

City protest march ends in mass arrests

ECHO 7-09-89

by Nomusa Cembali

ABOUT 400 students and 35 academics from the University of Natal's Pietermaritzburg campus were arrested and released on R50 bail each after being caught in a protest march to Alexandra Road police station on Tuesday.

Students gathered at the Students Union and held a brief meeting in protest against the detention of 12 students and the shooting of 20 at their sister campus in Durban the previous day.

At the meeting the students resolved to join lecturers in a march to the police station to hand a letter to the station commander supporting the right to peaceful protest.

As they marched peacefully down Milner Road, police vans blocked their path and police began arresting them.

Among the first to be arrested were Dean of the Law faculty, Professor James Lund and freelance researcher Wendy Leeb, NIC secretary Mr Yunus Carrim and student priests from St Josephs Mission in Cedara.

Banners calling for the unbanning of the African National Congress and urging protest against yesterday's elections were confiscated and piled on the front seat of a police van.

Before the march, Professor Colin Webb, vice principal of the university, told the students that he saw no crime in peaceful demonstrations.

"They are a legitimate right and if they are not allowed, there is something wrong with our society," he said.



Students toyi-toyed in the Students Union on the city campus before joining academics on the march to Alexandra Road police station on Tuesday. PIC: Elaine Anderson

S. Africa's ruling party 7 SEPT 89 slips, but keeps power

Chicago Sun-Times Wires

JOHANNESBURG—South Africa's ruling National Party suffered big losses at the hands of opposition candidates on the left and the right in Wednesday's election, but was returned to Parliament with an absolute majority that allows it to claim a mandate to continue with its cautious pace of change.

With ballots counted from a third of the nation's 166 districts, the National Party, in power since 1948, was projected to win 90 to 93 seats—down sharply from 123 last time out, but still a comfortable majority.

The Democratic Party, which favors the immediate dismantling of the apartheid system of racial separation and the conferring of voting rights on the 23 million-strong black majority, was projected to carry 38 seats—up from its current 20.

The white-supremacist Conservative Party, which has vowed to strip blacks of South African citizenship and carry on the government's stalled "homelands" policy, was seen winning 36 seats, compared to its current 22.

South Africa's Parliament consists of racially segregated assemblies for whites, Indians and people of mixed race. But the pivot of power lies with the white assembly.

Unlike the more than 3 million eligible whites, of whom 65 percent cast ballots, the majority of mixed-race and Indian voters boycotted parallel balloting for their parliamentary chambers.



Associated Press

Riot policemen take aim at youths in a clash Wednesday near Cape Town, South Africa. With whips, tear gas and shotguns, police dispersed blacks protesting their exclusion from the balloting. Police broke up stone-throwing crowds in more than 20 black, Indian and mixed-race townships.

TO P 52

3. AFRICA'S RULING

From PG 2

Only 12 percent of eligible mixed-race voters and 18 percent of ethnic Indian South Africans went to the polls.

Excluded from the polls, a vast majority of black workers and students in major cities stayed home in protest.

Anti-apartheid leaders said it was the most effective general strike in South Africa's history, exceeding a major walkout staged last year to protest the state of emergency imposed in 1986 to put down civil turmoil.

More than 90 percent of black workers stayed at home in the

biggest cities, and many schools in black townships were closed in the second day of the boycott campaign, according to employer organizations and spokesmen for transportation services.

The white election was viewed as one of the most important in South Africa's history because it is likely to set the pace for political changes promised by Nationalist leader Frederik W. de Klerk, who is expected to be elected president when Parliament convenes next week in Cape Town.

But the election campaign was overshadowed, to a large extent, by the nationwide "defiance campaign" called by the Mass Demo-

cratic Movement, a loose coalition of anti-apartheid groups whose activities were severely restricted in February, 1988, under the emergency decrees.

De Klerk, Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok and other Cabinet ministers seized upon recent turmoil and sought to link it to the Democratic Party's sympathy with the Mass Democratic Movement and the highly publicized visits some Democratic candidates had made to Lusaka, Zambia, to meet with leaders of the outlawed African National Congress.

