

MERCURY JAN 29, 1986

Lesotho may expel more ANC people

MASERU—More ANC members would be expelled from Lesotho if it was in the interests of national security, the country's new military ruler indicated yesterday.

In his first Press conference since taking power from Chief Leabua Jonathan, Maj-Gen Metsing Lekhanya also said that Lesotho would for the time being maintain existing ties with Soviet bloc countries.

Gen Lekhanya said the 80 ANC members who flew to Lusaka at the weekend had been evacuated for their own safety and for reasons of national security.

Asked about possible future evacuations and the criteria that would be used for determining those to be expelled, the general said that if peo-

ple represented a threat to the country's security 'they will have to find some other place'.

Replying to a question on whether South Africa would have any say in the expulsion of ANC members, Gen Lekhanya said: 'I cannot change the geographical position of Lesotho. We are surrounded by South Africa.'

However, he added that any such calls would have to be discussed in talks with South Africa or any other country concerned and that anyone demanding the expulsion of refugees must provide proof that it was for the safety and security of the country and people concerned.

The general also repeated previous statements that Lesotho would not hand over refugees to South Africa. — (Sapa)

Bloom argues the case against disinvestment

As economic conditions have deteriorated and corporate returns diminished, international pressure on South Africa (mainly through the efforts of the disinvestment lobby in the United States) has intensified.

Our critics in the United States and elsewhere were able to point to poor financial returns, as well as moral indignation, in urging companies and banks to cut economic ties with South Africa.

In most cases South African branches were now contributing less than one percent of profits — yet taking up 25 percent of the chairman's time.

The view that disinvestment and boycotts were negative and retrogressive steps was disregarded. No one was prepared to concede the logic of the view that sanctions contributed nothing towards the fulfilment of the hopes and aspirations of black South Africans (in fact, quite the contrary, as hardship would be created among them), and that it would probably be an impediment to the process of reform that seemed to have started in South Africa.

Persuasion

The boycott lobby argues that anything that is done in South Africa that contributes to its economy also helps to prop up the repressive and odious system of apartheid; and that the South African Government is so immune to rational persuasion that it would react only to the stark reality of economic withdrawal.

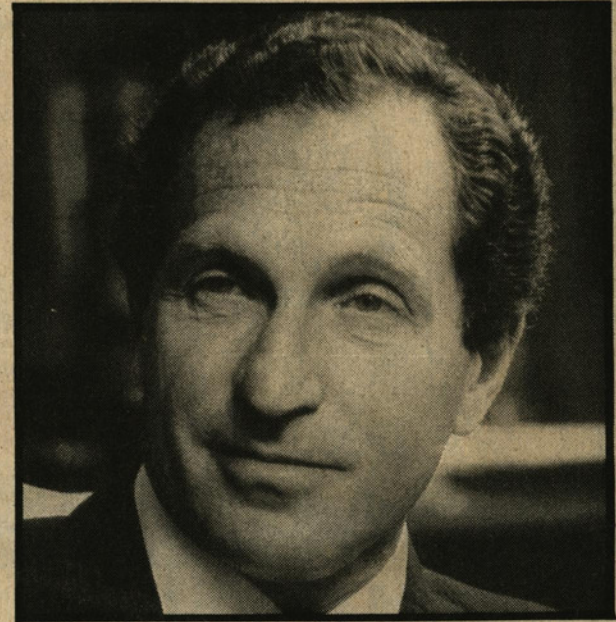
This approach is negative and destructive, and primarily harmful to the very interests it purports to assist.

South Africa is of the greatest strategic importance to the world. As Dr Henry Kissinger pointed out during a visit a few years ago, South Africa, not only in terms of resources but also technical skills, is in a unique position to promote the peace and progress of the continent.

He said there would be extraordinary prospects for development and peace in Africa were South Africa able to achieve

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Mr Tony Bloom (pictured), chairman and chief executive of the Premier Group, was asked to deliver one of the keynote addresses at the International Food Marketing Institute Conference in Bal Harbour, Florida, in the United States, on January 13. He felt that it was important to address this gathering because of the continuing pressure on international supermarket chains to remove South African goods from their shelves. This is an edited version of the talk he gave to an audience that included 1 000 chief executives of international companies and major retail chains.



an accommodation with its neighbours.

It is interesting to note that, despite the public rhetoric, over 90 percent of the members of the anti-South African OAU trade with us in one form or another. The potential value of constructive relations with South Africa is clear.

