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Citizen 4 June 1991

IDASA
PUBLIC INFORMATION DUR-
ING TRANSITION
WHAT IS GOING ON?

Talks about talks, negotiations, violence
Who is not informing you? The media or the politicians?

SATURDAY 8 JUNE 1991

9.30 a.m.

(Registration from 9.00 a.m.)

PROTEA GARDENS HOTEL, 35 O'Reilly Rd, Berea

R15.00 per person

(includes lunch and refreshments)

SPEAKERS

Suzanne Vos (Inkatha), Dave Steward (NP — Bureau of Information), ANC Speaker, PAC Speaker, Azapo Speaker, Shaun Johnson (Star), Max du Preez (Vrye Weekblad), Thami Mzwai (Sowetan), Johnny Mattison (Foreign Correspondent SABC (TV), Raymond Louw and others

For more information on what is expected to be a most exciting programme please contact Andrew Mapheto, Anne Vincent, or Dowlene Breedt at IDASA Tel (011) 484-3694/7

Citizen

Tuesday 4 June 1991

★ Ulundi peace talks 'hopeful'

CAPE TOWN. — The government's special peace facilitator, Dr Louw Alberts, and members of the Rustenburg church leaders' delegation to Ulundi returned home from yesterday's talks with the Inkatha Freedom Party hopeful of a breakthrough.

After issuing a bland media statement at the end of their talks and with yet another such statement expected today, indications are that special care is being taken to preserve fragile but distinct progress made since the Pretoria peace summit on May 24 and 25.

Dr Alberts is expected

to be approaching a situation where he may soon be able to fulfil his obligation to the summit, and produce a facilitating committee considered neutral and acceptable by all parties, which can draw up and launch a viable peace-making programme.

It is understood from sources within the ANC and the government that the Ulundi talks were pivotal in the urgent process to get all the main political players contracted into a peace programme which may include a second summit, this time attended by all parties.

The Ulundi talks are understood to have partly succeeded in convincing the IFP that the Rustenburg Declaration was underwritten by a far wider spectrum of churches than the SACC family.

A statement from the IFP described the Ulundi meeting as "positive". The IFP delegation was led by national chairman, Dr Frank Mdlalose.

"In the light of the open communication which took place, the meeting, we believe, will probably have given momentum to our respective involvements in the peace process," the IFP statement said. — Sapa.

Apartheid education ministries to go

CAPE TOWN — Government's new education strategy, to be revealed today, is expected to rid the country of segregated education ministries.

According to sources, it proposes a single Ministry for Education, with various non-racial regional sub-departments and a major devolution of authority to school management councils.

Reports at the weekend indicated that the document did not deal with the formation of one education department.

However, DP MP Roger Burrows revealed about two weeks ago that the plan did recommend the formation of a single

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ministry.

A report at the time noted that other far-reaching proposals included that rationalisation of schools be stopped and that free and compulsory primary education be provided for all.

Critics of the cumbersome Own Affairs system have repeatedly called for a single ministry.

Burrows also said at the time that the Education Renewal Strategy committee

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Education

would call for a halt to the closing of schools and the firing of teachers, and for the fullest use of all resources.

Government officials have stressed that the plan is, in effect, a "discussion document" and will not be implemented without consultation with political groups.

It is understood the ANC has had access to the document and has reacted fairly positively.

Another major thrust of the document will be the recommendation for free and compulsory attendance at primary schools and a radical shift towards technical training.

TANIA LEVY reports the Christian Re-

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search Education and Information for Democracy (Creid) said yesterday that to make primary education compulsory, as proposed in the Education Renewal Strategy, government would need more than R1,7bn.

Creid executive director Elaine Cosser said about R1,7bn would be needed to accommodate what Creid estimated to be 3.5-million children of primary school age who are not attending school.

This figure includes the TBVC states and is calculated at present Department of Education and Training levels of expenditure, said Cosser.