Democratic leaders acknowledged that their party's momentum was slowed by the civil tur-

moil, and that it was put on the defensive. The party fell back on the "vote your hopes, not your fears" theme used in the 1987 campaign by the party's predecessor, the Progressive Federal Party.

The National Party appealed to white voters to "give de Klerk a chance" to negotiate an end to racial conflict in South Africa.

The Conservative Party urged voters, in effect, to vote their fears and not their hopes, citing the defiance campaign as evidence that the government had gone "soft" on security and warning that the National Party's political reform program was a "recipe for a black government."

Chicago Tribune

Chicagoland
South

35c

Thursday, September 7, 1989

S. Africa's ruling party hit hard at polls

By Tom Masland
Chicago Tribune

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—The governing National Party suffered its worst electoral setback in four decades Wednesday but held onto a slim parliamentary majority as disenfranchised blacks staged one of the biggest protest strikes in the nation's history.

Meanwhile, antigovernment unrest in mixed-race neighborhoods near Cape Town worsened, with youths erecting

dozens of burning barricades and police hunting stone-throwers with shotguns.

With all but 6 of the 166 seats in the all-white House of Assembly decided, the National Party had 90, the Conservative Party 37 and the liberal Democratic Party 33.

The voting trend was expected to return the National Party to Parliament with about 95 seats and leave the right-wing Conservative Party as the official parliamentary opposition, with

about 39 seats, up from 22 in the last election. The National Party's loss of about 25 seats was its worst electoral reversal since it took power in 1948.

The 8-month-old Democratic Party made a notably strong debut in what was interpreted as a voting shift to the Left that improves the prospects for black-white negotiations. It made the best showing ever for a party advocating nonracialism.

"The future belongs to those tied to reform politics," said Na-

tionalist Leon Wessels, deputy minister of law and order, after winning his district.

As some 2 million whites went to the polls, a massive general strike by blacks virtually shut down the country's major cities.

Leaders of the protest action, who reject white politics as irrelevant, reported that more than 3 million people took part, and the independent Labor Monitoring Group put the number of striking workers at between 2 million and 3 million. The larg-

est previous strike was in June, 1988, when 2.5 million workers stayed home to protest emergency rule imposed in 1986.

"We believe that this is the biggest-ever strike action taken by workers in our history," said Jay Naidoo, general secretary of the Council of South African Trade Unions, one of the anti-government groups that began a nationwide "defiance campaign" against apartheid last month.

"There are more people en-

See S. Africa, pg. 11

S. Africa

Continued from page 1

gaged in action against apartheid than actually voting in the racist elections," he said.

Smoke from burning tires, furniture and mattresses hung over neighborhoods in the bleak Cape Flats outside Cape Town, where street protest has been growing for five weeks. Police fired dozens of tear-gas canisters and shotgun rounds at demonstrators. Police also reported using whips, bird shot and rubber bullets to break up protest gatherings outside Johannesburg and Durban.

While the protests focused attention on continued racial discrimination, the white campaign hinged on what to do about it—reform apartheid, abolish it or turn back the clock to the era of "grand apartheid" that began after the National Party first took over.

The National Party all but ignored the right-wing threat from the Conservative Party, which has brought back the old "whites only" signs in towns it controls and would enforce lapsed race laws nationally. Instead, the Nationalists fought the liberal Democratic Party on the issue of negotiations—not whether to open power-sharing talks, but which party whites should trust to preside over them.

The country's chronic economic malaise, brought on largely by antiapartheid sanctions and disinvestment, gave urgency to the debate over reform. Inflation is running at more than 15 percent a year, and there is little capital to finance growth because international banks froze \$8.5 billion in foreign debt in 1985, at the height of a black uprising.

Without fundamental reforms, both the National Party and the Democratic Party told voters, South Africa will remain an international pariah, the economy will weaken further and conflict will worsen.

"The economy was a very big problem for us," said Information Minister Stoffel van der Merwe. "In addition, voters questioned what they perceived as [the National Party government's] lack of progress, because we had to go back and ask for basically the same mandate as we did in 1987."

