

Er@ay v aAs

day March 15 1988

Exile will challenge claims by Mr X1

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By Jo-Anne Collinge

BETHAL â\200\224 A secret witness, who says he was.

once part of a regional military command of the

African National Congress and is now a consta-

ble in the South African security police, was told

yesterday that he was giving evidence on ANC structures of which he had no direct knowledge and was basing his claims on incorrect hearsay evidence.

The challenge came from the defence in the treason trial of Mr Acton Mandla Maseko, Mr Simon | Dladla and Mr Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim which is being heard in the circuit court at Bethal before Mr Justice Daniels.

Defence counsel Mr Leonard Gering challenged the witness, identified only as Mr X1, saying the ANCâ\200\231s Mr John Nkadimeng would challenge evidence that he (Nkadimeng) was chairman of the Senior Organ of

the ANC between 1980 and 1982.

SENIOR ORGAN OF THE ANC

Mr Nkadimeng would also contradict evidence by Mr X1 that Mr Ebrahim had been a member of the Senior Organ, an ANC structure based in Maputo.

Mr X1 responded to Mr Geringâ\200\231s submission, saying: â\200\234Well, John Nkadimeng would be lying.â\200\235

The defence submitted that Mr X1â\200\231s information on | the Politico-Military Committee (PMC) â\200\224 founded in 1983 after the Senior Organ was disbanded â\200\224 included the following defects:

Â® The chairman of the PMC was not Mr Nkadimeng

(as Mr X1 had said) but one of three men, Mr Oliver Tambo, Mr Joe Slovo or Mr Thomas Nkobi.

@ The deputy chairman of the PMC was not Mr J Jele, as the witness had testified, and his correct first name was Josiah, not Johannes, as Mr X1 had said.

@ The defence stated that Mr Simon Makana (known to the witness by the name Nkokeli) and Mrs Ruth Mompathi had never been part of the PMC as the witness claimed.

INTERVIEW WITH TOP MAN

Mr Gering said the basis for his instruction on these matters was, among other things, an interview with Mr Jacob Zuma of the ANC. It is common cause that Mr Zuma was a member of the PMC.

During the course of these submissions, Mr X1 replied: â\200\234Well, I have told this court what I knew about people I personally knew. You see I was personally there and (to Mr Gering) I never saw you there.â\200\235

When questioned about whether he was ever on the PMC or in attendance at its meetings he conceded he had not been â\200\234but I was serving in structures under the PMCâ\200\235.

The three accused have pleaded not guilty to the main charge of high treason and to alternative charges which include eight counts of attempted murder arising from landmine blasts in the Eastern Transvaal in April and June 1986. '

Mr Ebrahim, who is described in the indictment as a key figure in ANC regional structures in Swa iland, was kidnapped from Swaziland in December 1986 and brought to Pretoria where he was detained.

The trial continues.

SOWETAN, Tuesday, March 15, 1988

THE future of more than 700 students
at Mgwenya College of Education in KaNgwane is in
the balance following the suspension of classes
three weeks ago-

According to a spokesman for the students,
classes were suspended on February 23 after a two-week-
long boycott of lectures. The boycott, he said, was in
protest against the refusal to recognise the Students

Representative Council (SRC).

Problems started after the introduction of the
prefect system at the college. The school's governing
council refused to recognise the SRC saying it was
unconstitutionally elected, the spokesman said.

The students then
resolved that all
academic activities

suspended until the SRC ;
has been recognised as a college- He said the election of their suspended after they
parents are asked to
representative. We also refused to comply with undertake that there be an indication that

ed in the circulars would

ill adhere to students who were not

their representative students wanted to

body. impose an unconstitutional- explained to the students the regulations govern children
dren who

Mr D E Mauku, constitutionally elected SRC on that they would have to bring the college. We felt the regulations have already interested in furthering

SP?kesman for KaNgwa- the authorities. attend lectures while that they were not been sent

out to them. their studies at the

ne's Department of Edu- "We advised them that" their grievances were prepared to l
earn but to : ; college, he said.

