

3rd Floor
Munich Re Centre
54 Sauer Street
Johannesburg
2001

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AFRICAN
NATIONAL CONGRESS

P.O. Box 61884
Marshalltown, 210
Tel: 834-5301/8
Fax: 834-1019
Telex: 421252

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ANC PRESS STATEMENT ON REPRESSION IN BOPHUTATSWANA.

A delegation of the ANC, including three members of the NEC, met today with the ANC Bophutatswana Consultative Forum to discuss the allegations made in the press by Dr. Lucas Mangope. The following facts emerged from the meeting.

The Bophutatswana police have consistently broken-up ANC branch meetings. The police broke up branch meetings in Thaba Nehu on the 1st and the 28th of October. Similarly, meetings were disturbed in Garankua on the 21st and 26th October.

Moreover, the Bophutatswana administration consistently refuses to respond to applications made by ANC branches to hold meetings. The Mafikeng branch sent three applications to hold a meeting on the 20th October- they are still waiting for a response. This has been the experience of other branches as well. The Mafikeng branch has submitted a further application to hold a meeting on the 17th November. Up to this time, there has been no response from the Bophutatswana authorities.

On Saturday, 10th October, a busload of people, returning from an ANC meeting in Botshabelo, was attacked by Bophutatswana police. Many of the occupants of the bus were seriously hurt.

These facts demonstrate that Dr. Mangope's claim that democracy exists in the bantustan is untrue.

It is surely no coincidence that Dr. Mangope's absurd claim that there is an ANC "plot" to assassinate him comes on the day when thousands of people have stayed away from work in response to a call made by COSATU, the UDF and the Anti- Bophutatswana Co-ordinating Committee . The stayaway was called to demand trade union rights in the bantustan.

It is clear that Mangope wishes to suppress every visible challenge to his illegitimate regime. He has used the nonsense of an ANC "plot" to further harass the democratic movement.

The ANC demands the immediate and unconditional release of all those who have been arrested and an end to the repression of the democratic movement in that part of our country.

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] 2th November, 1990

Issued by: Department of Information and Publicity

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Marshalltown 2307
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ANC Statement in Response of the Ministry of Law and Order
on the Zonk'izixwe Video-Tape, 3rd December 1990.

The Ministry of Law and Order cannot pretend that this is the first time that evidence of police collusion with vigilantes in perpetrating violence against communities has been presented. The Ministry has called for evidence and then rejected without any investigation all eye-witness accounts, affidavits presented and news stories written. Now that irrefutable visual evidence hm been provided the Ministry has resorted to a denial that insults the intelligence of the people of South Africa,

Even more serious, a Ministry supported by the taxes of all the people of South Africa shirked it* responsibility of stopping acts of aggression against communities but has the audacity to place the onus of gathering evidence of police collusion in attacks on the very victims - the communities themselves* When such evidence is provided, as in the case of this videotape, it is treated with contempt and no regard for the truth, The way the Ministry of Law j and Older has dealt with the visual evidence produced shows a iack of seriousness on the part of the government regarding the questioif

of violence. i

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With regard to specific issues raised by the Ministry of Law and

Order in relation to the video-tape we wish to state the following: j

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1. It is clear to anyone who cares to view the video-tape that it has not been edited; it is raw footage presented as it was taken. This was pointed up by a number of Television technicians during the Ministry's Press Conference on Sunday.

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2. The explanation that UsÂ® police had given a lift to leaders of both sides in order to negotiate peace with each of them stretches credulity. The following questions cry out for a meaningful response:

* Why can the police not supply the names or any details concerning this alleged " other side"? The flimsy excuse that "the other side" dig not trust them and, thus did not give them their names, would be laughable if the situation were not so serious, |

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* If, as the police claim, the vigilantes were dispersing peacefully why the movement in formation and the war songs?

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* Why did the police leave and not monitor and oversee the dispersal process?

* Why did the police pretend to be searching for weapons when they could see the prospective attackers carrying weapons as they advanced on the settlements? .

3. The police interpretation of the songs sung by vigilantes is a

Scandalous misrepresentation which the Ministry exploited because most of the journalist* could not understand Zulu. We defy the Ministry to submit it for translation by any competent Zulu authority.

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As a result of Police inaction there is now a vigilante stronghold at j Zonk'iaawe from which other communities will be attacked. Now that it seems that the hostels are proving ineffective as a base from which to attack communities a new launeh-pad ii being sought. The

collusion between the Police and vigilantes at Zonk'izirwe as recorded on the video-tape is evidence of that.

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The Ministry of Law and X?rder cannot escape the consequences of its activities by a simple imputation of bad motives on the part of the I AKC, The ANC, with the people of South Africa* still awaits a credible official explanation.

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FRIVOLITIES AND THREADBARE EXPLANATIONS THAT EVINCE A
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PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS OF AZANIA AND AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

MEDIA STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1. On 4th February, 1991 a delegation of The African National Congress led by its deputy President and a delegation of the Pan Africanist Congress led by its President, met in Johannesburg,

2* Jha discussions were conducted:in a spirit of comradeship and motivated by the commonly felt need for unity amongst the oppressed.

3. The following agreements were arrived at:-

3.1.That the delegations recommend to their respective N.E.C.'s the creation within 10 days from the date hereof, of a joint liaison committee charged with the following tasks;

3.1.1.preparations for a future joint meeting of the two N.E.C.'S to exchange views on key strategic questions,

3.1-2,to explore and recommend future joint actions by the two organisations. /

3.1,3.to formulate and recommend measures for the ending of inter-organisational conflict.

4. We call on all our members and supporters to cease all hostile acts against one another and to practice political tolerance.