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ANC Press Release. 13th September 1990.

Since the Sebokeng massacre of 22nd July 1990, an unprecedented wave of violence has swept across the face of the Transvaal. Despite numerous attempt to end it, undertaken by community leaders, the regional leadership of the ANC and the intervention of the ANC's national leaders, it has not abated and seems set to continue unchecked unless taken in hand.

During the night of commencing 3rd September, a brutal pre-dawn raid was launched on the inhabitants of the hostels in Sebokeng. During the course of that incident it emerged that no less than four White persons, their faces concealed by balaclava helmets, participated in the carnage that followed.

After the residents of Sebokeng had surrounded the hostels, trapping the raiders inside, police units were called in by the Police. In an unprovoked attack the raiders opened fire on the crowd, killing 11 people. In the ensuing confusion, the pre-dawn raiders, including the four Whites, were taken out of the hostels and bussed out of the area, still fully armed, reportedly in Police casspirs.

Among those arrested and detained by the Police, after being identified by a number of residents and hostel dwellers, was one Mr Themba Khoza, leader of the Inkatha Youth Brigade in the Transvaal. Mr Khoza had already been named as implicated in a number of other incidents of violence in the Transvaal. Sebokeng was the first time he was caught, practically red-handed, ferrying firearms to Inkatha supporters. Various eye-witnesses saw Mr Khoza shooting some of the victims of their attack.

On 24th August 1990, The Weekly Mail carried a lengthy account by a "frightened hostel dweller" who had been coerced into joining Inkatha and forced to commit acts of violence against other hostel dwellers and township residents. It was clear from this report that the violence was not a spontaneous eruption but rather a well orchestrated plan, conceived by some diabolical agency with a view to spreading death and mayhem. The Weekly Mail's informant

unequivocally stated that the Police are involved in both organising and transporting the attackers from place to place at night.

On the 26th July 1990, three days before the official launch of the SACP, an Inkatha leader addressed meetings in the Jabulani Hostel inciting his audience to launch attacks on persons displaying the insignia of the South African Communist Party. These activities and the name of the speaker were brought to the notice of the Police. On the weekend of the 28th July, a number of crudely forged leaflets, ostensibly issued by the ANC, were distributed in Soweto and other townships. Their intention was to create a climate of fear and apprehension among the Zulu-speaking population of the township, especially the migrant workers, by giving the impression that the ANC, COSATU, SAYCO and the UDF intended attacking them and driving them out of the hostels. These too were brought to the attention of the authorities and the media. A similar leaflet appeared in townships of the East Rand during the week of August 26th.

The mounting evidence and the avalanche of allegations of Police and other security force personnel involvement with the vigilantes of Inkatha convinces us that we are confronting a phenomenon which has become quite familiar in the Frontline States. We witnessed it when the bandit gang of RENAMO, established, trained and provisioned by the illegal Smith regime of former Rhodesia, first went into action. It is a matter of record that since 1979 the South African government has taken over that function.

The intention of the campaign of violence is quite clear. Its purpose is:

- To incite violence among different sections of the African population and thus distract their attention from the root causes of poverty, hunger, low wages and economic exploitation in this country.

To destroy the African National Congress and other democratic formations in the townships by the piecemeal murder of their ~~their~~ personnel and supporters;

To build up a psychosis of fear, insecurity and and terror
among
the people so as to make them more amenable to a regime
of martial law;

To derail the process of peaceful transition presently
underway.

The fact of the matter is that while the ANC has sincerely ^{been} talking
peace with the government, War has been declared on the ANC, its
allies and the other democratic formations of our people.

The South African government has been called upon to put an end to
this violence by every quarter of public opinion in this country. And
yet:

It has failed to act against the perpetrators of the
massacre of July 22nd in Sebokeng

It has failed to take action against those individuals who
have deliberately stirred up the violence in the Transvaal.

It has failed to take the appropriate steps to uncover those
in its security forces, including the Police, who are
implicated in these acts of terror and violence.

The National Working Committee of the ANC, after lengthy
deliberations, has decided to convene an emergency meeting of the
National Executive Committee, which will specifically focus on the
violence which has now become endemic, review the prevailing
situation in our country, and our strategic and tactical options in the
light of the current circumstances. The NEC meeting is scheduled to
commence on Tuesday, September 18th, 1990 in Johannesburg.

Issued by: The Department of Information and Publicity, P.O. Box
61884, Marshalltown 2307, Johannesburg.