The international community is right to press for change in South Africa — a more just society would harmonise not only with its strategic interests, but also with its moral values. But it is wrong in not giving credit for the change that has taken place.

The changes we have seen over the past two years represent fundamental shifts in Government policy, and only the cynically naive or politically dishonest would dismiss them as cosmetic.

International companies in South Africa need in no way be ashamed of their record. Discrimination has been dismantled on a wide scale, jobs have been created, hundreds of thousands of people of all colours trained, upward job mobility has increased, families have been positively affected through pension funds, bursary schemes and home loans, and trade unions assisted and recognised in their formative years.

These points — by no means exhaustive — represent a very considerable catalogue of progress and achievement. Over \$100 million has been donated to community projects.

Given their track record, I argue strongly and persistently for the extension rather than the diminution of international interests in South Africa. I argue for the extension of diplomatic, cultural and economic ties. I argue for increased investment, not boycotts — for international corporations to lead by example, not to isolate by withdrawal.

Opposition

I express my unequivocal opposition to the apartheid system. A clear statement of direction is required that race discrimination would be removed as a feature of South African life in its entirety and that preferably a timetable should be spelt out.

I personally would go further and advise that discrimination should be outlawed, but a broad statement of intent would be acceptable. I have said that racism is the ultimate sin of the second half of the 20th century; its presence in our laws

sets us apart from every other country in the world.

It is no use pointing to the fact that racial discrimination exists in other societies, as it undoubtedly does even in the United States and United Kingdom. South Africa is the only nation to codify it in legislation, a fact which is unacceptable to any civilised person. This has to be changed and the sooner the better.

There is no need for this step to form the basis of negotiations — the State President simply has to get up to pronounce that apartheid is dead and set out a timetable for its funeral.

Negotiations must commence with credible leaders on the thorny issue of power-sharing. Inevitably, this will also mean talking to people who are in jail or in exile.

The one single act which would be of immeasurable positive international and local significance would be the release of Nelson Mandela. Unconditionally. This would provide an unmistakable and high-profile signal that South Africa is indeed changing; it would be a step that would be welcomed worldwide and would undoubtedly help to counter further calls for increased sanctions.

Leutwiler has take-it-or-leave-it plan ready

Bankers hope PW will open way to \$14-bn rescheduling

The Star Bureau

LONDON — Bankers hope that President Botha's speech when he opens Parliament on Friday will provide an opportunity for the re-scheduling of about \$14-billion in foreign debts caught up in the payments standstill since the end of August.

But the fear is that the speech will not provide such an opportunity, says Peter Montagnon in today's *Financial Times*.

Rarely has politics intruded so brusquely into the business of practical banking as over South Africa, he says.

"By comparison with the South African negotiations, the task of re-scheduling Argentina's debts after the Falklands crisis or those of Poland after the military takeover, pale into insignificance."

The difference this time is the pervasive influence of public opinion. Banks, particularly those in the United States, have come under great pressure from customers and shareholders not to lend to South Africa.

The result is that the fate of South Africa's debt hinges less on what reforms Mr Botha actually proposes in his Friday speech than on public reaction in creditor countries to those reforms.

Only if this reaction is positive will the modest debt restructuring now envisaged be possible.

But Montagnon says few bankers can list exactly what reforms would be acceptable. Many shrink from the suggestion of Dr Fritz Leutwiler, the Swiss mediator between Pre-

toria and the bank creditors, that any re-scheduling agreement should contain a political preamble or annexe setting out their basic demands.

Shortly after Mr Botha's speech, Dr Leutwiler is expected to circulate new debt restructuring proposals to main creditor banks. This will be followed by a meeting of bank creditors in London on February 20.

This time the proposals are expected to be much more in line with bankers' thinking than the earlier ones, which were rejected.

Dr Leutwiler has indicated that he is looking initially at a short-term package which would give the creditors the opportunity of looking at the country's after a few years.

The idea also is that the proposals would be presented on a take-it-or-leave-it basis in the form of an agreed minute which both Pretoria and the creditors could initial but which does not have the value of a full re-scheduling contract.

That might get around the political objections of some lenders to dealing with South Africa, but it could also pose legal and accounting problems, says Montagnon.

In any case the consensus of bankers at present is not very hopeful even for this type of watered-down re-structuring.

Few regard Dr Leutwiler's hopes of a settlement being in place by the time the present standstill expires at the end of March as anything other than wildly optimistic.

