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Dr van Zyl»f-Sla;bberstiÃ\200\230pe\aks: out-against'NP plans Â« s

Bill of Rights no

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INTRODUCTION by the

National Party of Bill of

Rights would be well-nigh

impossible under the current system; and, if it was attempted, it could well give a bad name to the concept of a Bill of Rights as a mechanism for individual protection.

Dr Slabbert also said that it was a mistake to see a Bill of Rights as a vehicle to precipitate constitutional change or Ãven-as some sort of panacea for living happily ever after.

The NP\200\231s main problems was the point made by the Law Commission itself when it investigated the possibility of a Bill of

Rights, namely that laws of a-

racial nature had to be scrapped first. '

A Bill of Rights.had to reflect a constitutional and legal sys-

tem in which there was no ra-

cial discrimination, Dr Slabbert said. Laws such as the the Group Areas Act could not be maintained under a Bill of Rights designed to protect.the individual.

But, even if there was a situation where there was no racial discrimination, the country would still be faced with â\200\234gross Ãconomic inequalityâ\200\235 between blacks and whites.

First generation rights such as haebeus corpus, freedom of association and movement and other civil liberties could be enforced by law. But, Dr Slabbert

.- pointed out, problems would

" then arise with the second and third generation rights such as the right to work, health, shelter, and a healthy ecology.

. A Bill of Rights could not get

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Former leader of the Progressive Federal Party and a director of the Institute for a Democratic Alternative (Idasa), Dr Frederick van Zyl Siabbert, recently spoke out against National Party plans to consider the introduction of a Bill of Rights. In an interview with The Daily News political correspondent, BRUCE CAMERON he explains why.

SNBSS AT

rid of these inequalities. They would have to be addressed through Government

. policy. A 2

This had given rise to the current debate raging over the re-

distribution of wealth. The de-

. bate, however, was not new and

simply reflects the age-old ten-

- sion in any society between the

values of individual liberty and equality of opportunity.

In the South African context

one can only hope a non-racial and democratic constitution can provide a political framework to resolve the problem rather than through some type of totalitarian or authoritarian control, he said. :

Dr Siabbert argues that the ending of white minority control was not sufficient and a Bill of Rights which would merely serve to protect white minority interests would be counterproductive. "You cannot guarantee white privilege in a future constitution but neither can you

guarantee a job and house for

everyone,â\200\235 he said.

Aua. 1989

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â\200\234Those who were holding up 2
Bill of Rights during the current
election campaign as some type
of guarantee of white privilege |
are simply indulging in political
posturing. They were not oniy
deluding the voters but wers en-
dangering a Bill of Rights.

â\200\234The real challenge will be
what will happen politically, so-
cially and economically after all
forms of racial discrimination
have been scrapped and South
Africa enters a period of free
and open political competition.â\200\235
. Despite the problems he does
not argue against a Biil of
Rights saying it would play a
valuable role in protecting indi- |
vidual liberty but it would also |
be unrealistic in the extreme to
believe it would solve social and
economic inequalities.

Dr Slabbert also warned the
NP that there was no way that
group right could be protected
in law by a Bill of Rights. A Bill
of Rights would become 2
source of conflict if it enshrined
the privilege or lack of prive-

*lege of any group.

National Party leader, Mr F
W de Klerk and the Nationalists
had to realise that white group
privilege had been built on dis-
criminatory legislation. The NP
was now pretending racial
group rights were something
natural and this had to be pro-
tected by law.

â\200\234If Mr de Klerk enters the
nineties with ihiiz in mind, he
will not only fail to undo the
stalemate and violence that is
the legacy of his predecessors.
he will compound it,â\200\235 said Dr

Slabbert.

News by B Cameron 85 Field Street. Durban

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3 bCSt,atuto,y discrimina-

tion,â\200\235 Slabbert sajd.