cation, yesterday con- the rector of the college, ~ being looked into. organise boycotts,"
Mr PR The parents have until

firmed that classes had Mr William Ndlala, was "It was therefore Mauku said. Failur
e to comply with March 21 to respond to
i classes be Circulars in which the information contain- the circulars.

been suspended at the to have been involved in decided that

:Bo'sition deteriorating, says Von Weizsaecker

1

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HARARE â\200\224 Bonn is reappraising
its policy of firm opposition to
onomic sanctions against SA
gter Pretoriaâ\200\231s latest crackdown
â\200\2306n internal opposition, West Ger-
man PresidÃ©nt Richard von Weiz-

saecker said here yesterday.
â\200\234The position in SA is deteriorat-
ing,â\200\235 he told a news conference as he

wound .up a six-day state visit.
7â\200\234It is the government in SA that

makes it more difficult for other .

countries to go on asking for peaceful
dialogue.â\200\235 :

r.He cited West Germanyâ\200\231s absten-
tion in a March 8 vote in the UN
Security Council on sanctions against

SA as a departure from Bonnâ\200\231s pre- -

vious line.
! â\200\234This position . . . has to be and will
be understood by the SA government
as a clear signal,â\200\235 he said.
Â» Von Weizsaecker, in Zimbabwe on
the third leg of a four-nation African
tour, said plans by SA to bar anti-
apartheid groups from receiving
financial help from abroad would be
gothor blow against peaceful re-
- Political correspondent ANTHO-
NY JOHNSON reports that a spokes-

Warning
Bonn atti

man for Minister of Foreign Affairs
Pik Botha said government could not
comment on Press reports that Bonn
was re-assessing
policy because of the crackdown on
opposition groups in SA. ;

e spokesman said Botha, who
was in Geneva, would not comment
on statements made by Von Weiz-
saecker until the precise text had been
received.

Von Weizsaecker went on to say he
had hoped to meet World Alliance of
Reformed Churches leader Allan
Boesak and anti-a eid activists
Beyers Naude while in Harare.

ut their trip coincided with new

curbs against the churches by the SA government.

Responsibility

â\200\234In view of the high level of tension

between the SA government and the -

churches, these leaders took the decision not to come to Harare,â\200\235 he said.â\200\234I am very sorry about this.â\200\235

He said that, as an active member of the German protestant church be-

- fore becoming President, apartheid

â\200\234tramples underfoot my personal

its anti-sanctions i

_efforts to

- tional sanctions car

change in

Aoy
ude

16" SA*

concept of Christianity in its respon- .
sibiliti\201 for the world, for society and |
ow human beingsâ\200\235.

He added Bonn would also step up
rsuade France and the
United States to revive joint Western
diplomatic efforts for the indepen-
dence of Namibia.

The West German leader said his
formal talks with Zimbabwe Presi-
dent Robert Mugabe focused on de-
velopments in S :

~ Zimbabwe had called on West Ger-
many to sever econoqe and trade
ties with SA as part of the interna-
to end Pre-
toriaâ\200\231s policy of ra separation. i
baVo_u Wefiulsldeckelr said m recent
nning of internal opposition grou
seeking peaceful c e signallg
rapidly worsening conditions and re-
presented a severe blow to hopes for -
peaceful reform.

The Bonn governmentâ\200\231s policy to-

-wards SA was influenced by these and

other developments. Sy

â\200\234Our posture cannot be described

as deep frozen, not account of
â\200\230developments,â\200\235 heum â\200\224 Sapa-

Reuter.

The contradictions that
spawn violence

The chilling thing about the macabre killing of funeral undertakers in Soweto last week was that it could have happened to anybody.

Worse still, anyone of us could have been responsible for what seemed like senseless murders caused by a rumour.

I took a drive around Soweto the Saturday after five undertakers' employees were hacked to death and set on fire. I was struck forcibly by the contradictions that make such inexplicable acts of violence, based on nothing but rumour, come about. There are more than 20 townships that form Soweto. Most

. of them, while they have a depressing physical uniformity, are cheerful and almost joyful on weekends.

