

Clash in President's Council over 'ethnicity' in politic

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — Conflict has emerged in the President's Council between the People's Congress Party (PCP) and the rival Labour Party (LP) over the LP's bid to abolish the Political Interference Act.

The Act prohibits membership of a political party by more than one race group.

The LP, which has until now represented coloured people only, aims to stand for the Indian House of Delegates.

Indian LP candidate Mr

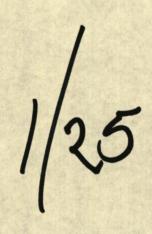
Indian LP candidate Mr Salam Abram-Mayet said that many Indians had married coloured people and the communities were closely linked.

He was taken to task in the council yesterday by Mr Les du Preez, former LP member who has now joined the PCP.

Mr du Preez said the marriage between a man and woman was a private matter and should not be used as a political football. The Star

He said the building blocks of the new constitutional system was recognition of ethnicity in South Africa.

He criticised members of the President's Council trying to score political points out of the report of the council's constitutional committee.



Who will rule who in SA?

of the South African scene, I wish to lay three points of view before your readers and ask their opinion on the issue of "who will rule who?"

On March 27, the president of Inkatha used these words in a speech in Kwa-Mashu: "While we in Kwa-Zulu have a single living breath in our bodies, we will never agree to the kind of independence that Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei had opted for We believe fanatiy in One South Africa, with one people, with one destiny and we believe the whole of

South Africa should be

ruled by one govern-

ment".

On April 30, the Chief Minister of Kwa-Zulu said in Bloemfontein: "The Natal-Kwa-Zulu region is the base of six million Zulu speaking blacks and as such is the largest single cultural group, black or white in South Africa".

On May 14 Aggrey Klaaste writes in The SOWETAN "So the Afrikaners will stand or kneel by their covenant with God and, er .. well, pray or fight ... There are those (whites) who believe that a multi-racial system would see South Africa dissolve ... in confusion, corruption and even bloodshed". (And as I know Afrikaners they will both pray and fight).

The Director of Infor-"

mation of Venda, Mr Phaswana, has this to say on the issue of ruling South Africa: "When the whites usurped power, they tried to rule South Africa as if it was composed of one black nation, and this ushered problems ... Blacks in South Africa (including Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei) cannot live together, ruling themselves as one nation from the Limpopo to the ocean because each of about seven black nations has its own language, culture, religion,

Each lived independently before the coming of the whites. If they rule themselves, who will rule who? The big-

ger nations will swallow the smaller ones. It will be the law of the jungle, which is survival of the fittest". (welcoming Dutch visitors to Venda).

It would seem we are on our way to the days of Shaka and Mzilikazi.

Klaaste (SOWETAN 14/5/'84) says that he is glad he is South African, "If only for all this impending mix of mayhem and excitement". Personally I am sorry that

common sense cannot prevail. It seems that we shall always have the power-hungry with us. Power hungry people do not seem to have thought for those who will experience weakness and pain from lack of food, shelter as long as they can claw their way to the position of the sole rulers of South Africa.

ISAAC MASHEGO Arcadia

COMMENT

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A scandal

THE people of Operation Hunger are not given to exaggerate their claims. So the statement from their national manager, Mrs Ina Perlman that about 100 000 children are likely to die of starvation in South Africa this year, unless immediate supplies of food are donated to them, cannot be taken lightly.

Mrs Perlman made this urgent plea in this newspaper yesterday and said her organisation was faced with a very desperate situation which had deteriorated rapidly over the past few months.

She said the organisation needed something in the region of R350 000 minimum per month, in cash or kind, to feed about 600 000 school-children in the rural areas of the Northern Cape, Free State, Kwa-Zulu and Northern Transvaal.

It is a staggering sum of money indeed, which immediately gives rise to the question: How long will this bottomless well have to be filled? But more of that anon.

Mrs Perlman told our reporter some hair-raising things. Among

other things she said: "The appeals I receive in letters and telephone calls are the most pathetic, and unless I get a positive response from donors, I am afraid the 50 000 children who die of hunger every year can double this year.

"We need help and we need it immediately. I do not know what to do because the number of destitute people is increasing by the day and this is worsened by the fact that many people in the farms are being laid off because of the drought we went through."

We are struck almost with terror by the stark picture of destitution Mrs Perlman gave. The situation, we believe, should be addressed even more broadly than the mere cashing in of money.

Money is needed and desperately. We know Johannesburg and other cities have the kind of money-bags who could dispense with large sums — particularly if they can get something out of it. We do not believe any company or organisation would stoop so low as to try and gain mileage out of this misery. We need to help and immediately — with no strings attached. The people of the cities will no doubt come out fairly strongly in support of Operation Hunger. And about time too.

