

Deadlock: Parliament may meet again

Major parties hold door open for talks

JOHANNESBURG—The cabinet is expected to decide today whether to hold a special parliamentary session at the end of the month to amend the new constitution and introduce a double ballot system.

And the Freedom Alliance yesterday decided that it would pursue "informal channels" to resurrect the failed negotiations to accommodate its demands on changing the interim constitution, while the ANC offered again to meet King Goodwill Zwelithini for talks on the future of KwaZulu/Natal.

A special session was one of the few options left to the government and the ANC following Monday's inconclusive talks between President De Klerk and King Goodwill, and the ANC government deadlock with the Freedom Alliance, a government negotiator said yesterday.

Sapa reports Mr De Klerk told a press conference in Pretoria that parties had at most a week in which to reach agreements for their participation in the April

Political Staff

elections

SACP national chairman and ANC senior negotiator, Mr Joe Slovo, was yesterday not prepared to comment on whether a special parliamentary session should be held. "The ANC hasn't decided one way or the other," said Mr Slovo, who confirmed behind-the-scenes discussions were continuing.

The alliance yesterday discussed several options, but was only prepared to talk openly about attempts to restart talks "through informal channels", Mr Rowan Cronje said.

"If there is any hope that restarting talks could result in a constructive outcome then we will look positively at that," he added.

The government negotiator said a meeting of participants who took part in the multi-party talks at the World Trade Centre would have to be called beforehand to agree to any proposed changes to the constitution.

According to the government

negotiator, IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi had tried to scupper the De Klerk/Zwelithini talks because he had never intended participating in the April election.

The only reason Monday's talks did not break down totally was "because the king has opted for a negotiated settlement".

"My impression certainly was Buthelezi wanted confrontation."

The negotiator said: "I still think we could reason with the king if we were given the chance to negotiate directly with him."

Mr Slovo said yesterday there was "no way" the ANC could ever agree to KwaZulu seceding from the rest of SA. However, the ANC was "sensitive to any feelings of insecurity the king may have".

The ANC said the issue of the monarchy in Natal could best be addressed "within the framework of democratic provincial constitutions".

(Report by D Greebe and W Paddock, 11 Diagonal Street, Johannesburg, B MacLennan, Press Gallery, Parliament and G Ardie, 330 West Street, Durban.)

Natal Mercury 16/2/94
HE/IN

Concern over 'black' peace force

PRETORIA—The mostly black racial composition of the national peace-keeping force was unacceptable, the defence sub-council of the TEC has found.

A sub-committee has been mandated to examine the problem.

The sub-council said the SADF had explained that without conscription there were no riflemen to draw upon and that new defence force recruits had not completed their training.

Practical solutions had to be found to rectify the racial composition if the peacekeeping force was to play a positive role in ensuring peaceful transition. — (Sapa)

Peaceful change in SA 'bleak'

London Bureau

THE prospect of a peaceful transition to a non-racial democracy in SA was bleaker than ever and a violent election campaign, followed by a bloodbath, could not be ruled out, a leading British newspaper, The Daily Telegraph, said in an editorial yesterday.

The Times also warned that recent events could result in the elections being bloodier than forecast, while The Daily Telegraph believed that a bloodbath could follow an ANC electoral victory.

The Daily Telegraph said it appeared less and less likely, following Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini's demand for an independent Zulu monarchy, that a unitary state was attainable.

"Some form of federalism is probably the only formula by which the country can avoid the miserable fate of so many other parts of the continent."

The newspaper said the king's demands appeared to have killed any chance of a compromise between the IFP and its NP/ANC opponents.