President P.W. Botha won a landslide victory two years ago by warning of a "total onslaught" by communist-led black groups. Blacks were vaguely promised that they would be offered a new constitutional dispensation. Botha turned over the party leadership to F.W. de Klerk in February after suffering a stroke; he finally stepped down as president last month.

The Nationalists sought to gain the high ground on political reform by issuing a five-year "action plan." In essence, it promises to end white domination without giving up white privilege, retaining the concept of "group rights" that give whites segregated schools, hospitals and neighborhoods. The stress on "group security" plays to what private party polls have shown to be the main concerns of white voters.

The Democratic Party rejects the concept of groups based on racial classification and promised to scrap all discriminatory laws. It promised to free black-nationalist leader Nelson Mandela quickly and begin negotiations aimed at drawing up a constitution based on a one-person, one-vote franchise under a federal system.

In the final weeks of the campaign, the National Party stressed personality, seeking to create a statesmanlike image for Acting President De Klerk in the wake of Botha's resignation.

After being chosen party leader last January, De Klerk embarked on a whirlwind series of meetings in Europe and southern Africa. Presidential diplomacy was given maximum coverage on state-run television.

The Nationalists also fell back on traditional "black peril" tactics by linking the liberals with the Mass Democratic Movement, the antiapartheid coalition that organized the pre-election "defiance campaign."

S. Africa police berated by one of their own

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (Reuters)—A young South African police lieutenant put his 12-year career on the line Wednesday to condemn white riot-control units who beat blacks "like wild dogs."

"I'm fed up. I can't tolerate this anymore. I am prepared to lose anything, everything that I have earned up to now," said Lt. Gregory Rockman, 30, who is of mixed race.

Rockman, crime-prevention officer in the suburb of Mitchell's Plain, said good will built up over months was shattered by aggressive white riot-control units who provoked riots and beat people.

Riot-control units armed with whips, tear gas, rubber bullets and shotguns are at the forefront of a state crackdown on escalating anti-government protests.

S. AFRICA'S Ruling PARTY

Vigilantes stage night marches in Swayimani, claim residents

WITNESS ECHO 15 SEPTEMBER 1989

by Lakela Kaunda

A GROUP of vigilantes are terrorising residents, especially children at kwaSwayimani, residents have alleged.

A community spokeswoman who asked not to be named for fear of reprisals said they had been living in fear in the location since August 17.

"Armed men come to our houses and demand that we release our children, including girls to patrol at night. These men claim to be Inkatha members. Camps have been established and our children are taken there. Those not belonging to Inkatha are flogged and there are allegations that the girls are raped. Some boys are flogged if they refuse to join Inkatha."

Similar incidents took place in Edendale townships two years ago and were stopped after the communities complained.

Said the spokeswoman: "Children can hardly concentrate in classrooms because they do not sleep at night. As for the girls, we fear the pregnancies that will result from this."

Another resident said the vigilantes claimed to have refugee camps and demanded that residents pay R2 towards their maintenance.

Inkatha central committee member Mr Ben Jele said the actions were "totally in contradiction with the policies and principles of Inkatha. It is clearly the work of criminal elements and they should be brought to justice. I deny that Inkatha members are involved in this. However, we will still investigate it."

Mr Jele condemned the use of children, especially girls, in the night marches. "This is total destruction of the nation," he said.

Police liaison officer Major Kitching said the incidents were criminal and that residents should report them immediately to the police.

Earlier this week Law and Order Minister Mr Adriaan Vlok said the efforts of those who were misusing children in unrest to further their devious aims would not be tolerated.

In a statement released by his spokesman Brigadier Leon Mellet, Mr Vlok said unrest was planned outside schools as part of a "well-orchestrated effort" to either emotionally involve or force children into mass public uprisings and disobedience.

He said strict action would be taken to prevent such disruptions. This could include the arrest of certain ring-leaders, he said.



Waiting for passengers at the railway station is not boring when there are many friends around, Echo photographer Percy Khumalo found when he came across this group of taxi operators at the station. Mike and Mandla Zondo shake hands as the other guys look on.