOURENS 

THE US Democracy Now
Tour arrived in Johan-
nesburg yesterday morn-
ing to spend three days in
SA as guests of the ANC.

Tour leader and veteran
anti-apartheid lobbyist
Randall Robinson said
the group was "ready and
able to help build a new
SA". Among his 33-strong
group are former Wim-
bledon and SA Open
champion Arthur Ashe
and National Council of
Negro Women president
Dorothy Height.

They were welcomed to SA
by ANC leaders Nelson
Mandela, Oliver Tambo
and Cyril Ramaphosa.

Mandela said he was confi-
dent the visit would en-
able the group to per-
suade US opinion-makers
to maintain pressure on
SA until desired demo-
cratic changes had been
achieved.

Robinson reaffirmed black
Americans' solidarity
with South Africans. "All
of us in the US grew up
under harsh segregation
and discrimination. We
have known the pain of
exclusion," he said.

The group is to meet repre-
sentatives of the busi-
ness, labour, sports, cul-
tural and education
sectors but not of govern-
ment.

Azapo dismissed as patriotic front host

Business Day 21/10/91 **WILSON ZWANE** P1

AZAPO has been dismissed as a co-host of this weekend's patriotic front conference.

ANC and PAC officials on the patriotic front's liaison committee told a news conference yesterday the decision to dismiss Azapo as a co-host was taken after "numerous consultations at different levels" to defuse the crisis caused by a controversial Azapo letter to 14 parliamentary and homeland leaders.

The letter from Azapo secretary-general Don Nkademeng warned the leaders that unless they stopped participating in apartheid structures, they would not be welcome at the conference, scheduled for Durban this weekend.

"It was strongly felt that the interest of the whole conference can best be served by reverting to the original convening basis, comprising the ANC and PAC. Azapo will, however, still be welcome to take part fully ... with the same status as all other participants," the officials said.

At a hastily convened news conference, Azapo publicity secretary Strini Moodley read a statement by Azapo president Pandelani Nefolovhodwe which expressed regret that "the front intended to consolidate the final onslaught against the regime is being torpedoed by a seeming need to accommodate liberals and puppets".

Of the letter his organisation had sent, Nefolovhodwe said: "It does not amount to

□ To Page 2

□ From Page 1

a veto against the desire of other liberation movements within the patriotic front to invite government-created structures and formations. Azapo is simply making its attitude clear to the people concerned."

He added that an invitation to his organisation to attend the patriotic front would be considered "when it is received".

Asked why Azapo did not withdraw the letter after it had caused a furor, Moodley said the withdrawal would have been tantamount to his organisation's withdrawing its policies.

He stressed that the letter sought only to underscore what his organisation had been uttering in public. "It was a private letter and nothing would have happened had it been treated as such."

In an earlier joint statement, ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa and PAC secretary-general Benny Alexander had said that "all invitations stand as issued".

DP leader Zach de Beer said his party would have nothing to do with the conference if it had to accept the principles laid down by Azapo.

"Because we are not getting out of Par-

liament, no Democrat can have anything to do with the conference."

He added that even if the letter was withdrawn or Azapo dismissed as one of the conveners of the conference, his party would still want clarification on the patriotic front's interpretation of a constituent assembly — a principle, say the organisers, to which parties participating in the conference should subscribe.

The LP has confirmed that a five-member delegation led by party leader the Rev Allan Hendrikse would attend.

Sapa reports that more than 30 organisations in the Indian community have backed the Transvaal Indian Congress in representing them at the conference.

A TIC statement said a meeting yesterday rejected any participation by members of the House of Delegates at the conference. It would be informing both the conveners and the ANC not to extend invitations to political parties from the House, which was viewed as a "discredited body".

□ The controversial "Azapo letter" about the patriotic front meeting was inadvertently referred to as the "PAC letter" in a front page cross-reference on Friday. Business Day regrets the error.

COMMENT

Road to ruin

NELSON Mandela is home from Harare, having persuaded the Commonwealth to maintain financial sanctions against this country. If he talks to the ANC economists who presumably tried to sell nationalisation to world financial leaders at the IMF meeting, they might conclude that present ANC policies would lead South Africa inevitably to food riots.