Laws such as the lem, not only for the

on Registration NP but for an :

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Act and Gm"â\200\230p Areas P"EY J

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T prob- first generation Shelter and 5 health

â\200\231 ecology. y

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The debate however
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house for everyone. Those who were holding up a Bill of Rights during the current election campaign as some type of guarantee of white privilege are simply indulging in political posturing. " They were not only deluding the voters but were endangering a Bill of Rights. The real challenge will be what will happen politically, socially

vide a political framework to resolve the problem rather than through some type of totalitarian or authoritarian control. Slabbert argues that as a result, the ending of white minority con-

trol was not sufficient -

and a Bill of Rights which would merely serve to protect white minority

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Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert

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and economically after all forms of racial discrimination have been scrapped and South Africa enters a period of free and open political competition. Despite the problems, he does not argue

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saying it would play a valuable role in protecting _ liberty, but it would also be unrealistic in the extreme to believe it would solve social and economic in-

equalities.

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the possibility of a Bill

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F W de Klerk

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NATIONALIST leader F W de Kler)
sworn in as Acting State President: hj;
morning following last nightâ\200\231s dramatic fes
ignation by Mr P W Botha in a broadside ? ;
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tack on his own Cabinet nferences

they were soft on securi =
Members of the Cabi- E

net forced him to resign

after rejecting his stand

against the proposed

talks with President ke

Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia. | | Âç AEE .
Mr Botha was against the talks because|of Dr Kaugd

involvement with the ANC and, he said, because h
not been properly informed b;ut this and ot â\200\230
visits, R & S i B
Foreign Minister Pik Botha denied that M)
been informed and said: â\200\230I regret to have to;sjy i hink

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the President's memory failed him.â\200\231. "} Â¢ 4 & =
He insisted that Mr Botha had been informed and added tha} -
there were other officials present w\hq heard what he had
Mr Pik Botha also revealed there had been
from other African heads of state to meet Mr
it had been. decided to delay them because of] the eleptio
campaign. | â\200\230
Both he and Mr de Klerk told viewers how
the developments of yesterday, but Mr de!Klerk said h
lieved the state of Mr Bothaâ\200\231s health justified
and that it was in the best interests of the country.

rounding the proposed talks with Dr Kaunda/developed whil
he was acting as â\200\230honest brokerâ\200\231 in attempting|to sprt out djffe

~ences between Unita leader Jonas Savimhi and Pres{de

Mabuto Sese Seko, in Pretoria. -~ | 1 % 1] '
It is understood that President Botha called on ministerÂ\$ on
by one to state where they stood â\200\224 and they all spid he shoul

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gzputies at an emergency meeting in Pretor.la on Sat.urday.
They are understood to have said the did not think any of
the Cabinet rules about foreign visits had been broken and that

.Mr de Klerk had opened the discussions on a commjnatory note.
However, they proposed he should retire to his home in
Wilderness and that he should appoint an acting president un-
â\200\234ti] after September 6 and sugggst,ed he could use the state qf his
health as 1 reasâ\200\230?q&â\200\230; 1
' vTo, this T replied â\200\230 on. i
"i-\201?â\200\231\l/::"clgnsequgntly decided to submit my resignation to the

on a nationwide television broadcast.
qt is evident to me that after all these years of my best efforts
for the NP and for the Government of this country as well as the

security of our country, 1 am being ignored by ministers serving
in my Cabinet. - " . :
â\200\230I consequently have no Âçhoice other than to announce my

resignation.â\200\231 . .
Mlg' de Klerk said it was unfortunate that a man who hgd done

*so much for the country should retire in these circumstances

and rejected suggestions that theâ\200\230 Cabinet
' Botha's health as a â\200\230smokescreen. - LA A
. Mr Botha had decided to retire â\200\230and 1 think i
e he countryâ\200\231. . } by :
: mt}:re::isxd the country, however, that the AQmmltsgrz:txt);
â\200\230 woueid continue as befon;_e ande gejdeicstc%%sfgi-\201ge&iltok?sPregident
â\200\231 t favour i 1
g{a:::d;htehf (;)}fâ\200\231r:?de nchanged its aftitude about _havnpq talks
5 with the ANC. & isive o o oy
: i had made it quite clear at the re
| Â¥ C::)eestar;gthtie partyâ\200\231s attitude yelmalx;ed the same
b uld have to renounce violence.
: Al:{(x:' ?lâ\200\2312 Klerk said he had made this clear to Mr Botha at the
: i eeting yesterday. :
o howdon between Mt Bobe hd e SIS
" ended nearly seven months of tension i tncetth B r
; i ources close to the Cabine inhi o
acaog?Ã@ggct:r:e after rising speculation about his Â»unpr_edlct

ongress in the
that the

ided sfh:n;eetxhg of all Nationalist ministers an i g
B PR s prpparem) P | e T Mg
| ableâ\200\231 actions and whether Mr Botha was suffering from lapses -

