



Transkei's youthful and unusual military leader

tacts with overseas industrialists and his relationships with other homeland leaders. This follows tensions between KwaZulu Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi and General Holomisa over their political roles.

"We were told that the Transkei foreign minister has been charged with the task of further movement and contact, both with homeland leaders and organisations such as the ANC."

Both the DP and the Military Council recognised that a non-racial structure in South Africa was urgently needed.

"The DP views on proportional representation as well as a degree of federalism were well received and it is clear that, conceptually, they have no problem of re-incorporation under a non-racial federal system.

"He explained that both the DP and Transkei strongly felt that they could act as conduits between the seemingly irreconcilable agendas of the Government and its main opposition."

As part of the DP's programme of engaging political opinion across the spectrum, the meeting was a success, Mr Haswell said.

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By LESTER VENTER
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THE GOVERNMENT is to drop its demand that the African National Congress abandons the armed struggle before it joins the negotiating table.

This dramatic change of approach will remove the main stumbling block in the way of a face-to-face meeting between the Government and the most important black liberation movement.

Senior Government sources said it would hold the ANC only to a commitment to a peaceful solution as a precursor to talks — dropping its previous insistence on a public renunciation of the armed struggle.

It would expect the ANC to give "some sort of sign" that it is prepared to become involved in the negotiating process.

Spokesmen pointed to the fact that the formerly rigid government demand for the abandonment of violence was conspicuously absent from President F W de Klerk's opening address at the National Party's Transvaal congress in Pretoria yesterday.

A top source disclosed in Pretoria yesterday that the Government accepted the ANC — "for historical and other reasons" — could not publicly move away from the armed struggle that had been central to its 29 years of exile.

Beacon

The Government, on the other hand, could not drop its commitment not to meet any group still engaged in violence — or holding out the option of returning to violence.

This impasse, it was hoped, could be solved by setting a new, mutually acceptable departure point — the commitment to a peaceful solution.

It came to the same thing — a cessation of violence by both parties — but made the start of negotiations more likely, with a new beacon for all parties to rally round.

The "commitment to a peaceful solution" requirement has been part of President De Klerk's political vocabulary for some months, but this is the first time a senior government negotiator has spelt out the quiet banishment of the "abandon violence" condition.

At the congress:

- Mr De Klerk called for "a sign of peace" from radical groups so the Government could begin lifting the state of emergency;

- Delegates made it clear they were ready to consider unbanning the ANC;

- Plans were spelt out to end racial discrimination so that the group concept could be presented as part of the Government's negotiation package.

Mr De Klerk said: "If those organisations who practise a policy of political violence and acts of terror were to give an indication, by word and deed, that those events will not recur, it would add greatly to a more relaxed atmosphere in which the state of emergency could be lifted."

Holomisa gives Buthelezi midnight deadline



Buthelezi



Holomisa

Sam Sole

TRANSKEIAN leader Major-General Bantu Holomisa has hit back at KwaZulu Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi, questioning his commitment to South Africa's future.

"Are you really concerned with the future of South Africa or safeguarding your cosy position and the purse attached to it?" the general asked in a letter this week reacting to comments the Zulu leader made at the Inkatha Women's Brigade annual congress.

"Does your concern perhaps not derive from the political opportunism so characteristic of small-timers and fading politicians who cannot stand the new wave of the political mood engulfing South Africa today?" he asked.

Expressing disbelief at Dr Buthelezi's criticism of his meeting with ANC leader Oliver Tambo and association with figures from the Mass Democratic Movement, General Holomisa said all sections of the South African population had made their way to Lusaka with a view to unlocking the country's political logjam.

"Why are you suddenly demonstrating this repugnance for the ANC and the MDM when in the Seventies you were agitating for the release of political prisoners, the return of exiles and their participation in the body politic of South Africa?"

The general has also given Dr Buthelezi until midnight tonight to make a public apology for personal remarks he made about the Transkeian leader. If Dr Buthelezi does not apologise, General Holomisa says he will take legal action.