Trade sanctions are eroding, whatever the ANC says or the Commonwealth decides, but investment embargoes are not being lifted fast enough to provide the economic stimulus this country needs now. Mandela knows, as British Prime Minister John Major states, that South Africa has 7-million unemployed, and that if foreign investment is delayed until agreement on a new constitution, it will not start producing economic growth and jobs until the late 1990s.

Mandela is determined to make foreign investors wait until he gives the word. By the time he is ready to invite them in, however, they might be less interested in risking their money for an uncertain reward.

An ANC government would, according to present policy, look at the option of nationalising mines, banks and other institutions; if it kept to its promise of fair compensation, government expenditure would soon exceed its revenue. Easily remedied: print lots more money. Then tax the rich to redistribute wealth to the poor, through penal rates for individuals and companies, a capital gains tax, and a nice confiscatory wealth tax. That

would drive both capital and skills out of the country, what little productive capacity was left would be ordered to produce the things the ANC thought should be produced at prices the ANC considered appropriate.

In such a scenario, food would be subsidised — increasingly so as rampant inflation pushes prices up. Local production would be protected by import barriers to help counter ever-increasing unemployment. Exports would fall off, imports would be limited by tariffs and the scarcity of foreign exchange, and the balance of payments would tip into deficit. The economy would stagnate, and foreign debt would have to be rescheduled because the coffers would be empty.

In extremis, like many governments before it, the ANC would turn to the IMF for help. The IMF conditions for assistance would probably involve a devaluation of the currency, control of money supply and possibly rises in interest rates. It would also prescribe a return to market economics, and an end to subsidies so prices reflect relative scarcities and thus true value.

The prices of basic foodstuffs would not rise by 10% as with VAT; they would double and treble overnight, as they have in Zambia and other countries which ruined their economies with the kind of policies favoured by the ANC.

The only way Mandela and his economists can avoid Zambia-style food riots is by not starting on the path in the first place.

GOVT GETS TOUGH WITH ANC

Citizen 21/10/91 P1

By Tony Stirling

THE government will no longer tolerate the African National Congress playing a dual role of a revolutionary

organisation and an organisation which claims to be seeking a peaceful negotiated settlement and is taking a noticeably tougher line against it in the final phase leading to a multi-party congress. Over the past three days there have been strong attacks on the

TO PAGE 2

Govt gets tough with ANC

FROM PAGE 1

ANC by State President De Klerk (for the latest attack, see Page Four), the former Minister of Defence and present Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, General Magnus Malan, and by the Ministry of Law and Order.

The attacks started on Friday when the Minister of Law and Order accused the organisation of violating the National Peace Accord, the Pretoria Minute and other agreements.

This was followed by attacks by Mr De Klerk and, on Saturday, by Gen

Malan at a regional conference of the National Party.

In recent weeks there have been private indications that the NP would take a much firmer line against the ANC because it realised from public statements and actions that the ANC intended to keep both the negotiation and a revolutionary option open.

The ANC has not publicly budged on matters such as the yielding of arms caches, the building of underground structures and the external training of cadres for Umkhonto we Sizwe.

General Malan, who is chairman of the NP's Wit-

watersand North branch said the African National Congress' statements about interim government were misplaced and without substance.

"I want to make it clear that the government has no intention of yielding to claims and statements of an interim government.

"These claims are an insult to the legal government in this land."

The ANC repeatedly talked of taking over the government, which was unacceptable.

The government would not simply hand over its power on a plate, but would use it to maintain stability and law and order in the country.

He criticised the ANC for its "doubletalk" about nationalisation, repayment of loans and redistribution of "people's possessions".

"All that I want to say is that our people worked hard for many years for their possessions. They will also not be handed over on a plate.

"Our country cannot afford this doubletalk and uncertainty.

"South Africa's economic future depends on a growth rate of five per cent. To be able to attain that, foreign confidence and investment are necessary," Gen Malan added.

C'wealth wants to 'help SA'

CITIZEN 21/10/91 P 1

HARARE. — Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku said yesterday he would visit South Africa as soon as possible to see how the 50-nation group could help the transition to non-racial democracy.

He did not name a date. "utmost urgency," Chief Anyaoku said.

Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Harare, "welcomed the important changes that had been taking place in South Africa over the past 20 months", he said.