{5 e 07 5 T g TR ROV S B I AAROPS S\ b [

am not prÃ@pared to'leave on a lie'and I _
r o e 1 Tape-recorded
Chief Justice today with effect from August 15, Mr Botha said

had tried to use Mr

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i of memory.

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f de Klerk.

to Mr Botha in what
tempt by Mr Botha to
| Tensions between

â\200\230 policy announcements boiled u
| wrote a letter of complaint to Mr de Klerk on June 2.

| It has been pointed
| gratulated Mr de Kler
' the NP.

This has now raise
- planning to hit back

which could do the NP serious harm in its battle against the

Right-wing Conservati
Mr Botha said. the

and

Kaunda were being arranged raised a matter of trust between

thei\202gad of State

It is quite clear that Mr

! public:announcement

Klerk without his knowing about it. -

'Iti\201sâ\200\231eÃ@ms too that
Savimbi would not

Though it is not expected that Mr de Klerk wi j
hough it â\202rk will take ma
new initiatives during th'e.election campaign, senior Nation'le?lf
ists were predicting â\200\230positive developmentsâ\200\231 soon.

Mr Botha's decision to leave will be seen as a victory for Mr

There were suggestions
would have been destroyed if he had not been able to stand up

In his national broadcast, Mr Botha
extraordinary Cabinet meeting had
the permission of Cabinet members.

that his image as a strong leader

has been interpreted as a deliberate at-
seek a confrontation and to discredit him,
them about proposed foreign visits and
p some time ago and Mr Botha

out that

up to now Mr Botha h -
Jut tha a has not con

election as new leader-in-chief of

said too that yesterdayâ\200\231s
been tape-recorded with
d questions as to whether Mr Botha is
publicly during the election campaign,

ve Party.
way the proposed talks with President

kis'ministers:- - P

Botha was incensed by Drâ\200\230 Kauf;da's A

of a date for his meeting with Mr de

Mr Botha felt that Unita leader Dr Jo
approve of the meeting with Dr Kaunda.nas

Itappears that Dr Savimbi visited Pretoria a i
: Âç : nd had -
sions with Mr Pik Botha about them and then agree?ilstchues}'

should go ahead.

@ See also Pages 2 and 8

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â\200\230 F&m =7 .
The State Presidentâ\200\231s statement

CAPE TOWNâ\200\224Herewith
the full text of the state-
ment by President Botha:
Good evening ladies and
gentlemen. On the appoint-
ment of a minister, a copy of
Guidelines for Ministers are

presented to him. These

guidelines have been appli-
cable to all who have served
in the Cabinet since January
19 1985.

According to those guide-
lines, ministers are entitled

~Westbrooke.

self on Thursday, August 10.
He phoned me that same
morning from Pretoria to my
private residence in Wilder-
ness to inform me that fric-
tion has developed between
certain African leaders. i

He then asked me whether
he could contact me that
same evening, that is, Thurs-
day, August 10 tn Cape Town.
I replied that it would be pos-
sible from half past five at

fice, the NEC together with
all the departments and sec-
tions represented thereon, as
well as the commanding
structure of the military wing,

_are permanently situated in
Lusaka.

Zambia is the centre where
the ANC plans and co-ordi-
nates its military and politi-
cal activities against the RSA.
Besides the ANC headquar-
ters and the various depart-

â\200\234~ments of the ANC in Lusaka,

occasions indicated that he
would be willing to act as me-
diator between the RSA Gov-
ernment and the ANC in
order to reach a settlement in
the RSA.

