

Lwm/091/0014/15

POINTS FROM THE PRESS - 27TH JUNE, 1990

MANDELA'S US TRIP

- * Addressed joint meeting of Congress in a 45-minute speech
- * Two standing ovations during the speech, which was televised
- * Only the third civilian to address a joint meeting of Congress - the Marquis de Lafayette invited by President Monroe in 1824, and in 1989 Lech Walesa.
- * Reiterated that the people of SA should determine the moment when it and the rest of the international community should lift sanctions.
- * Nelson Mandela's has received one of the major accolades of the world media - his face is on the cover of Time magazine's international edition.
- * The Mercedes Benz made for Mandela by Numsa workers was completed two months ago, and the company is waiting for the ANC to finalise a hand-over date.
- * Right-wing reaction to the Mandela visit include the launch of a national advertising campaign aimed at discrediting the ANC as a communist dominated terrorist organisation. The John Birch Society, in a full page ad, attacks Mandela and includes a photo of him standing next to Joe Slovo with a hammer and sickle banner in the backdrop, both giving clenched-fist salutes.
- * The Washington-based conservative International Freedom Foundation rebuked Mandela for his call that the US cut aid to Unita, focusing on his remarks that Yasser Arafat, Colonel Gaddafi and Fidel Castro were brothers-in-arms.

Mandela on President Tambo: Nelson Mandela admitted that President Tambo was unlikely to recover from his stroke. Accepting an award on President Tambo's behalf at a dinner with US senators, Mandela said it was the opinion of doctors that at his age he may never fully recover. He said he was divulging this information at President Tambo's request.

SANCTIONS AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

In a joint communique, the EC leaders promised to consider a gradual relaxation of sanctions when there was clear evidence of continued movement towards the total dismantling of apartheid. The communique called for an early start to negotiations on a new SA, coupled with the renunciation of violence by all sides.

WEST GERMANY TO INCREASE AID TO SA

West Germany is to step up development aid to SA and its Economic Co-operation Minister, Jurgen Warnke, came out in support of Pik Botha's idea of a "Marshall Plan" for southern Africa. Speaking after meeting Pik Botha and Barend du Plessis, Warnke said that given recent developments in SA Germany had to be prepared to step up aid. Warnke held further talks with Du Plessis in Pretoria to discuss areas where West German assistance would most benefit SA. His visit to SA and commitment to switching emphasis away from sanctions come of the same day that Foreign Ministers of the EEC said sanctions would only be relaxed if there was further change.

JUNE 26

The streets have Nigel were bare of workers as residents of Duduza marked the 35th anniversary of the Freedom Charter. About 2% of the municipal council's workers reported for work and the bus service to the township was at a

complete standstill. The rally was addressed by Ahmed Kathrada and Barbara Hogan.

THE HARMS COMMISSION

The Commission has decided not to call Defence Minister Malan or Adriaan Vlok.

DE KLERK ON RIGHT WING ACTIONS

Right wing groups vowed to continue mobilising their armed forces because they say De Klerk has refused to guarantee the continued existence of the Afrikaner and his language. De Klerk met a delegation of the HNP, AWB, Magsaksie Nasionaal and the Genootskap van Regte Afrikaners. De Klerk issued a statement to the effect that the government would not tolerate anarchy and lawlessness, and this included the so-called Boer Commandos.

LABOUR RELATIONS ACT

Cosatu, Nactu and the SA Consultative Committee on Labour met De Klerk. Cosatu said it is "disturbed" that the meeting did not produce results. Protest action likely to be suspended for three weeks, while Cosatu and Nactu discuss proposed plans. Decisions will be finalised at Cosatu's executive committee meeting on 20 July.

THE NATAL STAYAWAY CALL - NACTU SAYS NO

The July 2 stayaway over Natal violence has problems with the announcement by Nactu and its affiliates that they had been told by their members to make a public statement clarifying their position that, at a national level, they are not in support of it.