They believed South Africa was on the path to democracy but were concerned at violence in which more than 3 000 Blacks have died in the last year.

"They called on the government, as well as other parties in South Africa to bring violence to an end as a matter of

"They have decided to request me...to visit South Africa at the earliest opportunity to explore with the principal parties concerned ways in which the Commonwealth can assist in lending momentum to the negotiating process."

He had held preliminary discussions with State President De Klerk, the African National Congress of Mr Nelson Mandela and the Pan Africanist Congress. He

TO PAGE 2

FROM PAGE 1

would contact other groups soon.

Chief Anyaoku said he would report to an 11-member committee of heads of government — the 10 members of the High Level Appraisal Group studying the future

of the Commonwealth, plus Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe.

The Harare Commonwealth Declaration issued last night only makes passing reference to "significant changes at last under way in South Africa".

British Government of-

ficials in Harare welcomed the fact that the declaration was a forward-looking, positive document of principles of democracy and human rights for the 1990s.

"A lot of previous declarations were obsessed with South Africa," they said.

The draft of the joint communique, which will spell out Commonwealth action on South African sanctions — expected to be lifted in phases as apartheid is dismantled — was 90 percent completed, but would only be issued at the end of the summit tomorrow. — Sapa-Reuter.

ANC dismisses SAP allegations of 44 'violations'

By Erik Larsen

THE African National Congress has dismissed "with contempt" allegations by the SAP that the ANC and Umkhonto we Sizwe have been responsible for at least 44 violations of the Groote Schuur, Pretoria and D F Malan Minutes.

The ANC said in a statement the police allegations amounted to "little more than a crude propaganda ploy".

It said the Pretoria and D F Malan summits both set out clear procedures through which the authorities and the ANC could liaise about any possible infractions.

"It is therefore rather surprising to learn that since these mechanisms were established in August 1990, the South African Police has chosen not to employ them."

It said that in all the cases cited, the police alleged that the persons responsible were ANC members who had admitted their guilt during interrogation.

"We shall not comment on the veracity of statements elicited 'during interrogation' but feel it incumbent on us to point out that since the majority of cases still have to

come before the courts, the SAP are, in fact, conducting the trials through the media.

"The ANC dismisses, with contempt, the inflammatory charges of the SAP and views this most recent outburst as an attempt to divert public attention from the grave shortcomings of the SAP itself."

The ANC said the SAP was still at a loss to explain its evident incapacity to apprehend and prosecute those responsible for some of the most gruesome murders in South Africa this century.

"The ANC shall refrain from the sterile exercise of trading charges for counter-charges. If there are indeed violations of the agreement thus far reached between ourselves and the government, we shall always be ready to utilise the agreed-upon mechanisms to examine these jointly.

"Should the government, on its part, find these mechanisms inadequate, it can always have recourse to those established in terms of the Peace Accord."

For its part, the ANC would continue to fulfil all the commitments it had undertaken in terms of all those agreements, and the Peace Accord.

Monday, 21 October 1991

THE CITIZEN

Page 5

By Rika van Graan

TWO police constables were shot dead in Soweto over the weekend for no obvious reason, bringing the total of SA Police murdered there to 32 this year.

This follows a claim by a spokesman of the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA) to The Citizen that the organisation had been responsible for two recent attacks on

Two more police die in Soweto : Toll now 32

police men.

The first victim was Const Job Rampho Mogaphi attached to the Rand Supreme Court. He was shot dead at the Bargwanna Hospital taxi rank at 11.30 pm on Friday night. Police said

9 mm cartridge cases were found at the scene.

Firearm

Const Mogaphi's firearm was still on him when his body was found. No motive for his killing has been established.

Const Rommel L. Eagle (24), a member of the Soweto Flying Squad died when he was gunned down at the Ikwezi railway station at about 8 am on Saturday morning.

Const Eagle and a col-

league were apparently chasing some suspects who ran towards a Kombi. At one stage Const Eagle had his back towards the fleeing men, one of whom fired a shot which struck him in the back. He staggered into a

neighbourly house where he died.

Revolver

It is believed that he was shot with a revolver as no cartridge cases were found in the vicinity.

Const Eagle was single

and joined the SA Police after finishing school at Pietermaritzburg in Natal where his parents live.

