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cWednesday 2 April-1989

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Health services are

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threatene

CAPE TOWN. â\200\224 Health.
services = were under

threat from the revol-
utionary onslaught,
according to the Adminis-
trator of the Cape, Mr
Gene Louw.

It had been learnt ANC
members of the medical
profession were organis-
ing under the banner of a
national health system of-
fering â\200\234health for allâ\200\235.

In this way they were
launching â\200\234a strong medi-
co-polmcal health strate-
gy in which extremist
polmm are mextnmbly

entangled with medical
principlesâ\200\235.

Mr Louw was ad-
dressing a congress in
Cape Town this week on
â\200\234Labour Relations in
Health Servicesâ\200\235 organis-
ed by the Department of
National Health and Pop-
ulation Development.

He predicted increased

â\200\234political attacksâ\200\235 in the
medical field and the ap-
pearance of â\200\234so-called

d bz'

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health organisations of
which the main purpose is
purely politicalâ\200\235.

The National Medical
and Dental Association

had subscribed to the advertisement â\200\23475 years of the ANCâ\200\235 and the ANC had referred to it as a front organisation.

He appealed for the medical profession to be â\200\234elevated far above poli-

ANC

tics and practised with independence and unsullied professionalismâ\200\235. :

This did not mean lgâ\200\224noring political problems that could have a detrimental effect on health care.

â\200\234But it does not mean that our solution lies in revolutionary or radical actions. We have to solve these problems soberly and professionally and take them up with the provincial and central governors of the coun-

try.â\200\235 â\200\224 Sapa.

IT would be nice to think that as some officials and observers do that Swapo has been totally discredited internationally and that its chances of winning the South West African elections have been sharply reduced.

Granted that Swapo has been blamed internationally for the fighting in northern South-West Africa, having sent armed insurgents

across the border from Angola from Day One of the implementation of United Na-

tions Resolution 435.

Granted, too, that Swapo has been forced, somewhat ignominiously, to recall its insurgents and Sam Nujoma looks like a rash, uncaring and stupid leader who sent his mento - their death in an attempt to establish bases inside the territory.

But the international community has not branded him an aggressor, it has not condemned him as a cheat, in the same way as it would have done if South Africa had broken the peace plan. :

The comment, in fact, has been remarkably restrained.

Britain has blamed Swapo and so has the United States, which went to great pains to explain in a legal document how Swapo broke the peace agreements.

But neither came out in sharp condemnation of Nujoma or his insurgents.

Although Cuba and Angola have played their part in the Joint Monitoring Commission in arranging for the insurgents to return to Angola, we doubt whether they are as fed up with Swapo as some people make them out to be. e

They must have known Swapo was grouping in Southern Angola for incursions into SWA that South Africa had also warned them this was happening but they did nothing about it.

It is clear that Swapo expected the United Nations Transition Assistance Group would protect its

men from any nasty responses

from the SWA Police, and that the South Africans, confined to their bases, would be

unable to intervene.

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Then, having established bases in South West Africa, Swapo would have been able to intimidate voters much as Mr Robert Mugabe's guerrillas, infiltrated into Rhodesia, were able to intimidate voters there so that he could win the election.

The Swapo insurgents, however, came under attack as they crossed the border, Swapo poured more men into the battle in a vain attempt to achieve some kind of victory, lost more than 260 men killed in the fighting, and finally had to agree to pull back.

Even if most insurgents honour the undertaking to hand themselves over and be escorted back to Angola, we can be sure that some of them are going to be left behind and will cache their arms, for use later when Swapo returns legitimately to South West Africa in terms of the peace plan. :

The Administrator-General of South West Africa, Mr Louis Pienaar, has stated that Ovambo will be combed for hidden arms, but we can't be sure that some of the caches will

remain undetected. |

To that extent, Swapo will have achieved its purpose and will be able to carry out its intimidatory tactics. : \200\231

There is also an idea that Swapo has damaged

itself in South West Africa. This may be so outside Ovambo, but there are signs already that the insurgents who were killed are being made into martyrs. : oA

Students, churchmen and others are putting out the false impression that the insurgents had no aggressive intentions but were

massacred by the police, assisted by the South-African forces. , '

President Mugabe has taken this line, too, and

we can expect that it will gain growing acceptance in Black Africa. Ak,

The only good thing, from South Africa's point of view, is that it has been able to dem-

onstrate its bona fides by complying with the

- peace plan. e

It has also shown that, despite Swapo's treach-
~ery, it still stands by implementation of Res-
~olution 435.

At the moment we are the 'good guys', a nice

- position to be in for a change, but whether

~we continue to be the 'good guys' jill de
the November election. 2

Wednesday 12 April 1989

LETTERS TO EDITOR

ANC holds no

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errors fo VQC

MAGGIE Thatcher is appalled at the thought of Britain losing her identity as part of a monolithic socialist European super-state. As the person who woke Britain from her 70-year long Socialist trance, her feelings are understandable. What is not as understandable is how she is proud of being responsible for the handing over of the Whites and minor Black tribes of Rhodesia to the not only Socialist, but Marxist Zimbabwe. Even less understandable is the fact that, outside the tinpot dictatorships of the British Commonwealth, her favourite country appears to be Communist Mozambique. It was the Thatcher government that feted Dictator Samora Machel and saw to it that he was decorated by the Queen. Are the ideals of Britain and Mozambique really that close?

When NP chief information officer Con Botha, while visiting Britain, announced that Mrs Thatcher could help South Africa solve its problems, two things should be borne in mind. Firstly the Iron Lady is no miracle worker, having done nothing to stop the slaughter on her own turf â\200\224 in Ulster. And secondly the thought of the installation of a totalitari-

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an ANC government in

South Africa holds no terrors for her.

The real problem is that the SA government has run out of ideas, which is why it desperately canvasses its branches for suggestions as to what to do next. When the NP was a grassroots party this was not necessary. In all likelihood the local academics, after their meeting with their KGB approved Russian counterparts, were debriefed to find out if the Russians had any helpful suggestions. I'm sure they did, but that they were not the sort most South Africans would want to hear about, as they would differ little from Mrs Thatcher's alleged secret plan for South Africa.

My guess is that the next great government breakthrough announced by the Foreign Minister, or more likely the Minister of Constitutional Affairs, will be that the ANC has renounced violence and will sit down at the negotiating table. Not the bad external wing, but the good, non-communist internal wing. For the sequence of events after that, just watch South West Africa Namibia.

M S RUSSELL
Kloof

and the United States.

â\200\230 msrahclnmm friendly footing during mired the leopards in par-
flag in a thorn tree about 200 m from a South meetings in Europe which ticular. He is said
to be
African camp on the Angolan border at Oshi- led to the signing of the keen to see South Afr
icaâ\200\231s