There was this strange cheerfulness after the entire Soweto had been shocked by the deaths of five people. There had been a rumour that a witch-hunt was on for all funeral undertakers, which would mean the cancellation of dozens of funerals which form the celebratory ritual of township life on weekends. People were going about in their usual bouncy fashion as if they did not have a care in the world.

' Hidden population

Life goes on almost at a deliber-

ate up-tempo, perhaps. because the houses are so close to each other; one township slips almost comfortably into the next.

This is an almost seamless spread of habitation made striking these

| ~days by a number of features that

starkly define the contradictions.
Orlando East, Diepkloof and
Meadowlands are particularly strik-

| ing in this. A whole hidden popula-

tion has suddenly sprung up â\200\224 the
result possibly of the repeal of in-
flux control and pass laws regula-
tions. Every other three or four-
room house in these townships has a
shack or a warren of tiny shacks
fighting for air in the pocket-sized
yards. And just as the shack phe-
nomenon seems to fade out in Mofo-

| lo Central you drive into the night-

mare shacktown, Mshenguville.

This is a collection of shacks tee-
tering crazily into a little spruit ad-
jacent an old golf course. The
shacks sprang up almost overnight
after the former mayor of Soweto,
Mr Ephraim Tshabalala, sold land
to desperate home-seekers for R35 a

plot. The place took its name from
' Tshabalalaâ\200\231s Zulu clan name Mshen-

.

fâ\200\234' It has become something of a
estering scar smack in the middle

of the hurly-burly of mixed-up

townships.

â\200\234Tle S7HL.

>4

/S73/fq

Aggrey Klaaste looks for the cause of the brut
murder of five undertakersâ\200\231 employees in Sowe

For just as your amazed gaze

takes in the shack township, you are

-taken aback by one or two lovely

little cottages, tiled-roofed, neatly
painted, almost straight out of any,
white suburb. And here the contra-
dictions become bizarre. With peo-
ple earning more money, and the
99-year leasehold making money
available from the banks for mort-
gage loans, many enterprising resi-
dents have put together astonish-

ingly pretty houses in the midst of the overall squalor.

As as you drive around Soweto you will be struck by the final socio-logical' contradiction that makes grisly murder so easy. On the outskirts of Soweto to the south, north, east and west there are elegant townships self-consciously sporting ostentatious names like Selection Park and Prestige Park. These townships, whose expensive houses sometimes have double garages and sparkling' swimming pools, are a stone's throw from the shacks.

Unacceptable

In many ways people are desperately trying to lead normal lives under totally unacceptable conditions. Rich and poor, doctor and labourer, are thrown into each others' laps because of things like the

Group Areas Act. The more affluent |

black class is springing out of the trap by buying homes in expensive white suburbs. In the meantime the violence simmers under, sometimes leaps over, these townships like the sudden outbreak of an epidemic.

The violence is halted by tough |

state action as in 1985, 1986, 1987 and more often by shock from otherwise decent plainly unrevolutionary folk.

The killing of five people this time caused general dismay. People in various ways tried to understand, could not understand, why a rumour could set off such violence. This total helplessness and inability to understand the complexity of their situation often leads to violence that feeds on violence. Like petulant children we hit out blindly. We hit out almost casually at our kith and kin. \$

PSR HERS

There are several identifiable sub-cultures in places like Soweto - thugs, the unemployed, the so-called Comrades who are sometimes drop-outs from school plus a score of societies or clubs - looking after everything from funerals to weddings. Some of these sub-cultures assumed a prominence during

the unrests of the past few years.
They were then wiped off their turf
by political organisations or stu-
dents. ;

When' things become somewhat
stable as now, these sub-cultures try
to re-establish, reassert their lost
ground. Thus there are attacks by
gangsters on schoolchildren. School-
girls are kidnapped from class,
sometimes raped. These are the in-
gredients for more violence. [

My drive through Soweto brought
a powerful revelation, a shocking
reality to my mind. Because of the
various contradictions, because ,p_g
the inexplicable social forces im-
pacting on the lives of otherwise de-
cent people, not one of us is free
from guilt. In other words, nobody
can escape the temptation one day
to take to the streets with the mobs
and kill innocent people. â\200\230

WORLD NEWS

S/ /ee

Seychelles

Tutu calls on West to cut
ties with South Africa a

ARCHBISHOP Desmond
Tutu said yesterday that the
United States, Britain and
West Germany should
threaten to cut diplomatic
ties with South Africa to pro-
test its apartheid policies or
face the violent prospect of
another Lebanon.