In a telephone conversation with a Citizen reporter on Friday the APLA spokesman, code name Karl Zimbiri, said "We are embarking on revolutionary action to change the political climate in the country."

He said APLA "soldiers" would be targeting "more and more" policemen, Defence Force personnel and members of private armies.

Hostel man shot in clash with police

PS 21/10/91
Citizen Reporter

A MAN was wounded when police who had just raided a Vosloorus hostel were fired on by residents as they tried to leave the premises.

A Witwatersrand police spokesman, Capt Ida van Zweek, said yesterday a man (20) was under observation in Boksburg/Benoni Hospital after he had been shot twice by a shotgun fired by a policeman outside Nguni Hostel.

She said the incident had happened at 12.15 am yesterday when police were forced to barge their way out of the hostel in a Casspir after they were fired on by about 20 men.

On their way out, one of the policemen shot 9 residents in the upper leg and chest. He was taken into custody and is receiving treatment in hospital.

The other residents ran away after police opened fire, but no weapons were found on the scene.

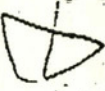
In another incident in Vosloorus, a man was killed and two wounded when unidentified gunmen fired on a group of men at about 8.30 pm on Friday.

The gunmen were travelling in a White minibus. Their victims were standing on the corner of Tintso and Moagi streets.

One was shot in the head, and two others sustained bullet wounds to their arms and legs.

Cartridges from AK-47 and .38 weapons were found on the scene.

A motive for the attack has not yet been established.

CITIZEN
21/10/91 - P6


Insulting

It's a sorry state of affairs when Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC's deputy president, accuses some elements in the police force of turning themselves into a "killing machine" which is "acting in accordance with Mr De Klerk's wishes".

Then, after the State President hits back, Mr Mandela accuses him of not acting in good faith.

Mr De Klerk, he says, is not the man of integrity that initially he believed him to be. In view of subsequent events, perhaps the ANC has been naive to trust him, Mr Mandela says.

We don't think Mr De Klerk has to put up with Mr Mandela's outrageous suggestion that he has anything to do with a police "killing machine".

Nor does he have to put up with Mr Mandela's insults.

He should, in fact, tell him to go to blazes.

Instead, Mr De Klerk has called his "killing machine" statement irresponsible, unfounded and unjustifiable and has gone to considerable lengths to dismiss his allegations as untrue.

Mr Mandela tends to speak with forked tongue. He can be appreciative of the State President, getting him to remove obstacles to negotiation and to deal with other problems that arise on the road to a new South Africa. But from time to time he suggests that Mr De Klerk's reforms are not irreversible, and accuses Mr De Klerk of insincerity.

There is a tendency to excuse Mr Mandela's dual attitude on the ground that he has to satisfy his followers that he is not kowtowing to Mr De Klerk, and as the start of negotiations approaches, he is not going to be a sell-out. That's all very well, but it is a dangerous game when he casts doubts on the State President's trustworthiness and integrity.

And it is even more dangerous when he continues his denigration of the police, creating a hatred against them which contributes to the atmosphere in which policemen are being killed.

On Friday night Mr De Klerk pointed out that despite investigations since April this year by a special police team into allegations of involvement of a "third force" in violence, no evidence had been found that the police force as such was involved in irregularities alleged against it — though there had been incidents of individual transgression.

The constant repetition by Mr Mandela of his defamatory public attacks on the police were in stark contrast to the true facts, Mr De Klerk said.

No fewer than 5 950 people had been arrested since the beginning of this year for their involvement in incidents of violence and unrest.

On average almost a third of the police force was engaged in combating unrest and violence. In the first nine months of this year, more than 60 000 Defence Force members had been deployed to assist the police in combating violence.

Between January 1, 1990 and October this year, 130 police had been killed and 868 injured in combating violence in unrest areas.

This year there had already been 548 terror attacks and unrest-related attacks on the police.

At a National Party meeting on Saturday, Mr De Klerk accused Mr Mandela of inciting political violence and unrest in violation of the peace accord and suggested Mr Mandela wanted to seize power by force.

Mr De Klerk welcomed the ANC's renewed commitment to negotiation, but "I am concerned about whether this commitment is irreversible".

Quite often it was ANC supporters who were instigating violence, he added.