President Kaunda played
an important role during the
visit of the Eminent Persons
Group (EPG) to Southern

Africa. President Kaunda furthermore uses his influence as chairman of the OAU and

President Kaunda at this stage.

On Friday. August 11, Mr de Klerk sent me a fax which reads as follows: "Following my request this morning, I am pleased that it was by telephone that I would be appreciated if you would meet a delegation of National Party-ministers on an urgent basis at a time and venue of your choice. My of-

ice will inquire late this

in front-line state (FLS) context to advocate international

afternoon at your office about

a decision

official visits abroad where he again phoned me at the ANC among others also

such visits are deemed essential in the national interest, provided that prior approval President. The following

has the following facilities in

Zambia:

Radio Freedom facilities in

about six at Westbrooke to in-

form me that the discussions

were progressing well and in the necessary

In view of the continuous.

nature of a minister's responsibilities within the Republic, the extent and duration of foreign visits should be kept to the absolute minimum and should be so arranged that ministers are not absent from

; more than one Cabinet

meeting.

It must furthermore be so

arranged that a minister and deputy minister are not abroad simultaneously. Ministers must also furnish copies of their proposed travel programmes to the State President's Office for distribution.

These arrangements are not technicalities. In fact, it is the essence of trust between a head of state and ministers serving in his Cabinet. To attempt to brush this aside as technicalities, is to play with the highest interests of the country.

I had reason to address the following in a letter to the Minister of National Education, Mr FW de Klerk on June 2 1989. I quote from the letter: I am informed of policy statements that completely ignore the State President. I am also informed of proposed foreign visits announced by you without complying with the prescribed rules for ministers in this regard.

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I also wish to refer to a telephone conversation between :olleague R F Botha and my-

ANC's medical requirements and youth activities. This facility is also used as a transit base;

The main logistic facility of the ANC, situated in the Lilanda residential area in Lusaka;

Printing facilities to meet some of the ANC's administrative requirements;

Various farms and agricultural projects in the vicinity of Lusaka, for example Chongela Farm;

A furniture factory known as Star Furnitures in Lusaka.

In addition to office facilities, accommodation is provided to senior commanding and control personnel of the ANC.

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Zambia is also being used

as a thoroughfare to make infiltration into the RSA via various neighbouring states possible. Trained terrorists usually infiltrate from foreign countries into Zambia where they stop over for vary-

Shortly afterwards, at eight oâ\200\231clock, I heard on television news that President Kaunda had announced that Mr Pik Botha and Mr FW de Klerk would visit Zambia on August 28 to meet President Kaunda.

That had not been cleared with me in terms of the ministerial rules to which I referred earlier.

I immediately called Minister Botha at the State Guest House in Pretoria and referred to the statement by President Kaunda. He was surprised to learn about it and said that it would be rectified during the news broadcast.

I contacted several ministers on Thursday night in this regard, but was unsuccessful in obtaining a satisfactory arrangement on these matters.

I consequently issued the following statement on August 11.-and I quote: In terms of the rules governing foreign journeys by ministers, I am not aware of the discussions on August 28 as announced by Dr Kaunda.

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After this, I received several telephone calls. inter alia from Minister R F Botha and Minister FW de Klerk. My viewpoint was that such a matter cannot be settled telephonically.

The ANC is being orchestrated and organised from

are transferred to various neighbouring states as members of the various political/military structures. President Kaunda rejects the political/constitutional development in the RSA and attempts to promote the institution of extensive economic punitive measures against

the RSA. His action is evidently aimed at promoting

Lusaka. The ANC's head of-

the ANC's image abroad and at exerting pressure on the RSA Government to transfer the power to the ANC.

In this regard. President Kaunda has on various

ing periods. From there, they -

pressure and economic punitive measures against the RSA.

resident Kaunda is cur-

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for Dr Savimbi to meet with â\200\224 broadcasts against the RSA: " rently play
meTaccepted tha A centre providing for the co-operation with other FLS

leaders and the ANC, in at-
tempts at finding a so-called
solution to the RSAâ\200\231s â\200\230prob-
lem'. The following is inter
alia known in this regard:
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At the request of President Kaunda and President Mugabe, the ANC compiled a document containing its viewpoint concerning negotiation with the RSA Government. which was reportedly discussed on August 10 1989 in Lusaka at a summit meeting of the OAU.