The Anglican church leader
wrote in the New York Times that
cutting diplomatic ties with Pre-
â\200\234toria would not cost jobs or lives
but would have profound
psvchological consequencesâ\200\231 on
the racist government.

[want to issue a challenge to
the American, British and West.
German governments. You say
vou are against apartheid. If
vou are, then make three de-
mands of the South African
Government,â\200\235 wrote Ar-
chbishop Tutu. the 1984 Nobel~
Peace Prize winner who is head
of the Anglican churchin South-
ern Africa.

The demands were that
South Africa lift its state of
emergency. rescind restrictions
imposed on anti-apartheid or-
ganisations and lcadere and

-~ either prosecute in open courtor

release anti-apartheid de-
tainegs, particularly children.

â\200\234If the Government does not
meet these demands, you must
cut diplomatic ties. That would
not be a radical step to take in
the circumstances. [tâ\200\231s not go-
ing to cost jobs or lives. [t would
be a gesture, buta dramatic one
with profound psvchological
consequences for those who
wield power in South Africa,â\200\235
Archbishop Tutu wrote.

â\200\234Or do vou want another
Lebanon?â\200\235

The church leader repeated his belief in non-violence but said he was â\200\234filled with despairâ\200\235 that the United States and Britain could veto sanctions in the UN Security Council, decisions he called â\200\230â\200\234all the more staggering in the light of the South African representativeâ\200\231s arrogant challenge to the Security Council to â\200\230do your damndestâ\200\235â\200\231.

Meanwhile, buffeted by sanctions and a falling gold price, South Africa faces a financial squeeze that could threaten its ability to keep up heavy repayments of foreign debt.

January the account swung into

In the past three years, Pretoria has used the surplus on its

- balance of payments current ac-

count to repay about five billion dollars in foreign debt. But in

deficit.

The unexpected deficit, the first sinceâ\200\231 1984, surfaced in customs and excise figures disclosed last week, sending an early warning signal to international creditor banks.

Trade has been hit by a 40 per cent drop in South Africaâ\200\231s exports to the United States in the first nine months of 1987 under the impact of anti-apartheid sanctions. :

â\200\234[wouldnâ\200\231t say that thereâ\200\231s a need to panic about debt payments, but there is certainly a need for caution,â\200\235 said Mr Mike Brown, an economist at stockbrokers Davis. Borkum. Hare Inc.

In the run-up to the national budget, to be presented to Parliament tomorrow, the shrinking balance of payments poses a dilemma for Finance Minister Barend du Plessis.

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Wark
SVORIMNG - e O Wz_c/~ m,/@. [AEE -

Campaign

to help a
Zulu tribe

IMNKATHA

i A ZULU diplomat has
" made a desperate plea
for people to back 8
Southond business-
man's mercy mission
to help thousands of
lood victims.
Mr Ben Skosana spoke

olt L the waKe of suuth

Africa's worst-ever natu.
* ral disaster which killed
. 800 and left 600,000 home-

less. ;

Torrental rains last at-
tumn destrts{ed buildings,
comtnunisations and agvi
culture.

Public affairs advisor
DaviÃ© Eade, chairman of
Clarence Road-based Pal-
ace Consultants, bas
launchod & fund to chan-
nel ald into the crisis-nit
Kwazulut province.