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EEC divided on SA as Frontline talks near

The Star's Foreign News Service

BRUSSELS — It looks as though European Community Foreign Ministers will attend their first meeting with leaders of the Frontline States in Lusaka next month with their sanctions policy against South Africa in disarray.

Diplomats said that to avoid an embarrassing clash with the Frontline leaders, most of the 12 EEC Foreign Ministers would stay away from the Lusaka meeting and send their deputies.

Telegrams of protest at the downgrading of representation are already reaching EEC capitals from Africa. However, Britain will be represented by her Foreign Minister, Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Foreign Ministers meeting in Brussels on Monday to discuss the so-called package of "negative measures" meant to be applied against South Africa by January 31 found it difficult to agree on how to define "oil exports".

Eventually, they concluded that the cessation of oil exports, agreed at a meeting last September in Luxembourg, should apply only to crude oil.

They resisted pressure from lawyers in the European Commission — the executive arm of the European Community — that each country introduce watertight legislation to ensure that no crude oil from Europe reaches South Africa.

"In other words, there is no formal ban," said one senior diplomat. "But there is agreement that no crude oil should be sent."

There is still no agreement on a definition of what nuclear technology should be banned from export to South Africa. France wants the ban limited to "new" technology, but EEC partners have pointed out that this excludes substantial existing Paris-Pretoria nuclear agreements stretching many years into the future.

It is also clear that South African military attaches will still be in place in London, Bonn, Rome and Lisbon when the January 31 deadline for action against South Africa comes round.

No action on Tutu

THE Government in Cape Town was maintaining a low profile yesterday on Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu.

There are differences of opinion within National Party ranks over what action should be taken against the Bishop for calling for Western support of the African National Congress while in the United States.

Bishop Tutu returned to South Africa on Monday saying he stood by what he had said in the United States.

Minister of Constitutional Development, Mr Chris Heunis, who last week made a stinging attack on the Bishop for his statements in the United States had no comment to make yesterday.

Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange, had no com-

ment.

Bishop Tutu is likely to be discussed by the Cabinet today or at next week's meeting of the State Security Council, according to Government spokesmen.

Some Nationalists would like to see charges laid against Bishop Tutu for supporting the African National Congress or at the very least to have his passport taken away to stop him travelling abroad.

Others however argue that Bishop Tutu is fast discrediting himself. This became evident when United States Vice-President, Mr George Bush, publicly questioned the Bishop's objectives.

If action were taken it would make a martyr of him and increase his credibility.

Bishop's attack on Govt

THE Anglican Bishop of Port Elizabeth, The Right Rev Bruce Evans, has made a slashing attack on the Government and equated police actions which resulted in township deaths with terrorism.

In the latest issue of *The Searchlight*, a newsletter to parishes in the diocese, he calls for people to pray that the country's rulers "will repent and humble themselves so as to apologise for the iniquities they have brought upon millions and millions of human beings made in the image of God."

Bishop Evans says it is up to Christians to see that Christian values are not only upheld "but that they replace the pagan values that have dominated our lives in this country for so long, producing the violent society of which all of us are only too aware."

Bishop Evans tells of visiting the parents of a teenage girl killed during recent police action in Walmer township.

"In Amanzimtoti and in the Northern Transvaal we have had the horror of indiscriminate bomb blasts which have killed and injured numbers of innocent people. This kind of madness must be condemned in the strongest terms. People have been outraged by these attacks, and rightly so.

"But a worrying thing is why there is not the same outrage when a little girl is killed by those who are there to uphold law and order.

Bishop Evans urged Christians to pray for the abolition of apartheid, and for the Government to "put aside its arrogance, talk with all recognised leadership, including the ANC, and begin to move towards democratic majority rule."

Set Mandela free - to face the masses

SIR — Does Nelson Mandela have any magic? The tragedy is that the answer to this question is in President P W Botha's pocket which has the key to Pollsmoor prison. Like any other human being.

Mr Mandela has no magic as a remedy to cure the present political set-up. He needs to be released unconditionally to come face to face with reality. He needs to table his views before the masses.

His leadership and support needs to be judged by what he can do to counter the Xhosa orientated "neck-lace" burning of innocent blacks by other blacks. His political support should not be confused with sympathy.

Another tragedy of Mr Mandela's continued lock-up is that it has produced a lot of "pop-cor" leaders who misuse his name while they do their dirty work. They disregard black unity and stir black-on-black conflict.

They have also singled out Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Inkatha and

the Zulu nation to satisfy their lust of insults. Mr Mandela has never insulted other leaders.