Last-mentioned inter alia took place in preparation of a meeting of the OAU's Subcommittee for Southern Africa under the chairmanship of Hosni Mubarak. (new Secretary-General of the OAU) at which an attempt is reportedly to be made to formulate a United African Nationalist position with regard to discussionâ\200\230negotiation with the RSA Government. The viewpoint will also be submitted to the Non-aligned Movement.

The above activities are mainly aimed at inter alia:

Formulating a consolidated viewpoint with regard to

discussion/negotiation in which the ANC and PAC can be accommodated in order to obtain the initiative for a possible negotiation process.

The ANC is enjoying the protection of President Kaunda and is planning insurgency activities against South Africa from Lusaka. In view of the General Election of 6 September 1989, and the deliberate attempts at disruption. I am of the opinion that it is inopportune to meet

a-Decision:

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In reply. I faxed the following to Mr de Klerk: 200\2241- am surprised to hear that you

of ministers. A meeting of the Cabinet is being arranged for Monday morning. August 14 1989 at 08h30 at Tuynhuys.'

I shall not approve a visit to Dr Kaunda by ministers at this stage.

This morning I had discussions lasting a few hours with members of the Cabinet about my point of view. They all had the opportunity of putting forward their point of view. With their permission. a

tape recording was made of

the proceedings.

Arising from their meeting on Saturday in Pretoria. they proposed to me that I should depart for my private residence and appoint an acting State President until after September 6.

I asked them what reason I could offer for such a step. They replied that I could use my health as an excuse.

To this I replied that I am

not prepared to leave on a lie and I have consequently decided to submit my resignation to the Chief Justice today with effect from 15 August 1989.

It is evident to me that after all these years of my best ef-

forts for the National Party
and for the Government of

this country as well as the se- _

curity of our country. I am be-
ing ignored by ministers

serving in my Cabinet. I con- |

sequently have no choice oth-
er than to announce my resig-
nation.

I thank the thousands of
friends of South Africa of all
language groups who.
through the years, have
shown their goodwill towards
me and my wife. We leave
this post with memories of

friendship and loyalty.

I thank the Public Service.

I thank members of our se-
curity services from the high-
est officer to the youngest
members and their families.

I thank all within and out-
side politics who have car-
ried us by their loyalty and
friendship through so many
years.

It is my sincere prayer that
all will be well with our coun-
try. its security and its peace.

Good night.

(Report by Ben MacLennan and
Geoff Dekenah. Press Gallery,
Parliament) â\200\224 (Sapa)

F'K&Mâ\200\230qu'z, | e
P W through the years

As Minister of Defence in 1967 PW B BB s i

Botha acknowledges a naval salute P W is congratulated by his wife, Mrs |

aboard the U S aircraft carrier Franklin D Elise Botha, when he became Prime Min-
Roosevelt in Cape Town harbour. ister in September 1978.

AR â\200\224â\200\224â\200\224

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Prime Minister Botha dances with Iocâ\200\230:â\200\230alrÃ@kikrls v;/Hen he paid a State v
isit to the Repub- |
\ lic of China in October 1980. â\200\230

; resignation statement in

Wi 46 Xlerk, clearly tryng to Coitrol
A :the' possible damage, paid tl:%butecgâ\200\234::! i

National Party, Mr F W de Kler! Â¥
night challenged key aspects of %re?i

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| dramatic_announcement that he was re-~

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â\200\234Eventually he

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â\200\234decided to resign. I be-
lieve this was in the best interests of
State l?residgnt,â\200\231 Mr de Kle:kesra?:lâ\200\230.s tf th e

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De Klerk rejects |

President's claim

- FROM PAGE 1

paid tribute to Mr Botha, saying he had achieved a great deal in his political career even if this was at times simply as a result of bowing to pressure.