Mr Skosana, UK repre-
â\200\230sentative of Zulu leader
SmeÃ©i; Ruthlezi, aaid: T

â\202~ OULY IMLU LD L
tant in. g to rebulld
three lives of our people,

â\200\234They have been mak-
ing their own efforts to
recover buit they need
.more help. -

â\200\234There are a numbet of

ple who are suflaring

the effects of the floods
and there are still some
who might be in a critical
condition unless 60ING
thing Is done soon.â\200\235

The urgent plea came at
a press conference at
Southond Alrport Motel to
mark the fund's official

faunch,

Mr Eade, 89, hopes to
raise money nationally
and internationally -for
emergency relief and long-
term development. ;

He said: "We hope to act
as a catalyst to help the
victims back on their feet

Nearly will inevitably go
into home rebuilding and

work will be strictly monitored |

guided by the fund's two
expert advisers in the disaster-
zone.

Mr Eade spent nearly
three weeks touring poverty-
stricken KwaZulu
which consists of 26 districts
scattered over east-

ern South Africa,

Mr Eade's project has

already won backing from
world-famous author Dr
Alan Paton, Prince Gideon,
a member of the Zulu
royal family and -British
and European officials.

Dalanaa trmotaas

were sending letters to
nearly 100 churches in the
Cholmsford and - Brent
wood dioceses appealing
for help.

They have adopted the
Zulu phrase 'zandla
zilegezana' meaning
"Help us to help our
selves."

If you can help with
either donations or fund-
raising events contact
Michael Smith, General
Secretary, Palace CD
Fund, Clarence House, 24
Clarence Road, Southend;
phone Southend 353988,

Pretoria e

and US /7%

meet on
Angola

From Michael Hornsby
Cape Town

Mr R.F. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, and Dr Chester Crocker, the US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, held their first meeting in two years yesterday amid a flurry of diplomatic moves aimed at ending the 13-year civil war in Angola.

Western diplomatic sources here cautioned against speculating that anything as dramatic as a breakthrough was imminent, but said that the latest signs of movement were modestly encouraging after a prolonged deadlock,

The meeting between Mr Botha and Dr Crocker took place in Geneva and came less than a month after Mr Botha had dismissed American/

Cape Town Five black men and one woman charged with the murder of a black township councillor four years ago will be executed on Friday in Pretoria Central Prison, barring an 11th-hour stay of execution (Michael Hornsby writes).

Mr Prakash Diar, one of the lawyers for the Sharpeville Six, as they are known, said: The last hope now is that we can persuade the Supreme Court to grant a stay of execution on the basis of evidence which we are now gathering which was not heard at the trial itself.

Last December the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein upheld their conviction for murder on the grounds that they had been members of a large crowd which killed the councillor.

mediation efforts in southern Africa as â\200\234totally irrelevantâ\204ç,

One of the main topics of discussion is understood to have been a new peace proposal the Angolans put to the Americans at a meeting last week in Luanda, the Angolan capital, where Cuban officials were also present.

According to Angop, the semi-official Angolan news agency, the proposal includes â\200\234a timetable for the withdrawal to the north (of Angola) of Cuban troops stationed in the south and their gradual total evacuation from Angolaâ\200\235.

There are estimated to be between 35,000 and 40,000 Cuban troops based in the country at the request of Angolaâ\200\235s Marxist MPLA Government in Luanda, which also receives substantial financial and military aid from the Soviet Union.

Pretoria, with the backing of the US, has long insisted on a total removal of Cuban troops as a condition for implementing UN resolutions calling for the independence of Angolaâ\200\235s southern neighbour, the South African-occupied territory of Namibia.

Recently, however, Pretoria has gone further and called for Unita, which could not survive without South African military support, to be included in a coalition government in Luanda. A little more than a week ago General Magnus Malan, the Defence Minister, publicly proposed such a deal to Moscow, suggesting Afghanistan as the possible model.

It is not the first time that Angola has offered a phased withdrawal of Cuban troops. The timetable has previously always been too protracted to be acceptable to Pretoria. The details of the latest proposal are not yet known, but are thought unlikely to differ

greatly from previous offers.

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Jill Jolliffe
in Cuemba, central Angola

NGOLAN government

troops are coming under

heavy pressure in the
central highlands as South Af-
rica steps up an offensive to en-
able its ally, the Unita rebel
.movement, to penetrate deeper
into the country.