Clearly Mr De Klerk has had a gutsful of the attacks being made both on the police and on himself.

If the war of words means a souring of relations between the government and the ANC, it would not give us sleepless nights.

Indeed, it would end what appears to have been a far too cosy relationship.

Let the battle for the new South Africa begin now.

Azapo dropped as PF talks convenor

By Sapa and
Sandy Baer

AZAPO was yesterday stripped of its status as a co-convenor of the forthcoming Patriotic Front conference. The announcement was made at a joint ANC/PAC media conference which followed three days of consultation between the ANC, the PAC and Azapo.

The crisis in the PF was sparked when Azapo sent letters to 14 political parties and organisations, including the Democratic Party, calling on them to resign from government-created structures before attending the conference.

The liaison committee of the PF told the conference that Azapo remained free to participate in the PF as other invited organisations.

PAC representative on the liaison committee, Mr Mark Shinnars, said the Azapo letter had undermined the bona fides of the PF convenors.

At a Press conference later, Azapo could not state clearly whether it would further participate in the PF conference scheduled for Durban over the weekend, but said it "would consider an invitation if extended".

"We wish to point out that it is regrettable that the front intended to consolidate the final onslaught against the regime is being torpedoed by a seeming need to accommodate liberals and puppets," Azapo publicity secretary Strini Moodley said.

ANC representative on the PF liaison committee, Mr Murphy Morobe told the media: "The conclusion reached is that Azapo will no longer be part of the joint convening structures set up to pre-

pare for the conference.

"It was strongly felt that the interest of the whole conference can at this juncture best be served by reverting to the original convening basis, comprising the ANC and the PAC," Mr Morobe said.

Azapo said yesterday it had learned with dismay of the decision by the ANC and PAC.

"We wish to point out that it's regrettable that the Front's intentions to consolidate the final onslaught against the regime are being torpedoed by a seeming need to accommodate liberals and puppets," president of Azapo, Mr Pandelani Nefolovhodwe, said yesterday.

Azapo Secretary of foreign affairs, Mr Mbulelo Rakwena, said: "We are dealing with a situation where there has been a great deal of misunderstanding."

He said Azapo had, in the letter, merely communicated its policy position.

"The letter Azapo has written does not amount to a veto against the desire of other liberation movements within the Patriotic Front to invite government-created structures and formations. Azapo is simply making its attitude clear to the people concerned."

OweNkatha uhlaba imikhankaso yemibhikisho

VUSI SOSIBO

ETHEKWINI: Ongomunye wabaholi beNkatha Freedom Party (IFP) eMgungundlovu namaphethelo futhi oyiSekela likaNgongqoshe woMnyango wemiSebenzi kuHulumeni waKwaZulu, uMnuz V.B. Ndlovu, uwuhlabe kakhulu umkhankaso wokuba kube nemibhikisho kanye nokuduba ukuya emisebenzini kusukela ngomhlaka November 4 no 5 kuwo lonyaka.

Esitatimendeni asinikeze ILANGA ngocingo uMnuz Ndlovu uthe lesisinyathelo seCongress of South African Trade Union (Cosatu) nebambisene nabo kasibacabangeli abantu okumanje babhekene nengwadla yokweswelakala kwemisebenzi.

Uthe abagquzeli balomkhankaso kabacabanga ngabantu ngerekhodi elibi izisebenzi ezizozithola sezinalo ngenxa yalesisiteleka. Wathi ngokohlelo lwasizimbonini lowo osuke esenerekhodi elibi nguye oca-tshangwa kuqala uma sekudilizwa.

Uqhube wathi okanye okumangazayo ngukuthi abagquzeli balomkhankaso nanxa bethi izingane zesikole zizovunyelwa ukuba ziye ezikoleni futhi zizohlelelwa intilasipoti yokuzithutha kodwa akukho lapho bekubeka ngembaba khona ukuthi nalabo abafisa ukuya emsebenzini ngalezizinsuku bazohlelelwa izinto zokuhamba futhi kabazuphazanyiswa kulokhu.