"It is tragic that at a time when South Africa needs decisive and imaginative leadership, political infighting based primarily on personalities has led to the State President's resignation in this fashion," the statement said.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Defence, Gen Magnus Malan, said yesterday's meeting with Mr Botha was necessary because the country could not continue to go ahead in uncertainty.

"I want to tell you this it was a positive meeting. It was necessary that this meeting take place."

One of the Democratic Party's co-leaders, Dr Zach de Beer, said no one should be surprised that the 'Big Crocodile' was thrashing his tail a bit because he felt it was his prerogative to meet people like President Kenneth Kaunda, our Cape Town correspondent reports.

The Nationalist fight was the classical picture of a party

that had been in power too long, that has lost its idealism and its sense of direction, that exists only for the benefit of its leader and members," he said at a meeting in Graaff Reinet.

@ As leader of the National Party, Mr Botha brought about more change away from apartheid than any of his predecessors â\200\224 but he leaves hardly anyone grateful for the manner in which he did so, eminent extra-parliamentary politician Dr van Zyl Slabbert said.

Dr Slabbert said the President â\200\230combined repression and reform with equal unpredictability and lack of vision'.

Our Political Reporter, Patrick Leeman writes that the accession of Mr de Klerk as State President-elect, meant â\200\230the eclipse of the verligtes', Dr Worrall warned in Durban last night.

Speaking to 500 people at a packed Democratic Party meeting in the Sherwood Hall, the DP co-leader referred to the resignation as â\200\230a personal tragedyâ\200\231. "

Yesterday's developments . had illustrated the effect of corruption and power in the National Party. |

Mr Stoffel Botha, Natal lead- |

er of the National Party, has rejected insinuations by retiring President Botha that the Cabinet was becoming soft on

security, reports Ormande | Pollok, the Mercuryâ\200\231s Political |

Correspondent. |

The President made it clear in his resignation speech to the nation last night that he had been opposed to talks between Mr de Klerk and Presi-

dent Kenneth Kaunda because |

of the Zambian leaderâ\200\231s links and support for the ANC.

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â\200\234There is a fresh approach but this does not mean we are soft on security,â\200\231 said Mr Botha.]

(Report by Barfy Streek. 122 St
George's St, Cape Town. G Rog-
ers, 141 Commisgioner St. Johan-
nesburg, AJ Stifling, 28 Height
Street. Doornforitein, Johannes-
burg. P Leeman. 12 Devon -
shire Place, Durban. O Pollok
12 Devonshire Place, Durban)

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African nations
fail to report e

new Aids cases

" 'The Starâ\200\231s Foreign News Service
GENEVA â\200\224 World Health Organi-
sation (WHO) officials are worrying
that failure by African countries,
â\200\234including South Africa, to send in
updated reports on Aids may give
the public a wrong impression
about the real spread of the dis-
ease.

â\200\234Our monthly statistical reports do
not show the true picture because only
the advanced nations send us regular
new situation accountings,â\200\235 one execu-
tive explained.

The WHO global Aids tabulation for
April 30 showed a world total by that
date of 151790 known cases cumula-
tive since the disease first appeared in
1979.

SA LAGGING

The figure represented an increase

â\200\234"of 5221 cases' of 3,56 percent during
April.

â\200\234But the increase was certainly
much higher and the world total is at
least twice as high as the WHO official
said.

â\200\234We simply are not getting suffi-
ciently regular or complete reports

from many parts of the world and -
especially from Africa,â\200\235 he said.

The US's latest report to WHOâ\200\231s Aids
Centre was dated on April 13. Itâ\200\231
showed a rise during the previous,
month of 2845 cases to a total 89501
or 59 percent of the world total. The.
US increase was also more than half
the new reported cases.

But that was all but meaningless in
view of the age of most of the reports -
from the badly affected African na-
tions.

South Africa was also behind in its-
reporting to WHO, with its 25 cases
dating back to January 17.

Burundiâ\200\231s 1408 cases dated back to
June 30 last year. Tanzania last: report-
ed on December 31 with 4158 cases..

The 5 998 cases in Uganda were report-.
ed to WHQ on October 31. Zambia last-
reported on December. 31 (1.296) and
Zimbabwe was an entire year behind,
with its 119 cases reported on April 30
1988.