In a new phase of the 13-year-
old war, there are also signs
that the rebels are receiving
South African and US military
'supplies directly through
nearby Zaire.

A military commander,
Major Walter Freitas Gomes,
showed foreign journalists ma-
terial captured from the invad-
ing force, including South Afri-
can-manufactured vehicles,
chemical weapons, and the first
American weapons shown to
foreign observers since the
Reagan Administration began
supplying arms to Unita in 1985,

These included anti-tank mis-

siles which he said had entered
Angola from the Kamina base
in Zaire as part of a US aid
package which also included
-Stinger anti-aircraft missiles.
" The commander said govern-
ment troops in the area had
" seen what they assumed to be
white South African officers
from local observation posts
during the current operations.

The Cuban-backed MPLA
.Government said last week its
troops had killed 180 Unita so)-
diers directly supported by
South Africa in a three-day bat-
tle in the area.

Residents of Cuemba are suf-
fering the effects of a food
shortage provoked by the war.
The International Red Cross,

which normally distributes supplies here from its base in Huambo, has not entered Cuemba since last September, when the crash of one of its

planes led to the suspension of relief flights.

S. African forces push deeper into central highlands

The Angolan Government claimed the plane was shot down by Unita, but independent sources in Luanda said an inquiry had failed to establish the cause of the crash, in which six died when the plane exploded in mid-air. Relief flights were resumed in February to most areas, but not Cuemba, where military authorities refused to authorise the Red Cross to enter.

The first team of foreign journalists to arrive in Cuemba were transported here in a light transport aircraft from the provincial capital of Kuito, with the crew manoeuvring to avoid anti-aircraft fire.

In a communique issued from Lisbon, Unita had earlier claimed to have destroyed the Cuemba airstrip, but it is intact.

However, local officials confirmed that the town of Munhango, 40 miles to the east towards the Zaire border, on the Benguela railway line, is in Unita hands. Munhango is the birthplace of the Unita leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi.

The population of Cuemba is hungry and dressed in rags, with some children showing signs of advanced malnutrition.

Meanwhile, on the southern border with Namibia, South African forces using heavy artillery are backing Unita in a bid to capture the strategic base of Cuito Cuanavale. The continu-

ing Cuito Cuanavale battle appears part of a new strategy to allow Unita to penetrate deep into Angola with air support from South Africa.

The 37,000-strong Cuban force backing the MPLA Government has avoided direct contact with Unita or South African forces in recent years, but it may now play a more direct role in the fighting, and there is ample evidence of the Cubans' battle-readiness in the Cuemba region. .

Unita leader says secret negotiations could end war

Angola rebel chief
hopeful of peace

(upeomsy 15 388

Reuter in Jamba, Angola
and AP in Geneva

NEGOTIATIONS could
soon end the 13-year-
old Angolan civil war,

the rebel leader, Dr
Jonas Savimbi said, but he
vowed he would not stand down
to clear the way for a peace
settlement.

Dr Savimbi revealed a com-
plex web of negotiations involv-
ing South Africa, the Soviet
Union, the US, and Angola
when he met reporters at his
bush headquarters on Sunday.

"This year, 1988, is going to
change the face of our coun-
try," he said. "Everybody is
talking to everybody else."

Dr Savimbi, the leader of the
pro-western National Union for
the Total Independence of
Angola (Unita), said he dis-
cussed a joint strategy for nego-
tiations at a secret meeting
with the South African Presi-
dent, Mr P.W. Botha, in Cape
Town.

Dr Savimbi insisted that
when real negotiations started,
he must be present. :

Hopes of a breakthrough in
peace efforts have been fuelled
by a weekend meeting between

US and Angolan officials in Lu-
anda and by news that the
South African Foreign Minis-
ter, Mr Pik Botha, is meeting
the US Assistant Secretary of
State, Mr Chester Crocker, and
other US representatives in
Europe this week.