Uthe lokhu ukusho ngenxa yokuthi izisebenzi ezingabashayeli bamabhasi iningi labo lingaphansi kwenyonyana okuthiwa yiTransport and General Workers Union (TGWU) engaphansi kukaCosatu. Ubuze ukuthi abagquzeli balomkhankaso banasiqiniseko sini sokuthi akukho muntu oyophoqwa ukuba angenele lemibhikisho wathi futhi banasiqiniseko sini sokuthi labo abafisa ukuya emsebenzini kabayukuhlaselwa.

Unxuse izikhulu kanye namalungu eCosatu ezifundeni ukuba zikuqikelele ukuthi izikhulu zalenhlangano kazitholi umholo ogcwele ekupheleni kukaNovember njengoba nezisebenzi kubhekeke ukuba zingawutholi umholo wazo ogcwele ngenxa yalesisiteleka.

16/1/14

21/10/91
T. CARON

16/1/11

ANC offers co-operation in tracking killers

N1 Mercury 21/10/91
Political Reporter

THE ANC has offered its full co-operation in tracking down the killers of eight people who were gunned down at Murchison near Port Shepstone last week.

The eight, all thought to be Inkatha members, were shot and stabbed by a gang armed with AK-47s and other weapons.

Mediators have met with local chieftains and leaders of

the ANC and IFP in a bid to bring the threat of ongoing violence in the Port Shepstone area to an immediate halt.

According to Mr Steve Collins, a spokesman for the Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa, peace efforts have every

chance of succeeding.

"There seems a genuine desire by the leaderships of both the ANC and IFP to prevent the violence spreading," he said.

He said Idasa was helping to "limit the repercussions" of the killings.

He said in many cases, killings tended to spark off a spiral of violence, often moti-

vated by revenge.

A security source said it was felt that the killers were not from the area but had the assistance of certain members of the local population.

The ANC said they offered their condolences to the affected families and appealed to the community to remain calm and not allow the "tragedy to provoke a new wave of violence in the region".

Fingers point, but who's to blame for the killings?

POLITICAL groups are locked in a bitter quarrel over claims that a Government-backed "third force" is behind a wave of massacres in which hundreds have died.

The ANC and allied opposition groups allege that mounting violence in black townships is the work of the police and army. But the ANC has yet to provide conclusive evidence, and the Government vehemently denies that the security forces are involved.

Shootings

Since the Government and leading black groups signed a peace treaty on September 14, more than 100 blacks have been killed. Three mass shootings have accounted for more than a third of these deaths.

The ANC also says it suspects a police role in a spate of attacks by black gunmen who kill blacks on trains and buses and flee without a trace.

Township fighting, which often pits ANC supporters against Inkatha, has claimed 11 000 lives since 1984. The ANC — mindful that the Government secretly

funneled money to Inkatha at police request — contends the Government backs Inkatha in the fighting.

"I did not imagine the Government would willingly sacrifice the lives of thousands of South Africans through allowing the police and army to instigate township violence," ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela has said.

Failure

Evidence of police involvement was "overwhelming and such evidence is accumulating," he said.

The ANC says the apparent skill of the gunmen indicates trained military elements are involved.

It points to the failure of the security forces to catch the attackers as proof of collusion.

Other observers say the causes of the violence are varied and complex, part of a spiral of lawlessness pushing black townships toward anarchy.

Evidence

"No hard evidence of a State-backed 'third force' has been produced. If such evidence did exist, it would long since have been published," said Mr

Still in the dark



The violence carries on - so does the finger-pointing.

John Kane-Berman, head of the Institute of Race Relations, an independent think-tank.

Some police may be involved or indifferent to

township violence, but they are just one factor, other observers maintain.

"The causes for these mini-wars are often hard to establish — skirmishes

between political factions, revenge attacks involving hostel dwellers and residents, ethnic and family rows and even personal disputes, which, in conditions

of poverty and despair, rapidly blow up into full-scale wars," *The Sunday Times* said last month.

Before President FW de Klerk came to power in 1989, security forces were involved in a "dirty war" against the ANC, which was then outlawed. De Klerk has conceded past excesses by security forces, but says they are now impartial.

Risk

ANC leaders maintain the Government wants to demoralise and weaken blacks with violence so whites can retain substantial power in the political system that will replace apartheid.

De Klerk has repealed all major apartheid laws, and despite the violence both the Government and the ANC both say they want to begin talks this year on a constitution to give blacks political rights.

