

FW assures Japan on mass action

PATRICK CULL

TOKYO — Government would not allow mass action to disrupt the economy, President FW de Klerk warned yesterday.

He told a luncheon hosted by the Federation of Economic Organisations that government's contingency plans were well prepared and it would "manage the few difficult months not allowing it to disrupt our economy".

De Klerk said the ANC was resorting to mass action to "paper over the cracks and their internal tensions because of fundamental differences of opinion and policy within their ranks".

A second reason for mass action was to create an atmosphere of pressure in order to extract concessions at negotiations.

De Klerk's criticism of the ANC followed earlier attacks on the organisation and its president, Nelson Mandela.

De Klerk said government was prepared to make compromises but that on "certain fundamental principles there can be no compromise". One of them was the effective protection of investments and of basic economic rights such as private property

ownership which had to be elevated above arbitrary action by any government.

He said since February 1990, experience had shown that the more progress was made, the less interest there was in mass action at grassroots level.

"The ANC is being criticised by people at grassroots level who are at the moment worried about their jobs and who under difficult economic circumstances don't want to lose money through mass action, and who are irritated by the excesses of the radical element of the ANC."

"Thus even mass action itself can have a beneficial result, and that is greater realism among the masses."

De Klerk said at the request of Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa he wished to explain what SA meant by power sharing.

Stating that government was looking at something like the Swiss model for SA, the president denied the NP was "clinging to power".

ANC and govt still talking

PATRICK BULGER

GOVERNMENT and the ANC are continuing to meet in bilateral talks to resolve the constitutional dispute left by Codesa II even as the ANC and its allies prepare for mass action aimed at the same goal.

Negotiators from both sides met earlier this week, an ANC source confirmed. A government spokesman said government would neither confirm nor deny such talks. The ANC source said the talks were aimed at resolving the dispute that arose at Codesa II on a constitution-making body.

Despite optimism from both sides that the dispute could be resolved, a campaign for mass action was proceeding.

The ANC, insisting that negotiations and mass action were not inconsistent, was still making preparations for mass action to strengthen its call for an interim government and an agreement on elections for

a constitution-making body, ANC spokesman Saki Macozoma said yesterday.

The ANC had not set specific deadlines for the onset of its campaign.

However, mass action in the form of rallies, marches, demonstrations, sit-ins and pickets would begin on June 16 under the auspices of the ANC Youth League (Ancyl) — two weeks before the expiry of the deadline imposed by Cesatu.

Ancyl said yesterday that "June 16 1992" would also be taking place within the context of the overall ANC-led campaign which should effectively begin early in July.

Ancyl spokesman Parks Mankahlana said that nothing short of an interim government could halt the campaign.

Military service: CP could 'reconsider'

Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN. — The Conservative Party yesterday threatened to "reconsider" its attitude to national service should the SA Defence Force be placed under the control of an interim government.

Dr Willie Snyman, CP spokesman on defence, quoted the former Minister of Defence, Mr Rudi Meyer, as suggesting that all forces, including the SADF, should be disbanded and that a totally

new force should be created.

This would include not only the SADF but other military or para-military organisations such as Umkhonto we Sizwe and the TBVC forces.

"The Minister also forewarned the possibility that some individuals who were disadvantaged historically could be promoted in such a defence force by way of affirmative action," said Dr Snyman.

"This defence force,

which the Minister suggested, would be placed under the control of an interim or transitional government in terms of an agreement which has already been reached in Codesa's Working Group One.

"The CP has warned the government that if this situation materialises, it will reconsider its attitude to compulsory national service and voluntary participation of our people in the part-time forces of the SADF."

Policemen are giving ANC info — claim

CAPE TOWN. —

Policemen were volunteering vital information on the secret activities of the security forces in exchange for indemnity from the African National Congress, ANC spokesman, Mr Carl Niehaus, said yesterday.

"Quite a number of policemen over a period of time have become concerned and have been asking for indemnity in exchange for information."

Mr Niehaus said he could not endanger the

policemen by elaborating further on the request for indemnity.

The ANC would continue to advertise for members of the security forces to come forward with information, he said.

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