X B/Day 4 June 1991

Ulundi talks prepare way for new summit

DURBAN — A second national summit on ending political violence, which would include Inkatha, the ANC and other political parties, could get under way soon after "positive discussions" between Inkatha and a high-level church delegation in Ulundi yesterday.

The meeting was part of a continuing attempt by church leaders to act as mediators in attempts to end politically motivated violence.

The visit to Ulundi by the church leaders was said to be an attempt to convince Inkatha of their political neutrality and their ability to act as mediators in a comprehensive summit to end violence.

The church delegation was led by Louw Alberts and the Rev Frank Chikane of the SA Council of Churches and included other members of the Rustenburg Steering Committee — a group formed last year after a number of Afrikaans churches said apartheid was a sin.

The Inkatha delegation was led by Frank Mdlalose. KwaZulu Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi was unable to attend.

A joint statement released after the all-day meeting said the group "committed itself to pursue ways of

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addressing the violence".

It said further discussion would be needed "between the two groups, or between individuals from constituent members of the group".

Sapa reports Alberts may soon be able to fulfil his obligation to the summit and produce a facilitating committee considered neutral and acceptable by all parties.

ANC and government sources said the Ulundi talks were pivotal in the urgent process to get all the main political players contracted into a peace programme which could include a second summit, this time attended by all parties to the violence.

From Ulundi, sources reported that much of the prejudice expressed by Inkatha at Pretoria against a church-backed peace process was diminished by the day's discussions.

THEO RAWANA reports police said yesterday the weekend unrest death toll was 19. Unrest deaths were reported from Alexandra, Soweto, Katlehong and Empangeni.

Sapa reports the unrest death toll for May was 276, which was higher than the 196 national monthly average for the past nine months.

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Bitter US row over Buthelezi's visit

SIMON BARBER

WASHINGTON — KwaZulu Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi's visit to the US later this month — including a meeting with President George Bush — has been soured by a bitter row between Inkatha's US representative, the Ras Sipo Mzimela, and a conservative lobbying group.

David Barron, chairman of the Jefferson Educational Foundation, angrily ejected Mzimela from his Washington office last Friday after the Inkatha official protested about Barron's effort to solicit money from US corporations by using Buthelezi's name.

On May 22 Barron sent letters to nearly 50 major US firms with SA ties seeking a "\$20 000 to \$25 000 one-time commitment" from each to help pay for Buthelezi's trip.

Mzimela tackled Barron on the issue as Buthelezi has a policy of rejecting donations that could compromise his stand against sanctions.

Barron admitted Buthelezi had asked him not to hold fund-raising events, but said he knew of no ban on corporate donations.

Barron said the foundation had become involved as he was an old friend of Buthelezi's.

Barron yesterday disclosed contents of a personal letter from Buthelezi, dated June 2, urging him and Mzimela to patch up their differences.

Barron said he would send a second letter to the companies rescinding his request for funds.

B/Dan 4 June 1991

Coalition of the centre is what SA needs — Zach

BILLY PADDOCK

CAPE TOWN — DP leader Zach de Beer called for a grand coalition of centrist political parties, leaving left-wing and right-wing extremists to fight as opposition.

He said this was the only option facing the country. Otherwise, the country would be split between the broad left wing and right wing.

The latter option would lead to increasing political violence. The split would be the ANC, on the left, supported in major issues by the PAC, Azapo and the communists; and on the right, Inkatha and the NP.

He said that for survival SA needed a 5% growth rate a year with new investment.

The ANC and the other "struggle parties" could not engender the confidence that would make investment flow into the country.

"The only government that has a chance is one that can command the loyalty of both of the economic leaders and the masses. This just has to be a government of national unity, or ... a grand coalition."

The DP was convinced SA needed the alliance of the centre.

Opinion polls suggested that if there was a split between the broad right and the broad left, the left would win. It would win on the basis that it campaigned for an improved quality of life. It would then be committed to what it could not afford.