Although a conspiracy as claimed by the ANC probably would reach the highest levels of Government, the ANC has not explained why De Klerk would risk sabotaging negotiations on which his political future may rest.

South African newspa-

pers and human rights groups, which have exposed past Government misdeeds, have turned up many claims of police complicity. But like the ANC, they have failed to produce any substantial evidence.

ANC accounts of alleged Government attacks do not stand up to close scrutiny. The group tends to ignore the possible role of its supporters in the killings of scores of policemen and blacks who work with the Government in the townships.

Policy

Critics say the ANC policy of making the country ungovernable in the 1970s and 1980s is responsible for much of the violence. The policy produced a generation of politicised young blacks who are now bitter, disillusioned and prone to violence.

"Violence in South Africa is not simply the work of wildcat individuals and groups, but also a whirlwind sown by revolutionary strategies," Kane-Berman said. — *Sapa-AP*.

16/11/91

American delegation holds talks with ANC leaders

CITIZEN P3

By Vivian Warby

21/10/91

A MEETING between national executive committee members of the ANC and a delegation of prominent Americans was going "according to plan" ANC president, Mr Nelson Mandela, said after a two-hour meeting between the two groups yesterday afternoon.

The 31-member group, called the Democracy Now Tour, is in the country for three days on a fact-finding tour as guests of the ANC, and were drawn from the entertainment, political, business, labour, sports, religious and the civil right community sectors.

The group is led by Trans-Africa executive director Mr Randall Robinson and musician Quincy Jones.

Mr Robinson said he had found the first meeting with the ANC to be "useful and productive" and said the group could make a definitive comment tomorrow.

Included in the group are US Congresswoman Maxine Waters, trade unionist Willie Baker, boxing promoter Butch Lewis, tennis star Arthur Ashe and Bishop John Adams of the AMC Church.

The delegation arrived at Jan Smuts Airport at about 8 am yesterday morning, and were met by ANC leaders Mr Cyril Ramaphosa and Mr Walter Sisulu, his wife Albertina, Mrs Gertrude Shope and US Ambassador Mr William Swing.

Besieged by national and international re-

porters, the delegation would not comment to the media, and made a hasty departure for the hotel where they are staying.

The group has a busy schedule planned for the next two days, which will include several meetings

with the ANC. No meetings with either the government or any opposition groups have been scheduled.

Commonwealth is important: FW

19/10/91 P 4 CITIZEN

HARARE. — President De Klerk said in an interview published here yesterday in The Herald, that the South African Government regarded the Commonwealth as an important world body, specifically from the perspective of Africa since so many of its neighbours were members.

Mr Tommy Sithole, the Herald's Editor-in-Chief, flew to Pretoria at the beginning of the week to interview Mr De Klerk on the eve of the Commonwealth summit at which sanctions would be discussed.

The comprehensive

interview was published only after the Commonwealth leaders had largely completed formal discussion on South Africa on Thursday, but Mr De Klerk declined to deal in any detail with sanctions on the grounds that he did not want to interfere in summit deliberations.

Mr Sithole is also a member of President Robert Mugabe's delegation to the summit. It was the biggest publicity splash in a Zimbabwe newspaper for Mr De Klerk's views, and was seen as part of the Zimbabwean leader's apparent new conciliatory attitude towards South Africa.

A summary of the interview was published in two prominent front page reports, with lengthy verbatim excerpts on two inside pages.

On the Commonwealth, Mr De Klerk said: "I am not negatively inclined towards the Commonwealth. It is a fact that the Commonwealth spent much of its energy and attention at meetings on the South African issue."

"But, I am sure they will find, as the South African situation normalises, that they find subjects of common and mutual interest on which to concentrate." On the possibility of South Africa rejoining the Commonwealth, he said this would be considered by a post-apartheid government looking at the best interests of the country.

"Obviously, I would like the matter of sanctions to be addressed more fundamentally than what appears to be the intention."

On sport, Mr De Klerk said it could play a very important role in nation-building which was needed in South Africa.

"Sport in any country is a powerful force to attain that feeling of nationhood and in that sense of the word I regard the developments in the field of sport as very constructive and positive."

In some instances, he said, lifting of the ban on South Africa and their readmission into international competition was taking too long. —Sapa-Reuters.