Mr Botha's press secretary, Ms Mari Botha, said Mr Botha and Mr Crocker were to hold talks at the South African diplomatic mission in Geneva. It was their first meeting in two years. She said the talks were open-ended and that no details would be released before they finished.

Dr Savimbi dismissed speculation that South Africa, his backer in the guerrilla war against the Soviet-supported Marxist government in Luanda, might be ready to drop him. He also dismissed an Angolan statement that the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) would be willing to talk to Unita, but not to him.

â\200\234I will be there. When you are talking about Unita, you are talking about Savimbi.â\200\235

. The rebel leader also dis-

closed that he recently met Mr Crocker, Washingtonâ\200\231s chief mediator on Angola.

â\200\234South Africa is not trying to drop Unita. Everything is going very well,â\200\235 he said. â\200\234We were officially informed by the South Africans that they will startâ\200\231 talking to the MPLA. Talks are going on right now. South Africa is talking to America, the Angolans are talking to America. And when it comes to the Russians, everybody is talking.â\200\235

Angola and Cuba agreed this year in meetings with Mr Crocker that the estimated 35,000 Cubans backing Lundaâ\200\231s army against Unita should be withdrawn.

â\200\234The Cubans and the MPLA have accepted the idea of the total withdrawal of the Cubans. What remains is for the Cubans and the MPLA to set a timetable of months for withdrawal,â\200\235 Dr Savimbi said.

â\200\234The Russians now seem to be saying they would prefer a negotiated settlement to continuing war.â\200\235

Dr Savimbi took the salute at a parade marking the 22nd anniversary of Unita, originally formed to oppose Portuguese colonial rule and fighting since independence in 1975 for a share in the government of Angola.

S. African forces
'push deeper into
central highlands

Jill Jolliffe
in Cuemba, central Angola

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Residents of Cuemba are suf-
fering the effects of a food

shortage provoked by the war. The International Red Cross, which normally distributes supplies here from its base in Huambo, has not entered Cuemba since last September, when the crash of one of its planes led to the suspension of relief flights.

The Angolan Government claimed the plane was shot down by Unita, but independent sources in Luanda said an inquiry had failed to establish the cause of the crash, in which six died when the plane exploded in mid-air. Relief flights were resumed in February to most areas, but not Cuemba, where military authorities refused to authorise the Red Cross to enter.

The first team of foreign journalists to arrive in Cuemba were transported here in a light transport aircraft from the provincial capital of Kuito, with the crew manoeuvring to avoid anti-aircraft fire.

In a communique issued from Lisbon, Unita had earlier claimed to have destroyed the Cuemba airstrip, but it is intact.

However, local officials confirmed that the town of Munhango, 40 miles to the east towards the Zaire border, on the Benguela railway line, is in Unita hands. Munhango is the birthplace of the Unita leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi.

The population of Cuemba is hungry and dressed in rags, with some children showing signs of advanced malnutrition.

Meanwhile, on the southern border with Namibia, South African forces using heavy artillery are backing Unita in a bid to capture the strategic base of Cuito Cuanavale. The continuing Cuito Cuanavale battle appears part of a new strategy to allow Unita to penetrate deep into Angola with air support from South Africa.

The 37,000-strong Cuban

force backing the MPLA Government has avoided direct contact with Unita or South African forces in recent years, but it may now play a more direct role in the fighting, and there is ample evidence of the Cubans' battle-readiness in the Cuemba region. .

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POLICE unrest reports reflect a
- â\200\230reduction in the number of violent
.â\200\234incidents in the Maritzburg â\200\234warâ\200\235
â\200\234 between Inkatha and UDF su

\iâ\200\230 â\200\230jpâ\200\231orters-)

Accordinĩ-\201 to one estimate, 57 peo-
. with at least 115 in January.

