

By Eugene Saldanha,
Religion Reporter

- The United States invasion of Grenada,
. Mr PW Botha's visit to Europe and
| conscientious objection in South Africa
were among the wide-ranging issues
discussed by Bishop Desmond Tutu, the
South African Council of Churches
(SACC) general secretary, in his annual
report to the national conference yes-
terday.

Bishop Tutu, who called on Zimbab-
wean Prime Minister Mr Robert Mu-
gabe to release detained Bishop Abel
Muzorewa, who has been in custody
since November last year, also out-
lined the council's response to the Eloff
Commission of Inquiry into the SACC.

The Commission did not boast a sin-
gle professional theologian in its mem-
bership and could therefore not be ex-
pected to pass fair judgment on an or-
ganisation whose very reason for exis-
tence is theological, from beginning to
end, he maintained. :

The SACC had not declared apart-
heid to be wholly immoral and un-
biblical because of allegiance to any
political ideology, but rather because it
| was impelled to do so by the teachings

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report

of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. .
Questioning the morality of the US
invasion of Grenada,
asked: "In what way is this invasion
different from the Soviet invasion of
Afghanistan?"
Bishop Tutu went on to say there
was an oversupply of food in some
parts of the world but the market could
not be glutted because this would cause
prices to drop. .

STARVING CHILDREN

"Surpluses are destroyed when
there are potbellied children crying out

to be fed. In 1983 US farmers were paid to take 40 million ha of cropland out of production. The cost of a single nuclear submarine equals the annual education budget of 23 developing countries with 160 million school-going children. And 450 million in the world are starving,â\200\235 Bishop Tutu said.

â\200\234We must, as churches, insist on the right to conscientious objection to participate in war and therefore ask the authorities to provide alternative forms of national service which need not be less demanding in effort and courage than military service,â\200\235 Bishop Tutu said.

Referring to the Prime Minister's recent visit to Europe, Bishop Tutu said Mr Botha had scored a victory when he was able to visit so many heads of government in Europe and to secure an audience with the Pope. However, this was â\200\234a slap in the face for the victims of apartheidâ\200\235.

â\200\234Would these leaders have met Sta-

lin of Hitler under similar circumstances, or are they telling us that blacks are expendable and that whites

believe blood is thicker than water?â\200\235 he asked.

â\200\234It is interesting that all this diplomatic activity happens in the year of

a presidential election in the USA. The Government recognises that Mr Reagan is the best thing that has happened to them in a long while and they will do almost anything to help their friend get re-elected,â\200\235 Bishop Tutu added.
8See Page 2, Metro. ;

Bishop Tutu Â°

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PHONE: 673-4160

DR MANAS Buthelezi hit the
_nail on the head when he said the

liberation of truth is hampered:
\by differences and division \
within the churches themselves\l

these divisions are a reflection of
the division in the greater so-
ciety. We might- stop to pause
here for some reflection on what
might appear to be the obvious, -
but â\200\230what unfortunately is the
Painful situation in South Africa..

Before we do that it â\200\230might be
useful to expand on Dr Buthele-
ziâ\200\231s theme. He was speaking at
the South African Council of
Churchesâ\200\231 (SACC) national con-
ference in Bosrhont, Johannes-
burg. His message was that the
Christian truth needed liberation
from the bondage of the-church,
and that this was a task for The-
ology. -

â\200\234Each church believes its in-
sight into the understanding of
the Christian message is the cor-
rect one, with the result that
Christian truth jtseif became the
victim of these factions,â\200\235 he said.

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lated to religion. Many people
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very . volatile field of politics:
where heads are cracked with a
frequency that is normal, the
SACC is not afraid to be among
thosÃ© counted.

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through, is held in high esteem
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. Credibility and js viewed- as responsible, Dr Buthelezi chose 2 very dangerous subject on truth and divisions. We tend to think that he was quite right to "say our society is one of the most-divisive in various spheres "

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Dr Buthelezi believed that...

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burg. His message was that in Christian truth needed liberation from the bondage of the church, and that this was a task for Theology.

.. Each church believes its insight into the understanding of the Christian message is the correct one, with the result that Christian truth itself became the victim of these factions," he said.

While this may not be a very original approach, we believe Dr Buthelezi brought it out publicly at the right time and the right place. The SACC is perceived by many of us as the bastion of

" various freedoms, some unre-

lated to religion. Many people use this organisation as a religious and secular support in one way or the other. Even in the very volatile field of politics where lies are cracked with a frequency that is normal, the SACC is not afraid to be among those counted.

The SACC too, despite some turbulent times it has gone through, is held in high esteem locally and internationally.