All these things are likely to happen before this week is very

Still, we believe while money is desperately needed we need to do

something more about this dreadful scandal. We believe the situation should go further than simple financial aid. The problems of the homelands and the urban areas are monsters created by politicians. Our silence and our inaction in seeing that these structures are brought down make us accessories to this terrible shame. A country as potentially viable and presently sound as South Africa should never have so many children dying of hunger. It is a shame and a scandal and our crazy sociopolitico-economic system is responsible for this disaster.

Turfloop graduation
THE 23rd graduation ceremony of the University of

THE 23rd graduation ceremony of the University of the North (Turfloop) will be held on Friday and Saturday when a total of 673 degrees and diplomas in seven faculties will be awarded, Mr Frank Swart, the publicity relations officer, announced yesterday.

Faculties concerned on Friday are Arts, Mathematics and Natural Sciences and Theology. On Saturday degrees will be conferred by the faculties of Economics and Administration, Education, Law

and Agriculture.

The university will also award two honorary doctorates to Mr T K Mopeli, Chief Minister of QwaQwa (Doctor of Administration HC) and Professor A J D Meiring, retired professor Zoology (Doctor of Education HC).

Red-faced Israel acts to curb Ciskei ties

THE black African homelands are an embarrassment to the Government of Israel, which is working hard to dissociate itself from them. At the same time a lot of Israeli businessmen, reportedly including prominent LIKUD Members of Parliament and the former Minister of Finance, are trying hard to make money out of the homelands, especially Ciskei.

İsrael's Ambassador

By PETER ALLEN FROST in Jerusalem

in Pretoria, Eliahau Lankin, was quoted in an Israeli paper as describing the business activities of former Finance Minister Yoram Aridor in Ciskei "a massive scandal".

"Aridor's actions there will cause Israel great shame and embarassment", Lankin said.

Israel does not recognise the homelands as independent entities but only as part of South

Africa.

Last year, the Israeli Foreign Ministry direc-General David tor Kimche, reportedly initiated a report in the local English language newspaper, a report which firmly stated that the Government of Israel was striving to lower the whole profile between Israel and the bantustans. There was talk of putting pressure on the political figure involved and looking into the legal remedies available to stop Israelis trading with the homelands.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry initiative reportedly came, delibera-tely, at the same time that Prime Minister Shamir and Defence Minister Arens were holding top level talks in Washington and just before the UN held a debate. Apparently the Israelis felt that such a "disclaimer" might take the wind out of the sails of any group trying to use Israeli ties with the homelands to attack Israel in public forums. That did not deter Israeli businessmen who sensed there might be some profit in the homelands and in South Africa's desire for them to seem independent, and in South Africa's desire to spend money to do

Mr Yoram Aridor reportedly is investing some three million rand

in a factory in Ciskei. The former Israeli Finance Minister visited Ciskei a few months ago, and dozens of other Israeli businessmen travelled the same route recently.

It's not just a matter of selling Israeli products but of large-scale Israeli investments in Ciskei and the other homelands. A major Israeli construction company is reportedly building a massive hospital in Ciskei at a R16 million investment.

Jerusalem building contractor Mattie Lipshitz has reportedly received a contract to build an international airport in Ciskei and Israeli corporations are heavily involved in building roads and earth-moving projects. All these Israeli investments might result in a lot of bankruptcies, warned Israeli Ambassador Lankin, while a Press report here states bluntly: "The puppet state of Ciskei faces imminent bankruptcy."

Some of those heavily involved in business with Ciskei, other homelands and with South Africa itself, seem to be former military officers or government officials who made their initial contacts while in uniform or in public service and when they retired, they picked up the strings.

Foreign Ministry

General director Kimche is quoted as saying that one of these is the former military adviser to the Prime Minister, Brigadier General Ephraim (Froike) Poran and another former Israel Defence Force officer now living in South Africa. Former Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben Meir told a newsman that one of the Israeli "lobbyists" for the homelands tried to manoeuvre him into "bumping into" a visiting Ciskean dignitary in Tel Aviv hotel. Ben Meir said he refused. Ciskei President Sebe attended a tourism event organised by Israel under the aegis of Tel Aviv municipality and was given "the full treatment" to the chagrin of the Foreign Ministry. Sebe was also feted by the Ministry of Tourism and had his picture taken with another Israeli Minister - along with a bevy of bare breasted Ciskei beauties. "We didn't know whether to scream with frustration or bury our heads" a government official remarked.

• A recent headline in an Israeli paper tells the tale of three Israeli doctors who were recruited to work in Ciskei and are now "unemployed". However they still get 2 500 US dollars a month net. The report said "the South African doctors in Ciskei" insist that the three Israelis pass South African medical examinations before they can practise.