Kenyaâ\200\231s 2732 cases were at June 30
last year and Malawiâ\200\231s 2586 cases
were reported on the same date.

â\200\234This means that the tabulation
gives at best a distorted picture of the .
real situation,â\200\235 a WHO-official said.

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W BOTHA is a man whose life has been
marked by contradictions.

The image that he would perhaps have liked to
have projected would have been that of a digni-
fied and devoted statesman, harshly judged by an
unsympathetic outside world, doing his best to
steer the country on a constructive middle course
between the political demands of communist-
backed black nationalism and the verkrampde de-
mands of his former party colleagues on the far
Right.

His own official curriculum vitae said in 1989
that as executive State President Mr Botha was
pursuing the following national goals: freedom of
faith and worship; the maintenance of law and or-
der; the furthering of the contentment and the
spiritual and material welfare of all; the self-de-
termination of population groups and peoples;
and private initiative and effective competition
by means of deregulation in order to make more
people economically active.

It was Mr Botha who built up the Defence Force
and the arms industry to make South Africa the
most formidable fighting force on the continent
and an international supplier of weapons.

It was under his leadership that coloureds and
Indians were brought in to the Tricameral Parlia-
mentary system, that the Government at last ac-
cepted the principle of independence for
Namibia, that major economic deregulation and
privatisation took place, that moves were made to
rationalise the civil service, stamp out corruption
and do away with so-called petty apartheid.

On a more personal level he was regarded as a
God-fearing Christian and a devoted family man.

There can be no doubt that he took white South
Africans a long way from the dogged and
unashamed racism of the Verwoerdian era.

Crippling inflation

He himself went through remarkable personal
changes, from being a supporter of repatriation of
Indians to India, and from walking country towns
with a tape measure to have coloureds with insuf-
ficient property rights disqualified from the vot-
ers' rolls, to having these two groups seated in
Parliament as equal partners with whites.

But his critics point out:

The tricameral system and other reforms did
little to stifle black demands for democratic re-
presentation in government;

Under his premiership South Africa's financial position deteriorated internationally and, with crippling inflation and massive unemployment, internally as well;

Dismantling of petty apartheid was not permitted to materially affect issues such as group areas or the homelands policy;

In spite of his personal commitment to a clean administration, corruption continued to boil to the surface at the highest levels of government;

It was under his presidency that emergency powers were repeatedly invoked to crush political dissent.

At a personal level there were contradictions too: the benign elder statesman image was betrayed by an irascible temper, which he vented regularly on his political opponents and the Press.

One of his bitterest political rivals, Dr Connie Mulder, who came within six caucus votes of defeating him for the premiership in 1978 and subsequently resigned as minister and MP under the cloud of the Information scandal, had a decidedly uncomplimentary view of him.

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P W Botha an

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From Sapa
in Cape Town

Reviewing a 1984 biography of Mr Botha, Dr Mulder recalled an incident not mentioned in the book. He said young P W Botha, a spoilt child who wanted for nothing and was accustomed to getting his own way, had arrogantly ridden a horse through the home of a bywoner on his parents' Free State farm.

That, Dr Mulder said, illustrated the character of a man with essentially no image.

In spite of the demands of his career, he appears to have been a devoted husband and at times a doting father.

He married Elize, born Anna Elizabeth

Rossouw, in 1943, and they produced two sons and three daughters. His first public words on being elected prime minister, spoken on the steps of the House of Assembly in front of a crowd of journalists and onlookers, were: "Where is my wife?"

Pieter Willem Botha was born on January 12, 1916, in the Paul Roux district of the Free State. He received his education at Paul Roux and Voortrekker High at Bethlehem. He then enrolled as student in law at the University of the Orange Free State.

At the age of 20, on the initiative of Dr D F Malan, he left his studies to become an organiser of the Cape National Party. In 1946 he was appointed Union Information Official of the National Party in the service of the Federal Council, a position he held until the General Election of 1948, after which he became the MP for George.

