

'ANC failure caused obstacle to talks'

W/ witness 21/11/90

JOHANNESBURG— The ANC's failure to distance itself from mass mobilisation, boycotts and intimidation called into question its stated commitment to peace and had created a 'great obstacle' to negotiations, Constitutional Development Minister Gerriit Viljoen said yesterday.

Addressing the American Chamber of Commerce, Dr Viljoen said one could not negotiate with a party which was trying to destabilise through actions which repeatedly resulted in violence.

The ANC's commitment to mass mobilisation is expected to feature prominently at a meeting next Tuesday between ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela and President de Klerk.

Dr Viljoen last night rejected demands for a

constituent assembly and a 'winner takes all' constitution.

He said a new constitution should include the right to form political parties, universal adult franchise with minority protection, an entrenched constitution and the maximum devolution of power.

While the Government agreed the present constitution was flawed,

Mercury Correspondent

until there was a negotiated replacement, the country's administration should continue under present laws, he said.

In an apparent reference to the ANC demand for an interim government, Dr Viljoen said there would have to be a 'special relationship' between the Gov-

ernment and the negotiating body.

'It is unthinkable that joint decisions, and especially consensus decisions, of the negotiating forum could afterwards be arbitrarily rejected by one of the main participants after agreeing on it,' he said.

On economic issues, Dr Viljoen said whereas the Sullivan Code of Conduct had guided American business prac-

tices in SA during the apartheid era, a new initiative on the part of business was now required.

He said Mr David Lazar, a member of the ANC's Association of Economists, had described the organisation's recent economic proposals as 'flawed' and 'lacking in economic vision'.

Dr Viljoen said there were rising expectations in SA fuelled by 'exaggerated and irresponsible promises'.

'I appeal to all businessmen to take the problem of economic illiteracy to heart and help create, especially among the less sophisticated masses of workers, an understanding of these issues,' he said.

Dr Viljoen said the reform process had reached an irreversible stage and there was no turning back on the commitment for a new constitution in a democratic SA.

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Peace talks reach a critical stage *Daily News 21/11/90* over ANC's stance

JOHANNESBURG: Negotiations have reached a critical point as the Government expresses growing doubts about the African National Congress's real commitment to a peaceful political settlement.

The ANC's determination to continue and even intensify its strategy of mass mobilisation and its refusal to stop training and recruiting for its military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, are causing concern.

In two hard-hitting

Daily News Correspondent

speeches yesterday, Constitutional Development Minister Gerrit Viljoen and Foreign Minister Pik Botha both cast severe doubts on the ANC's desire to seek a constitutional solution through peaceful means.

And it is understood that the concern in the Government goes right up to President de Klerk, who is expected to take it up with ANC deputy

president Nelson Mandela when they meet on Tuesday.

The ANC and the Government will also try to thrash out their differences over the ANC's mass mobilisation campaign in the joint working group on ANC armed actions, which meets tomorrow and on Friday in Pretoria.

Dr Viljoen said last night that the ANC's failure to distance itself from mass mobilisation, boycotts, intimidation and the building up of military power called into question its stated commitment to peace and had created a great obstacle to negotiations.

Addressing the American Chamber of Commerce in Johannesburg, he said the moment of truth for negotiations had arrived.

The Government was not satisfied with the present state of affairs, especially in the light of violence in townships.

Meanwhile, Mr Botha, addressing the Hans Seidel Foundation in Munich, said it was "a matter of serious concern" that the ANC could not say it was ready to implement its commitments.

He said that at the Pretoria Minute, agreement was reached on a plan for the release of ANC prisoners and return of exiles while the ANC agreed to suspend all armed actions and related activities.

The ANC had agreed with the Government, in the words of the Minute, that "the way is now open to proceed towards negotiations on a new constitution". Exploratory talks to this end had been initiated.

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