.-.Natal Inland region director Radley
_ Keys and Peter Kerchoff, of the
. Pietermaritzburg Agenc&, for Chris-

radh aca), say

â\200\230the quieter period not mean

|, peace. /
. Kerchoff said the fact of recent

., violent incidents in the Pinetown area
. show that, if anything, the conflict
...could be spreading. The increased se-

.__curity force presence in Maritzburg

..has reduced the level of violence, but
_so has bad weather. - ;
.. There appear to be a number of
, Serious obstacles to real peace:
-.0 Governmentâ\200\231s restrictions on one
. 8ide in the peace negotiations; the

-

ed last month, compared
â\200\234 But observers â\200\224 such as PFP '

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satu, the banning of UDF president
Archie Gumede and Natal Midlands
chairman A S Chetty; and the contin-
ued detention of Natal Midlands sec-
retaries Martin Wittenberg and
Skumbuza Ngwenya, have destroyed
the chances of any further peace talks
soon. â\200\230 ;

Discussions

Law and Order spokesman Brigadier Leon Mellet has said the organisations and individuals concerned may apply for restrictions to be lifted so they can participate in peace talks,

-but their lawyers say there is little likelihood of this while court challenges to the bannings are being considered or proceeded with.

The mediators in the negotiations,

the Maritzburg Chamber of Commerce, have had discussions with Minister of Law and Order Adriaan Vlok, and with the UDF and Cosatu,

but without concrete results so far. O Perceptions in the communities of Bgrĩ-\\202mshl by the police: police safr

th sides have accused them of biased actions, which they deny. However, a number of recent cases have involved further x:nsations of police siding with Inkatha.

Concern has also been expressed over cases where Inkatha â\\200\\234warlordsâ\\200\\235 and people identified in attacks on individuals have not been arrested or prosecuted. Mellet replies that police

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-NEWS FOCUS

ROGER SMITH

centred on the recruitment of known investigations are hampered by the

- â\\200\\234intimidation factorâ\\200\\235 as people have been afraid to come forward to give

evidence. :

Another recent contro has
Inkatha su
belsâ\200\235 (s

~as â\200\234kitskonsta-
police constables).

Calls for calm

Keys said the basic problem was
that the law must be seen to work.
He believed cert policemen
were maintaining a professional atti-

tude, but others â\200\234make mistakesâ\200\235.
[Apparent inability of organisations
involved in the co!
discipline their supporters: leaders on
both sides have made calls for calm
and restraint, but the killing has con-
tinued.]

The UDF/Cosatu have been ham-
g::_â\200\231:d by the detention of senior mem-

and more reeenzl]];nby bannings,

which have made it ost impossi-
ble for the leadership to tain
contact with grassroots supporters.

In Inkathaâ\200\231s case, senior local In-
katha member Vitus Mvelase said in
court papers: â\200\234Even if the members
of a cerfp:in branch of Inkatha had
actually gone on the rampage, there

-is very little the disciplinary commit-

tee can do in terms of the (Inkatha)

ct to control orâ\200\231

aritzburg â\200\230warx

constitution: firstly, it does not have

the capacity to police these events
and to bring the culprits to justice,
and secondly it does not have the
getterrent force to have any such ef-
ec .ï-\202

. Retaliation

He said if Inkatha members were
to act â\200\234in self-defence against an at-
tack by radicals,â\200\235 no pi
called for. In other statements, Mve-
lase has made it clear â\200\234self:defenceâ\200\235
can mean retaliation.

O Attitudes of the organisations to-

wards each other: that Inkatha and the UDF/Cosatu were bound to clash goes almost without saying. The ques-

ent was

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tion, as the Maritzburg Chamber of Commerce has put it, is one of limiting the conflict so it does not involve the kind of violence and appalling loss of life seen so far.

The problem in relations as far as the UDF is concerned is a perception, voiced in various statements, of Inkatha as being in the government camp, undemocratic and prone to coercion, intimidation and violence.

On the Inkatha side, statements by Inkatha president and KwaZulu Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi show the UDF/Cosatu are perceived as an internal wing of the ANC.

Inkatha has insisted since December that the question of the UDF/Cosatu's attitude towards it must be addressed in peace talks including the national leadership. Not long after the UDF/Cosatu indicated a willingness to meet this demand, - nings interrupted the peace process.

iven lack of progress in overcoming the crucial stumbling blocks, there is no peace in sight.