As a member of the ANC he served under Chief Albert Luthuli. He was loyal and approved of Chief Luthuli's presidency. This proves that Mr Mandela would today have no problems with Chief Buthelezi's leadership and political role, he would surely start by sorting out the mess in the Transkei and Ciskei.

We Zulus are now sick and tired of Xhosas who leave the Transkei and Ciskei to stir black on black conflict in Natal. That these are our black brothers does not mean that we have to lie on our backs and let them walk over us.

We have enough of the Xundus and Tutus and do not need the Barayis to come in the notorious Nongqawuse fashion to tell us to commit suicidal acts.

PROUD ZULU

Emondlo

PASS LAWS UNDER FIRE

WASHINGTON — South African pass laws had denied hundreds of thousands of people the right to fair trial and led to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment for them, an Amnesty International report has found.

The 112-page report was released this week, launching a simultaneous pass book blitz on the South African Government through its embassy in the US capital.

All members of Congress will be asked to mail a mock "reference book" to the mission in Massachusetts Avenue to protest the law.

Many blacks in South Africa were subjected to arbitrary arrests and imprisonment simply by virtue of their race, said the report issued after two years of investigation by Professor Kevin Boyle, of the law faculty at University College, Galway, Ireland.

He visited South Africa twice to probe the pass laws issue.

The report found pass law arrestees constituted "one of the most abused groups of South Africa's prisoners and have been frequently, perhaps routinely, subject to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, some of it bordering on enforced slavery."

There had recently been calls from quasi-governmental and other influential sectors in South Africa for reform of the pass laws, it said, but it was unclear how far the government was prepared to go on this.

It was true that, at the time of preparing the report, action had been taken to reduce some of the most "glaring aberrations" of the judicial process which had characterised the pass law courts for so many years.

"Such action is welcome, though overdue and relatively inconse-

**SOWETAN
Correspondent**

quential when measured against what is actually needed to put an end to the imprisonment of individuals simply on the basis of their race," the report said.

- On pre-trial procedures, the report said that police arrest practices were — apart from the arbitrary and unjust nature of the laws themselves — equally arbitrary and violated both national and international standards governing the protection of the

**'Victims
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liberty and security of the person.

- There is inadequate effort to ensure that those arrested have the opportunity to make contact with relatives or with legal advice. Further, the conditions and treatment of Africans

arrested for pass offences awaiting trial in police stations are commonly degrading and inhuman.

- Violence against prisoners is reported to be commonplace. Many of these features flow from the group approach to arrest which in turn reflects official policy in the enforcement of the pass laws," the report found.

- On commissioners' courts in 1984, the study concluded that proceedings in them did not come near to conforming to international standards for a fair trial. There was "blatant and serious fault" in the system.

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THE 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Bishop Desmond Tutu, this week told about 50 local and foreign journalists that what he had said abroad was not new and he would repeat it anywhere.

On his most recent, three-week visit to the United States of America, Bishop Tutu:

- Called on Western governments to support the banned African National Congress (ANC).
- Warned that he would call for sanctions against South Africa if the process of dismantling apartheid had not started by March.

There was an angry reaction to these and other remarks in the South African media and many believed that the Government would react strongly against him on his return.

He was not whisked away in a police car nor did he face rightwing demonstrations as "expected."

Instead, Bishop Tutu repeated his remarks on the ANC, other liberation movements and the dismantling of apartheid — and blamed the Government media for distorting what he actually said.

"I am not lying when I say apartheid is evil. You do not reform a Frankenstein. You destroy it. Haven't I said that before?"

"Haven't I said before that I support the objectives of the ANC but not its violent methods? I have said it so many times it is almost a jingle."

A Sunday newspaper said at the weekend that Bishop Tutu had failed in his crucial role as a neutral mediator in black politics.

Away with apartheid

FOCUS

By THEMBA MOLEFE

as mediator in the chronic violence by blacks on blacks in the townships.

This would indirectly fan the flames of violence between Azapo and the United Democratic Front which inclines to the ANC, the newspaper reported an Azapo spokesman as saying.

At Monday's Press conference Azapo's Mr

It said that by openly siding with the ANC he had antagonised the black consciousness Azanian People's Organisation and finally destroyed his ability to act



BISHOP Tutu . . . "I am not a pacifist, I am a peace lover".

Munti Myeza said the report was incorrect and the spokesman quoted "was faceless" he said. Azapo in fact appreciated the role Bishop Tutu had played in the liberation struggle.