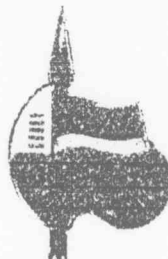
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PRESS STATEMENT OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
ON THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY GATSHA BUTHELEZI
IN ULUNDI ON 15TH SEPTEMBER, 1990

THE ANC RESPONSE TO THE SPEECH DELIVERED BY CHIEF GATSHA BUTHELEZI
AT ULUNDI THIS MORNING IS AS FOLLOWS;

1. THE STATEMENT SLANDERS THE ANC AND ITS DEPUTY PRESIDENT, NELSON MANDELA. HE HAS NOT PRODUCED ONE SHRED OF EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS RECKLESS STATEMENTS. IT ACTUALLY DOES EXACTLY WHAT THE PRESIDENT OF INKATHA AND ALL ITS FORMATIONS ALWAYS INVEIGHS AGAINST AND INSIST IS A CAUSE OF MUCH OF THE CONFLICT.
2. THE STATEMENT FURTHER INFLAMES PREVAILING TENSIONS AND IS NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE APPEALS FOR PEACE, CALM AND AN END TO THE VIOLENCE SO ESSENTIAL AT THIS TIME.
3. IT IS UP TO THE WORLD TO JUDGE INKATHA BY ITS OWN WORDS AND DEEDS.

ANC DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION,
PO BOX 61884, MARSHALLTOWN 2107
SEPTEMBER 15TH, 1990



AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Phone: 834-5301/8, Third Floor, Munich Re Centre, 54 Sauer St., Johannesburg 2000.

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL, ALFRED NZO, OF THE
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS ON 18 SEPTEMBER 1990

Great publicity has been given to the allegations made against Cde Winnie Mandela and the incidents connected with investigations have been made a spectacle which was repeatedly aired on television and in the press. Certain sections of the media have lost no opportunity to create the impression that she is guilty.

While we do not seek any special treatment for Cde Winnie Mandela we must protest this "trial through the media".

The matter is now in the hands of the courts, and as such it would be improper for the ANC to make any comment on the pending judicial process.

The National Executive Committee of the ANC wishes to affirm its unequivocal support for our Deputy-President and his family in this time of stress.

Alfred Nzo

Issued by the Department of Information and Publicity



AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

PRESS RELEASE

20th September 1990

The National Executive Committee of the African National Congress met in extended session from Tuesday 18th September until shortly after noon today, 20th September.

The extended NEC meeting, which included representatives of COSATU, the UDF, members of the Interim Leadership and representatives of all sixteen regions, was convened as a matter of urgency to review the ANC's strategic and tactical perspectives in view of the current wave of violence that has visited so much death, injury and misery on the African townships of the Reef.

The meeting received an extensive report from the Joint National Working Committee on Violence, comprising representatives of the ANC, COSATU and the UDF; and discussed a Strategy Document prepared under the auspices of the Political Committee.

The meeting noted that while the South African government is evidently committed to political change in South Africa, it is becoming clear that it would prefer that change occurs on terms most favourable to itself. In pursuance of that objective, the government has adopted a two-track policy which, on the one hand, accepts the need to negotiate a settlement of our country's problems while, on the other hand, devising stratagems to weaken the ANC and other democratic formations.

The government has, consequently, adopted a laissez-faire attitude towards the violence in Natal and in the Transvaal with the hope that it will generate a climate of insecurity, fear and terror and thus make a decisive majority of our people more amenable to an authoritarian regime. The ANC, condemns in the strongest possible terms, the violence that has been unleashed against the people of the townships in Natal and the Transvaal by the combined forces of elements of the security services and Inkatha vigilantes and emphasises that the ongoing violence poses an immediate threat to the entire process of peaceful transition. Though the ANC has a profound and unwavering commitment to peace in our country, we warn the South African government that, unless the government is seen to be taking appropriate measures to apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators of this violence, it will have to assume full responsibility for the derailing of the peace process.

It was the unanimous opinion of the NEC that the measures announced by State President De Klerk on Wednesday 19th September and those threatened by General Erasmus of the South African Police on Saturday 15th September, are designed to abridge the civil liberties of the African population on the Reef, repress legitimate political activity, reintroduce the State of Emergency by guile, and not to bring an end to the violence or track down its organisers and instigators.

We are obliged to draw the attention of the South African people and the international community to the act of bad faith committed by State President De Klerk in his most recent actions. It is a matter of record that pursuant to the adoption of the Pretoria Minute, a joint Government / ANC Working Group was established to devise mutually-acceptable principles for the implementation of a ceasefire. Among the numerous tasks with which this Working Group was charged was the disposition of the arms and other weapons in the possession of the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto weSizwe. The State President has deliberately undermined this Working Group by pre-emptively criminalising the possession of such weapons. We cannot but interpret this as a measure directed against the ANC and its underground military structures. It does nothing to build mutual confidence between the ANC and the government.

The meeting unanimously condemned the continued detention of members of the ANC and the democratic movement, including our colleague, Comrade Mac Maharaj, under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act. We shall hold the South African government accountable for any harm or injuries these comrades incur while in its custody. The attitude of the government with regard to these anti-apartheid fighters and leaders contrasts sharply with the concern it displays in relation to detainees of the white ultra-right. The refusal of the South African government to extend indemnity to Comrades Chris Hani and Ronnie Kasrils, both members of the NEC, was also noted.

