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8-6-89

8-6-89
A-N-C. Leader
Visits Mandela

M^r MBEKI (GOVAN MBEKI)
VISITS Nelson Mandela.

AGE 8-6-89

SEE: Mandela file.
Just after biographical.

New ANC envoy to Canada

The Militant 2-6-89

BY HEIDI ROSE

TORONTO — Hundreds of people, including politicians, artists, anti-apartheid activists, unionists, and church and community leaders, jammed a midday welcoming ceremony May 14 for Peter Mahlangu, the new African National Congress chief representative to Canada.

Since the Canadian government refuses to recognize the ANC, instead maintaining diplomatic ties to the South African government, the ANC representative presented his credentials to the people of Canada.

Archbishop Ted Scott, former primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, chaired the event, at which five representatives spoke in acceptance of Mahlangu's credentials.

Gord Peters, head of the Union of Ontario Chiefs, told Mahlangu, "We bid you welcome to our land and our territory, because we are the first people of this territory."

Ontario Federation of Labor President Gordon Wilson read a statement by Canadian Labor Congress President Shirley Carr. "We fully support the goals of the ANC," the statement declared. The union leaders expressed "cautious optimism"

about independence for Namibia and called on the Canadian government to recognize the ANC.

Wendy Braithwaite, a Black student activist at the University of Toronto, said, "It angers us to know that children and youth are arrested, jailed, and tortured for opposing apartheid. Youth are in the front lines, and justice will be attained by any means necessary." She also condemned racist oppression in Canada and said, "Youth of South Africa, you are not alone."

Stephen Lewis, former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations, called on the Canadian government to apply "comprehensive, mandatory sanctions" against Pretoria and to recognize the ANC "as the voice and representative of the majority in South Africa."

Mahlangu addressed the ceremony briefly, expressing thanks for Canadian support in the struggle against apartheid. "No force, no arms, will stop the people of South Africa from attaining a nonracial, democratic South Africa," he said.

Two days later, Mahlangu was the featured speaker at a "Freedom Ride Against Apartheid" demonstration of several hundred in Ottawa, Canada's capital.