Bishop Tutu said: "What I said in the US is that I cannot understand the logic of Western governments. My remarks were directed at the Reagan Administration in particular.

"Since the US administration supported the revolutionary Unita movement (of Dr Jonas Savimbi) and the Contras rebels in South America, why does it not support the ANC?"

"I am looking forward to the day when they support the ANC and other groups in South Africa."

Bishop Tutu said the Pan Africanist Congress and the ANC had opted for the armed struggle only after being outlawed and being forced away from peaceful policies by the Government.

"I am not a pacifist, I am a peace-lover," said Bishop Tutu. "The primary violence and terrorism in South Africa comes from apartheid and its supporters."

On his trip abroad Bishop Tutu said: "Our visit to the US was intended to achieve a three-fold goal: to thank the American people for their support for our struggle; to help intensify the focus on South

Africa because of the clampdown on TV and other coverage and to

look for funds.

"People care enormously about what is going on here in South Africa and they wanted us to be, as it were, conduits to convey to all South Africans, black and white, that they care; they are not anti-white, they are not anti-South Africa but they are firmly anti-injustice, anti-oppressor and anti-apartheid."

Bishop Tutu said: "I am ashamed of nothing I have done or said on my trip. What supreme irony: The world keeps honouring us. — I do not know why — and it welcomes our ministry in South Africa as being work for justice and peace and reconciliation."

"One of the awards I received was the Martin Luther King Peace Award and they do not give that to people who are advocates of violence or anything of that kind or to people who are forerunners of trouble."

"Yet in our home country, the Government and most of its white supporters regard us as the devil incarnate and its agents in the Press and radio and television go to extreme lengths to vilify and discredit us."

"But we still say to the Government that there is the outside chance of things being resolved, if it declares that it intends to abolish apartheid, to dismantle apartheid, to lift the emergency, to withdraw the troops, abolish the pass laws and to end the forced population removals."

"You know that litany: 'release political prisoners; release detainees and let exiles return; talk with authentic representatives'."

COMMENT

Well done, SPCC

WHEN adults in Soweto put their reputations, and because of the seriousness of the issue, even their lives on the line by forming a crisis committee to address the situation in black education, there were grave doubts if they would succeed, even half-way towards resolving a perplexing problem.

Almost all the elements involved in the education crisis pointed to a rocky trip for the committee. As happened they have gone through some rather frightening patches when it seemed as if they would be disgraced or forgotten.

The fact that so many children went to school yesterday should be a signal to those in authority that a voice from the legitimate representatives of the people carries weight.

Many children went to school yesterday thus honouring a call by the Soweto Parents Crisis Committee to do so.

It would be unfortunate for us not to mention the efforts made by the Department of Education and Training to solve this worrisome problem. The fact that there have been meetings between them and the parents was most heartening and even if this initial success might not satisfy everybody, we are certain most people are cheered by yesterday's turnout at schools.

There have been suggestions that the back-to-school call was in fact an attempt to get the student body organised for more political action. That may be so, but the fact that they are back at school is better than having them at home, for many obvious reasons.

The children of the townships may be a bothersome sort but they are not entirely without brains. Witness for instance the manner in which they spent some of their time building attractive and some original little parks during their long absence from school.

They are also the type of children who are creative. Perhaps the most important feature about this whole sorry business is the fact that many of our children are very serious about educating themselves.

While some people in Government may not be aware of this, black parents viewed the school situation as perhaps the most important problem that needed urgent attention. In fact it was becoming clear that, sooner or later, adults would have to enter the fray, if there was going to be one. It was clear too that the school crisis could be turned into a political monster too ugly to contemplate.

Add to all this the divisions that were being created in the black community. There are many parents who have reluctantly sent their children — in some desperation no doubt — out of the townships. Children have been sent to white private schools, to the homelands and where it was possible, to countries outside South Africa.

The majority of black parents sullenly kept their children at home and dark hints were being bandied about concerning those children who had "sold out".

We try to be as optimistic as we possibly can. So we hope that the schools will remain open for the rest of this term, for the rest of this year. In any case, whatever problems that lie before us will be solved when we get to them.

The SPCC has done an excellent job. The Department of Education and Training is acting in a most sensible and adult fashion. With such parties co-operating to sort out what is clearly a problem affecting the entire country, we can only move forward.

As for the children themselves, they can be sure that most of us are tired of seeing them fight political battles that are not of their making or within their power to solve. It has indeed been a sad state of affairs to see children in the forefront of problems that should in fact be handled by their parents.