In his speech the KwaZulu leader told the general: "Stop peddling your political arse to the highest bidder at my expense, and remember that when you are aided (by Pretoria) you become politically HIV positive".

Dr Buthelezi implied also that General Holomisa's Transkei coup might have been orchestrated and sanctioned by the ANC and said if this was so his hands were "very filthy".

Failing an apology the general said he would "not hesitate" to institute legal proceedings over these "excoriating remarks".

Diplomats fear efforts to sidetrack Namibian independence plan

Gerald L'Ange

Argus Africa News Service

TWO weeks before Namibia's independence election a sinister shadow is starting to loom over the process.

There are fears in diplomatic circles that efforts are being made at the United Nations to sidetrack parts of the independence plan that were intended to ensure that the new Namibia is a democratic state by Western definition.

The objective, it is suspected, is to clear the way for Swapo to gain political control and dictate the form of government.

This would be done by bypassing key provisions of Security Council Resolution 435, which sets out the modalities of the independence process. These provisions were added as a set of principles by the Western powers in 1982 with the acceptance of all the parties in the Namibian independence negotiations, including Swapo.

The provisions relate to the constituent assembly which will be chosen in the election from November 7 to 11 and which will be responsible for drawing up the new nation's constitution.

The crucial provision requires the constitution to be adopted by two thirds of the assembly's members.

Other provisions are for an American style, three-tier government consisting of executive and legislative branches and an independent judiciary responsible for interpreting the constitution and ensuring its supremacy.

The executive and legislative branches must be chosen through periodic elections with a secret ballot.

Also provided for is a declaration of fundamental rights enforceable through the courts.

The concern in diplomatic circles stems mainly from a draft

It contains a clause which diplomats believe would in effect nullify the main provisions of Resolution 435 and possibly all the other documents and agreements on which the present independence exercise is based.

It would in addition establish the constituent assembly as the "Supreme embodiment of the will of the Namibian people" — a clause that diplomats believe could be aimed at allowing the assembly to override the 1982 principles.

If the draft resolution were to be adopted by the Security Council it is considered almost certain that South Africa, for one, would regard the current independence process as null and void and bring it to a halt.

Should it get to the Security Council in its present form, however, the resolution would almost certainly be vetoed by the United States and perhaps others of the council's permanent members.

But it would remain as a kind of unofficial mandate for Swapo to ignore the 1982 principles if it won control of the constituent assembly — or if it won a subsequent general election.

In its election manifesto Swapo has departed from its earlier adherence to extreme Marxist principles in some respects. It has, for instance, expressed itself in favour of a mixed economy. But the manifesto is unclear on the principles enshrined in the 1982 addendum to Resolution 435 and could be seen to have left Swapo open to rejecting them.

There is growing controversy over the issue in Namibia itself, where Swapo's opponents are claiming it is becoming increasingly uncertain of winning a two-thirds ma-

16/1/11



Archbishop Desmond Tutu with Walter Sisulu at a reception yesterday.

ANC rally to be held

SOUTH Africa's first ANC rally in 30 years takes place next Sunday at the First National Stadium.

The rally, announced yesterday by the National Reception Committee, begins at noon and will be the first public meeting of the ANC in nearly 30 years, writes SANDILE MEMELA.

Almost all the released ANC leaders, including restricted Govan Mbeki of Port Elizabeth, are expected to speak.

According to Murphy Morobe of the NRC, the ANC leaders will give the organisation's "official" viewpoint on major issues — including negotiations,

the peace process in Natal, the education crisis, the Labour Relations Act and the role of the ANC and the MDM.

Morobe hinted the rally could also signal the dawn of a new era of closer alignment between the ANC and PAC.

The NRC has called on the thousands expected to attend the gathering to observe discipline and order.

Meanwhile, an application has been lodged for the relaxation of Mbeki's restrictions. If successful, it is hoped he will be flown to Johannesburg with Oscar Mpetha, Raymond Mhlaba and Harry Gwala.