The NEC noted the veritable avalanche of charges, emerging from every area that has been affected by this wave of violence, to the effect that the South African Police and the SADF have adopted a partial attitude in favour of the vigilante aggressors in almost all instances of violence. The report of the Goldstone Commission on the March 22nd massacre in Sebokeng confirms our belief that internal departmental inquiries conducted by the Police and the Defence Force do not deserve public confidence. The ANC therefore calls for an independent judicial commission inquiry, with adequate terms of reference, to investigate the numerous charges levelled against the State's security organs.

The NEC also adopted a recommendation made by the Joint ANC-COSATU Working Committee on Violence to conduct a national campaign to achieve greater public accountability on the part of the Police and other Security Services. This campaign shall be centred, inter alia, on demands for:

- i) The establishment of an independent review body, equipped with powers to recommend action, to investigate complaints against the police.
- ii) The establishment of a publicly devised code of conduct for all police personnel.
- iii) The demilitarisation of the police.
- iv) The limitation of police arms and weaponry to those adequate for normal law enforcement and the detection of crime.

Consistent with this view, the NEC calls for the immediate and visible disbandment of the various State murder squads such as the CCB, the Askaris, Koevoet and other mercenary formations such as Battalion 32. There should be full public disclosure of the future deployment of the personnel of these units, the distribution of its assets and its arms.

The extended NEC noted the century-old migrant labour system and the degradation and humiliations it impose on a sizeable section of the African working class. These hostels and labour compounds were expressly designed to isolate the migrant labourers from the urban environment in which they work by segregating them in barracklike conditions which permit neither privacy nor normal family life. This situation of stress has inevitably contributed to feelings of aggression and hostility which have on numerous occasions been cynically exploited by elements pursuing political agendas that are inimical to the best interests of the migrant workers and their fellow workers.

The speedy elimination of the migrant labour system should be regarded as one of the priority national tasks facing us as we strive towards a new South Africa. During the intermediate period the ANC demands that all labour compounds, single sex hostels and similar compounds be converted into decent living quarters, such as flats, to accommodate those who wish to live as single persons and those who wish to live as families.

In order to get to the root causes of the violence and to secure peace among the people the extended NEC resolved to convene a meeting with all homeland leaders, including Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, to devise a joint strategy for ending the violence and measures to prevent any possible future outbreaks.

The ANC, in co-operation with its allies will, at the earliest possible date, also call a conference of the broadest spectrum of anti-apartheid and democratic forces with a view to discussing a common strategy to combat the forces of destabilisation and violence

In order that they can mount effective defence, the extended NEC encourages all our people in the areas affected by vigilante violence to organise themselves for purposes of self-defence.

The meeting instructed the NEC of the ANC to seek an early summit with the South African government to discuss the gravity of the situation and to bring to the government's attention our profound anxieties regarding the future and integrity of the peace process. In this regard, the NEC is instructed to demand that the government take the necessary measures to put an end to the activities of all irregular, pro-apartheid armed groups and forces such as the vigilantes, right-wing paramilitary formations and the covert armed wing of Inkatha.

During its final session the meeting received news of the successful exploratory meeting, held in Durban on the evening of 19th September, between members of the NEC and members of the Central Committee of Inkatha. The NEC welcomes this development and congratulates the participants, from both organisations, for the excellent work they have commenced.

The meeting concluded by sending a message of greetings to Comrade President O.R. Tambo and expressed its collective confidence that his continuing recovery will enable him to attend the forthcoming ANC National Conference scheduled for December 1990.

Issued by: The Department of Information and Publicity, P.O. Box 61884, Marshalltown 2307, Johannesburg.

JOINT STATEMENT

MEETING BETWEEN ANC AND INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY DELEGATIONS

19th September 1990

A meeting took place this evening between National Executive Committee members of the ANC who constitute a special subcommittee to look into the Natal violence, and a delegation of the Central Committee of Inkatha Freedom Party.

This was a historic meeting and the first between such highranking officials of both organisations since the London meeting of 1979.

Matters discussed were in the main exploratory in nature and each party sought to understand the other party's stance whilst explaining its own.

Naturally, the issue of violence in Natal and elsewhere in the country was top on the agenda and reports of the various local initiatives to diffuse it came under the spotlight. As the matters discussed were so grave, vital and urgent, the meeting is due to continue again on 26 September, 1990.

ANC DELEGATION: John Nkadimeng, T Nkobi, J Zuma, J Nhlanhla,
G Shope(Mrs), Joel Netshitenzhe

IFP DELEGATION: FT Mdlalose, D R B Madide, E S E Sithebe,
V B Ndlovu, E T Bhengu(Mrs), Musa Zondi, N Nkehli