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New ANC env
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BY HEIDI ROSE
TORONTO-Hundreds of people, in-
cluding politicians, artists, anti-apanheid
activists, unionists, and church and com-
munity leaders, jammed a midday, welcom-
ing ceremony May 14 for Peter Mahlangu,
the new African National Congress chief
representative to Canada.
Since the Canadian government refuses
to recognize the ANC, instead maintaining
diplomatic ties to the South African gov-
ernment, the ANC representative presented
his credentials to the people of Canada.
Archbishop Ted Scott, former primate of
the Anglican Church of Canada, chaired
the event, at which five representatives
spoke in acceptance of Mahlanguls creden-
tials.
Gord Peters, head of the Union of On-
tario Chiefs, told Mahlangu, iiWe bid you
welcome to our land and our territory, be-
cause we are the first people of this terri-
toryil
Ontario Federation of Labor President
Gordon Wilson read a statement by Cana-
dian Labor Congress President Shirley
Carr. nWe fully support the goals of the
ANC/i the statement declared. The union
leaders expressed ucautious optimism"
H-rv-c
0y to Canada
about independence for Namibia and called w
on the Canadian government to recognize 1
the ANC.
Wendy Braithwaite, a Black student ac- 1
tivist at the University of Toronto, Said, llItiri
angers us to know that children and youth? 1
are arrested, jailed, and tonured for oppos- v
ing apartheid. Youth are in the front lines, .
and justice will be attained by any means
necessary." She also condemned racist op-e .
pression in Canada and said, uYouth of.
South Africa, you are not alone '
Stephen Lewis, former Canadian ambas-
sador to the United Nations, called on the 1
Canadian government to apply "compre-
hensive, mandatory sanctions against Pre- 1t
toria and to recognize the ANC has the
voice and representative of the majority in
South Africa. i,
Mahlangu addressed the ceremony
briefly, expressing thanks for Canadian
support in the struggle against apartheid.
iiNo force, no arms, will stop the people of '
South Africa from attaining a nonracial,
democratic South Africa, ,i he said. v
Two days later, Mahlangu was the fea- .
tured speaker at a itFreedom Ride Against
Apartheid" demonstration of several hun-
dred in Ottawa, Canadais capital.
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