That being the case, whatever is said at its conferences has credibility and is viewed as responsible. Dr Buthelezi chose a very dangerous subject on truth

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SOWETAN Wednesday, June 27 1984

BySELLO

RABOTHATA

LIE and a delusion |
as apartheid can

be defended only by

. other lies and delu-
" sions, and unless apart-

heid is dismantled
South Africa is. faeed.j

with a revolution,

Desmond Tutu, uid :

yesterday. ;Â»

Blshop Tutu, pre-

" senting his annual re-
port to the national

conference of the

SACC held in Bos-

- mont, near. Johannes-

burg, said he has

warned | the Govern-

â\200\230ment on an earlier oc-
casion and he wanted

to rextFrates that warn-

ing: .5 g

e Government is

not God. They are

mere mortals who hap-

pen at this time to

exercise much power,

largely illegitimate

power because they

are where they are not

by the will of the peo-

ple, since 80 percent of

South Africaâ\200\231s popula-

tion has been excluded

from the political deci-

sion-making process.â\200\235

" He said because of

the exclusion of the

majority, they canâ\200\231t in

any meaningful sense

recognise this minority

| Government as their
- government, but one
i-\202mthasusurped politi-
~ cal power through im-

mense police and mili-

Iea to Botha

clare a commitment to

\ a common citizenship
. for all South Africans
.in an undivided South

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tary strength. Their !

short history

itself - |

demonstrates just how

ephemeral and short-

- lived that. power can
he.

Hatred

Speaking on South
Africaâ\200\231s internal af-
fairs, mainly the new
constitutional dispen-
sation and forced re--

movals, Bishop Tutu

said: â\200\234That is where
lies disaster for our be-
loved country, that
way certainly leads to

the alternative too

ghastly to contem-
plate, that way leads to
bitterness, hatred, vio-
lence and the blood-
bath. All this can be
averted and the only

. way forward to true
- power, security and
{]ustlce for all will be

when apartheid will

have been dlsmant- .
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Blshop Tutu di-
rected his report to the
Prime Minister Mr P.
W Botha saying there
are four things he has
to do to solve the prob-

lem. These are: De-

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- truly democratic.

Africa; stop all forced
nulation removals
ediately; abolish

ss laws (deten-

tion without trial. and
.Q,I:bltrary bannings)
â\200\230and institute a com-
mon educational sys-
tem. Then call a na-
tional convention of all
the authentic leaders
of all sections of the

community to map out |

the kind of South Af-

Swapo

He said: â\200\234Please, Mr
Botha, get out of Na-

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| rica people want â\200\224

mibia. Do not make

ludicrous offers of

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'The blshop s report
Teco. nded that the
Câ\200\231s national con-
ference pass resolu-
tions about the coming

coloured and Indianâ\200\231s

elections in August

relocatlons unrest m '

- schools and nnxversl-
~ities, the morality of
the war in Namibia,

and also to appeal to
Zimbabwean Prime
Minister Robert Mu-

gabe for the release of
â\200\234Bishop Abel Muzo-

rewa who has been in ,

. detention since last
year.

other people's land to

former colonial pow-

ers. The Namibians

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want their country.

Why don't you offer it

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to them? You are to be
commended for releas-
ing Mr Toivo Ja Toxvo,

" but remove the South

African Defence Force

which we are told is .

feared a great deal more
by the Nz

.L....

bians than they fear

Swapo ;

WARNING: Bishop

Desmond Tutu of the -

- SACC.

THERE is division between black and white which has been legalised and turned into a sacred cow by the policy of apartheid, the Right Reverend Manas Buthelezi, president of the South African Council of Churches (SACC) said. Dr Buthelezi was speaking at the SACC's national conference which is being held at the St Barnabas School in Bosmont. His talk, titled 'Liberating the

Truth' was based on the

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SACC big indaba.

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situation in South Africa. He said there are those who are meeting in Cape Town these months discussing our future in the light of white interests while we sit outside as condemned spectators.

He said: 'There are black people who have

accepted the policy of

Bantustans and similar versions of it as it applies to Indians and coloureds. There are then many who believe that separate deve-

lopment is a white man's solution to his own problems. They believe that it has nothing good to offer for black people. : 'There is a further division among those who have accepted the policy

of separate development. Some have accepted the independence that the Government has offered. Others even though still operating within the policy reject the destination of the policy. Some

coloureds and Indians are now accepting the policy of co-optation,â\200\235 he said. ;

. Dr Buthelezi said there are dangerous divisions in the country. When Jesus sees Pretoria he weeps. If nobody heeds the warning there is going to be chaos in future. People who are divided end up hating one another. The group that is in power should stop taking provocative action against the voteless.

conference in Bosmont on Monday night.

AUDIENCE: Part of the audience that attended the SACC national

LEADERS: The SACCâ\200\231s national conference in Bosmont kicked off to a good start on Monday night. Bishop Desmond Tutu, general secretary of the SACC (left) Dr Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (centre) and Dr Manas Buthelezi, president of the SACC shared some light discussion. : 4

SINGING: The atmosphere at the SACCâ\200\231s national conference was almost electric with praises being sung to the Almighty. Father David Darkie and this youths from the Zola Holy Cross Youth Club led the congregation in song and dance. Nig Re

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MUSIC: The Zola Holy Cross Youth Club entertained people at the first night of the SACC national conference with Father David Darkie backing them on