Stayaway rejected on two grounds:

- * Nactu members had not been consulted, and they were not prepared to be spades or tools for other federations.
- * They also disagreed with the strategy chosen by Cosatu and the ANC to deal with the Natal violence, saying that instead of the present campaign the two sides should talk to each other. Nactu organiser Patrick Mkhize said if the ANC could talk to De Klerk, and Buthelezi could talk to De Klerk, why could they not talk to each other.

The United Front of Independent Trade Unions of SA has also dissociated itself from the planned action.

INKATHA

Inkatha will open membership to South Africans of all races and become a political party when it holds its annual conference in Ulundi next month, according to Chief Buthelezi.

OAU MEETING

African states are meeting in Arusha: two main items on the agenda. Response to political changes in South Africa, and the split between ANC and PAC hampering efforts to develop an OAU strategy on SA, diplomatic sources said.

SACC NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Frank Chikane delivered a State of the Nation address

11-point plan put forward, including maintenance of sanctions, abolition of the death penalty, dismantling of the CCBs, call for a constituent assembly, churches to take responsibility for economic justice in a post-apartheid SA,

the repeal of the Disclosure of Foreign Funding Act, campaign to repeal the Land Act, endorsement of plans for repatriation of SA exiles.

Called for a consultative meeting between ANC and PAC. Church leaders had decided to intervene by engaging these organisations in critical dialogue. Proposed a definition of the irreversibility of apartheid. It states that the dismantling of apartheid would be irreversible only when "the constituent assembly is constituted and the existing apartheid legislative structures have their sovereign power removed and invested either in the constituent assembly or in any other interim structure that could be agreed on". SACC Budget has risen from R10m in 1986 to R34m in 1990.

BOPHUTHATSWANA; TENSION MOUNTS

* A tense situation is developing at Onderstepoort, outside Pretoria. Squatters fleeing Bophuthatswana have erected shacks on privately owned farmland. The situation is being monitored by the Transvaal Agricultural Union and Bophuthatswana authorities. Last week police used teargas against the squatters. The TAU is organising a meeting with local farmers.

* About 800 families have fled from Bophuthatswana to avoid forced removals by Mangope because they are not regarded as citizens. Previously from Mabopane and Winterveld, they have begun building shacks in Mandela Park in Soshanguve, outside Pretoria.

CONSUMER BOYCOTTS

Consumer boycotts and stayaways over the past four months have cost Checkers R20-million and Pick'nPay R5 million. OK refused to give figures on the cost of the present strike. Since mid-February Checkers has been affected by stayaways and boycotts in 17 areas, including bantustans.

CISKEI

Vito Palazzolo, a key figure in the Harms Commission into cross border irregularities and in the current corruption trial of former NP MP Peet de Pontes, has been appointed Ciskei's ambassador plenipotentiary. The appointment was made after the production of documentary evidence exonerating him of all charges previously levelled against him.

RELEASE AND RETURN TO SA OF BILLY VAN ZYL

ANC says more spies held might be released. Release took place as a result of Groote Schuur. Brought to SA under SA police escort two weeks ago from Lusaka.

DETENTION OF SHIRLY GUNN

Shirley Gunn, member of the Clothing Workers' Union, was detained on Monday. She was sought by the police for 18 months in connection with alleged sabotage. Vlok had named her as a suspect in the bombing of Khotso House.

ANC ON ORGANISATION

There is a major article on page 9 of the Daily Mail, which gives an overview of the ANC's membership drive region by region.

ECONOMIC POINTERS

* SA's foreign trade grew at the same 7% annual rate as world trade in 1989, with SA's imports and exports rising by 2.5% and 11% respectively, the Board of Trade and Industry said in its 1989 annual report.

* Company and close corporation liquidations went up in the four months to the end of April by 45%, compared with January-April of 1989. Paul Edwards of the Information Trust Corporation said the higher rate of business failures confirmed that the economy was responding to constraints and was slowing faster than estimated.