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STATEMENT BY HIS MAJESTY, THE KING OF THE ZULUS
MADE ON THE OCCASION OF

A MEETING WITH MR JACOB ZUMA, ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL, ANC
IN DISCUSSING A POSSIBLE MEETING BETWEEN HIS MAJESTY
AND DR NELSON MANDELA

ULUNDI, 21st JULY 1992

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Mr Zuma, I welcome you to Ulundi and I am pleased that we are able to meet and discuss a possible meeting between myself and Dr Mandela.

I want at the outset, however, to express consternation at having heard that this possible meeting is surrounded by controversy. You will remember that in March 1990, I wrote to Dr Mandela agreeing to meet with him and actually setting three days aside for a visit by himself to the Prince of KwaPhindangene and myself. Dr Mandela would first have proceeded to KwaPhindangene and the President of the IFP would have brought him to see me.

Despite us having set the dates aside and having begun preparations for the meeting, I received a short note from Dr Mandela cancelling all arrangements and saying that he will contact me in due course for alternative dates. This was never done.

This breakdown in arrangements appears to us to be part of a wider difficulty to get meetings going between ourselves and senior ANC leaders. You will recall that Mr Sisulu wrote to me after I had publicly questioned why he and Mr Gwale have seen a great many other people after their release from jail, but they had not come to pay their respects to me. You will recall that Mr Sisulu wrote and requested a meeting with me. I gladly agreed to a meeting, but Mr Sisulu wrote back objecting to meeting with me in Ulundi.

The difficulties have not been from my side. I have never refused to meet any of the ANC leaders. It was with great consternation that I was informed that Dr Mandela, in addressing a meeting in KwaMashu recently, said that he was not prepared to kiss the ground in front of me to secure a meeting with me, and added that he would ask you to approach me to ask for a meeting with me but that this would be the last time that he will ever do so. When I heard that you wanted to see me, Mr Zuma, I wondered whether this was for the last time, as the President of the ANC said in KwaMashu.

I felt deeply offended by that statement. I was also astounded to be informed that Dr Mandela accused the IFP of blocking a meeting with me. I have never been dictated to by the IFP, the ANC or any political party.

As people of Zulu extraction you, Mr Zuma and Mr Jele, in terms of Zulu culture, as well as other members of the delegation who share with us Ubuntu/Botho as African brothers, will be aware that the consequences of the kind of statements that Dr Mandela has reportedly made about a meeting with me give rise to difficulties. There is anger around me about these statements and I would have to respond to any request by Dr Mandela for a meeting with me in the circumstances this anger is creating.

When the Prince of KwaPhindangene introduced you to me recently, Mr Zuma, I received you hospitably as I receive you today. It is in the spirit of that hospitality that I say, should you indeed have come today to request a meeting between Dr Mandela and myself, I would ask you to do so informally.

The statement made recently that this visit of yours would represent the last opportunity I would be given to agree to meet Dr Mandela, was most unhelpful.

I would obviously have to be advised about how best to go about setting up such a meeting. As King of the Zulus I could not run around in advance of your visit to clear the way for a meeting because I thought that you would come to make that request today. If indeed you have come to make that request, may I suggest that you do so informally and then again approach me, but formally this time, in due course after I have had the opportunity to clear the way for such a meeting.

As King of the Zulus I have earned the respect of my father's people because I have treated my subjects as my father's people. I believe that if my advice is taken it may indeed be possible for us to overcome the difficulties which at the moment lie before us. It is with these words of welcome to you that I now ask you to address me. I will listen with care to what you have to say.

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Press statement chching the conclusion of the meeting between His Majesty the King of the Zulu's and emissaries from the Presedent cf the ANC Mr Mandela. The meeting was held in UZundi at the Holiday Inn on 21 July 1992, the meeting began at ZZH00 and finished at 15H00. The ANC delegation consisted of Mr Jacob Zuma Mr. Thabo Mbeki, Mr John Nkadimeng, Mr Josiah JeZe and Mr PenweZZ Maduna. His Majesty was accompanied by five KwaZuZu Goverment Ministers and Senior Members of the Zulu Royal Family and some indunas. The ANC Delegation delivered a message from the Presedent cf the ANC requesting an audience with His Majesty. Following discussion regarding previous scheduled meetings which did not take place, it was agreed that His Majesty's responce de conveyed to Dr. Mandela.

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No finality was Peaihed regarding the details of the requested meeting.

His Majesty welcomed the ANC delegation to 5Zundi and expressed His great concern about the present violepce, as well as the ethnic dimention which was beginning to be given to the violence.

He expressed His hope that such a meeting would forstaZZ the further escalation of the conflict.

The discussions were cordial and frank.