He represented George until September 2, 1984, the only surviving MP of the 1948 election. On his resignation as Union Information Official, he was elected secretary to the Cape NP, a position he held for 10 years.

In 1958 Mr Botha was appointed Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, one of the first three deputy ministers appointed by the late Dr H F Verwoerd. During 1961 he was appointed Minister of Commu-

nity Development and of Coloured Affairs. In 1964 he also became Minister of Public Works.

He was relieved of these portfolios on April 4, 1966, and took up the Defence portfolio till October 7, 1980.

Also in 1966, he became leader of the Cape National Party and as such, chairman of the Board of Directors of Nasionale Pers Ltd, publishers of the Burger, official mouthpiece of the Cape National Party.

Mr Botha was appointed Leader of the House of Assembly in January, 1975, a position he held until 1978.

On September 28, 1978, when Mr Vorster resigned in the face of the looming Information scandal, Mr Botha became the eighth prime minister of South Africa. He retained the defence portfolio and also controlled the National Intelligence Service.

He had already been playing a leading role in moves to bring coloureds into the system of government. In 1975 he had been appointed chairman of the Cabinet committee entrusted with the investigation into the possibility of a new constitutional system for the State, with specific attention to the position of the coloureds.

Soon after the publication of the Erika Theron Commission report in 1976, he became the first

Government spokesman to support its recommen-

dition that the country move away from the Westminster system of government to accommodate

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adictions

In September, 1976, the Cabinet committee was charged with an extended instruction to also inquire into the position of Asiatics.

The committee heard evidence in 1977 and in the same year announced constitutional proposals which were approved by all four provincial congresses of the NP as well as the majority of the electorate â\200\224 which at that time was still all white â\200\224 in the General Election of 1977.

The plan was jettisoned when the Coloured Representative Council rejected the three separate parliaments proposed. The Senate was disbanded and the task of constitution-making was given to the first multiracial statutory body, the Presidentâ\200\231s Council.

After some adjustments, a new Constitution was approved by a two-thirds majority of white voters in a referendum on November 2, 1983, and on September 14 the following year Mr Botha was inaugurated as first executive State President.

After becoming prime minister, Mr Bothaâ\200\231s reform-directed leadership of the State and party exposed him to severe criticism from the Right and Dr Connie Mulderâ\200\231s successor as Transvaal leader, Dr Andries Treurnicht.

The Treurnicht faction finally split to form the Conservative Party, soon to replace the Progressive Federal Party as the official opposition and emasculate the once-dominant Transvaal - National Party in the 1987 election.

The split, and subsequent threat of a growing Afrikaner opposition, appeared to slow, if not entirely stop, the reform programme.

Mr Botha, who as Prime Minister had once astonished blacks and whites by being the first premier to visit Soweto, was unable to get even one recognised, black leader to negotiate with his Government.

Travelled

Yet he strove for what his curriculum vitae calls â\200\230sound and relaxedâ\200\231 relations with various states, including South Africaâ\200\231s immediate neighbours. Among achievements in this field was the â\200\230non-attack treatyâ\200\231, known as the Nkomati Accord, with the Government of Mozambique, which at that time was heavily pressed by South African supported dissidents. i

In 1982, he met President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia on the Botswana-South-Africa border.

In 1984 he undertook a three-week official tour

to Europe, meeting the leaders of Portugal, Switzerland, West Germany, Belgium, Austria and Italy, and paid a flying visit to Mrs Margaret Thatcher at Checkers. i

In 1988 he again travelled to Germany, Switzerland and Portugal, meeting President Felix Houphouet-Boigny of the Ivory Coast en route home. He also visited President Joachim Chissano of Mozambique, President Hastings Banda of Malawi and President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire in the same year.

Mr Botha has received several decorations, including awards from Portugal, Paraguay and the Republic of China. Taiwan gave him the Order of Propitious Clouds with Special Grand Cordon in 1980.

He has been awarded the freedom of 39 South African towns and cities.

He suffered a light stroke on January 18, 1989, and was unable to attend the opening of Parliament that year. The Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, deputised for him.

(Report by by DB MacLennan, Press Gallery, Parliament)

coloureds.