Decision on Ingwavuma opens e way for new resettlements

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By BRUCE CAMERON

Political Correspondent

ity still exists that Ka-Ngwane and Swaziland could come to an agreement with the encouragement of South Africa.

In the meantime the Government has agreed to grant KaNgwane second phase independence, pught two years ago by Chief Minister, Enos busa.

he on-off Ingwavuleal with Swaziland een the Governs excuse for not ing final consoliplans for Kwahese plans will ily demand reit. The Surplus Project estinumber at arms of the 1974 proposals.

These proposals reduced KwaZulu from 48 parts to 10.

In Parliament last week Government speakers made it clear that resettlements would go ahead.

The Government backdown on the Swazi deal is seen as a major victory for the Chief Minister of KwaZulu, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, who fought it through the courts and from public platforms. He united black and white opposition in Natal, forcing the Government to appoint a commission to scrap it and back down.

The Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, said yesterday that following consultations with all parties, including Swaziland, the Government had concluded that the leaders of Swaziland, KwaZulu and KaNgwane should deliberate amongst themse

"The Government would be willing to consider sympathetic proposals made jointly and unanimously."

As a result it had been decided to scrap the Commission of Inquiry under the former Chief Justice, Mr Justice Rumpff.

Cabinet Ministers yesterday made it clear they still hoped an agreement could be arranged between Ka-Ngwane and Swaziland.

SIAR 206/84

Rumpff probe on land deals disbanded

CAPE TOWN — The Government has dissolved the commission investigating the Ingwavuma and kaNgwane land deals, leaving future negotiations up to Swaziland, kwaZulu and kaNgwane.

up to Swaziland, kwaZulu and kaNgwane.

In a statement issued in Cape Town last night, the Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, said the chairman of the commission, Mr Justice Rumpff, had told the Government it was impossible to test the opinions of residents of the areas without intimidation having a notable effect on the outcome of any vote.

"After talks with all the parties involved, including the government of the Kingdom of Swaziland, the South African Government came to the conclusion that the leaders of Swaziland, kwaZulu and kaNgwane ought to negotiate among themselves," the statement said.

Dr Koornhof said the South African Government would be prepared to consider sympathetically any recommendations made jointly or individually by Swaziland and the two homelands.

Earlier, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, had said the South Africa Government was not prepared to incorporate Ingwayuma or kaNgwane into Swaziland unless the people affected agreed freely to such incorporation.

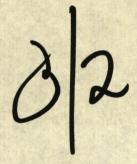
He said this had always been the Government's position and that the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, had made this clear in Parliament.

Mr Botha was reacting to enquiries concerning a statement by the Chief Minister of kwaZulu, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, following talks he had with Dr Koornhof on Monday.

Chief Buthelezi said he had the distinct impression from his talks with Dr Koornhof that the South African Government intended to proceed with plans to incorporate Ingwavuma into Swaziland.

The Chief and Mr Enos Mabuza, Chief Minister of kaNgwane, had been summoned to Cape Town to be told that the Rumpff Commission had been disbanded.

Chief Buthelezi's statement after the discussions said he had a "foreboding fear" that the Souith African Government intended to hand over kaNgwane and Ingwavuma as a "pay-off" to Swaziland for having entered into a secret security pact with the Republic. — Sapa.



The Star Ciskei: a problem made in Pretoria

THE origins of the Ciskei-South Africa row concern a chicken-and-egg situation, or rather one of Frankenstein and monster. South Africa created the "independent" state of Ciskei to suit its own political ends. Now it must live with the consequences of that folly.

One of them is that the excesses of Ciskei's president have become an embarrassment to Pretoria and an added threat to South African stability. We refer not so much to the fratricidal intriguing among the Sebe family as to the general pattern of banana-republic megalomania displayed by President Sebe. When he is not squandering his country's meagre resources on plans for air forces, airlines and the like he is cracking down ruthlessly on any opposition: locking up trade unionists, harrying student protesters, sending in armed police against bus boycotters. All this by virtue of the powers conferred in the name of grand apartheid. And some of it, such as the security police actions, done in close

collaboration with South African authorities.

It was against this background of cosy co-operation and dialogue that Mr Pik Botha — concerned, as he says, about "the impression of growing unrest in Ciskei" - advised the president to deal leniently with his brother Charles, who had been arrested on charges of attempting a coup. He was quite correct in being alarmed at Ciskei's unrest and the bad image it was spreading; less discriminating in rallying to the cause of the former security chief, who had turned into Lennox Sebe's own Frankenstein monster.

Now President Sebe angrily rejects Pretoria's advice and calls it interference. He has a point there. He takes his "independence" brief literally and prefers to go to hell his own way. The pity is that so many Ciskeians who lost their South African birthright should have to go with him — and that it's happening at South African taxpayers' expense.