"Either they will attempt to implement their mandate by printing money, with the inevitable result of galloping inflation, currency collapse and economic failure; or they will fail to do so, unleashing the pent-up fury of their own supporters in a revolutionary situation," De Beer said.

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ANC shuns burning

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — The ANC yesterday distanced itself from the effigy-burning incident in Cape Town last Friday.

"We confirm that comrades Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and Joe Slovo were neither involved nor consulted about the incidents of effigy-burning that occurred on May 31 in Cape Town.

The ANC Youth League took its own decisions and gave "neither Comrade Sisulu nor Slovo notice of their intentions," the ANC said in a statement.

JONATHON REES reports that the Youth League vowed yesterday to "continue to decimate (sic) any image of (President F W) de Klerk".

NP chief director of information Reinier Schoeman said the presence of Slovo and Sisulu at the incident showed their "implicit approval".

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THE CITIZEN COMMENT

★ Effigy burning

THE burning in Cape Town of an effigy and photograph of State President De Klerk during the ANC Youth League's anti-Republic Day march does not surprise us.

Yet it seems to have got the government in a tizzy.

What does it expect?

It allowed mass protests in which marchers carry the most obnoxious posters about the government and any other target the ANC chooses to single out.

As for a coffin, draped with the South African flag and covered with photographs of Dr Hendrik Verwoerd, Mr B J Vorster, Mr P W Botha and Mr De Klerk, being burned during the march, the ANC seems to have a fetish about coffins, and matches, and burning.

One can expect this kind of behaviour from the township comrades, who are uncontrollable and carry out ghastly acts in the name of "liberation".

But this unsavoury demonstration was seemingly endorsed by internal leader Walter Sisulu and Communist Party Secretary-General Joe Slovo, who took part in the march.

Mr Slovo actually lifted the coffin above his head while others lit papers and set it alight; others burned the cardboard effigy of Mr De Klerk.

In the old days, one could not attack the person or image of the State President.

Mr De Klerk is a State President who is also a party leader, he is fair game for everyone. The CP openly accuses him of treason, which is in poor taste as well, and he gets the same kind of treatment as any other party leader.

It is a pity, because he is the head of state and deserves to be treated at all times with respect.

But the ANC Youth League thinks otherwise. Dr Gerrit Viljoen, Minister of Constitutional Development, says that the Cape Town incident was "not uncontrollable behaviour by irresponsible youths".

"The presence of prominent leaders of the ANC and the SA Communist Party implies that they had apparently given their approval to this behaviour."

Mr Renier Schoeman, MP, the NP's Director of Information, says it was not only a repulsive act but one in extremely poor taste.

And the Minister of the Budget in the House of Assembly, Mr Sam de Beer, complained the incidents could convey a message to the already politicised Black youth that ANC leaders condoned violence and intimidation.

The ANC Youth League is far from contrite. It will, it says, continue to decimate (sic) any image it comes across of the State President, be it through the use of fire or any other instrument.

The Youth League tries to exculpate Mr Sisulu and Mr Slovo, saying it was an autonomous body and was not answerable to the ANC for its actions.

Mr Slovo's action with the coffin shows that he was directly involved in this ugly incident.

The ANC also seeks to distance its leaders from the incident, but it does not say why Mr Slovo lifted the coffin as it was set on fire and it does not, even now, deplore what happened.

We do not expect Mr Slovo or the Youth League to act with the moderation of true democrats; hence we are not outraged by their actions.

But they can be certain that nobody accepts the demigration of a State President and former leaders.

This country never accepted this kind of behaviour and will not accept it now, when we are in transition to a new South Africa.

We hope the United States and other countries, which make all sorts of excuses for what the ANC or its affiliates do, will understand that they are not supporting true democrats who acknowledge the limits of acceptable protest.

ANC Youth League demonstrators can burn an effigy of the State President, or set fire to a coffin draped with pictures of Mr De Klerk and former leaders, but they can never burn the tenets of decency and good behaviour that are part of the South African way of life. The sooner they learn this the better.