

Fighting at Natal mine leaves 10 dead

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N/WITNESS

by DONNA NEWAY and
LESLEY VAN DUFFELEN

BLOODY faction fighting has broken out between rival groups of Zulu and Xhosa miners at the Hlobane Colliery near Vryheid, leaving at least 10 people dead and more than 50 injured.

The injured include two women and a three-year-old child.

About 400 Xhosas were being kept at the Draaifontein police station for their own safety yesterday and negotiations between the mine management and the National Union of Mineworkers got under way.

Production at the mine, which employs about 2 400 Zulus and 600 Xhosas, has been temporarily halted until the talks are over.

Police "were keeping a watchful eye on the situation" yesterday but further violence had been reported.

The violent clashes between the two groups of hostel dwellers began on Monday night and although the fighting had abated yesterday police described the situation as tense.

A statement by the NUM said that miners reported the trouble starting on Sunday when a large group of "Inkatha supporters" were bused to the mine under the pretext of coming for traditional dancing.

"Soon after arrival the so-called traditional dancers started hurling insults at the Xhosa-speaking people and threatening them with violence," said the statement.

According to police spokesman Lieutenant Bala Naidoo: "The two groups were armed with an assortment of weapons, including knives, knobkerries and pangas."

"Two vehicles were destroyed and a colliery house gutted by fire, before a strong contingent of police moved in to quell the violence. The bodies of the 10 men killed were then discovered."

All eight hostels were embroiled in the fighting, the NUM said. Public relations spokesman at the Iscor head office in Pretoria, Ernest Webstock, said that of the 52 injured, 32 were admitted to the Vryheid hospital,

while 20 were being treated at the mine's clinic.

A spokeswoman from the Vryheid hospital reported yesterday that most of the injured had serious head injuries, and one man was "in a critical condition".

Last night it was reported by the police that all the Xhosa miners at Hlobane had opted to resign and return to Transkei.

Police said they would leave in buses as soon as they had collected their salaries.

However, this could not be confirmed by Webstock yesterday afternoon, who said he had not received any such reports.

"If they request to be moved, we will consider it, but we are obviously not in favour of them resigning," he said.

Operations at the mine were expected to resume today, it was reported yesterday evening.

"The Xhosas at the Draaifontein police station will be kept there until the negotiations have been completed — which we hope will be later today," Webstock said yesterday afternoon.

Transkei, Ciskei and NUM meet

Business Editor

AS a high-powered delegation from the National Union of Mineworkers meet with the leaders of the Transkei and Ciskei in an attempt to solve the conflict at the Hlobane and Durnacol mines, the union has warned of strikes at other Iscor mines.

Yesterday NUM president James Motlatsi met with Major-General Bantu Holomisa in Transkei to discuss the violence at the Hlobane mine. Today Motlatsi will be meeting with leaders of the Ciskei.

The violence that has erupted at the Hlobane mine in Vryheid follows a month after similar eth-

nic violence at the Durnacol mine in Dundee left one miner dead.

A tense situation developed again at the start of the month at the mine when the 1 500 Xhosa miners who had returned to their homes for their own safety attempted to return to work in accordance with an agreement negotiated between mine management, NUM and the leaders of Transkei and Ciskei.

It has been reported that as the Xhosa miners attempted to return to work, Zulus wearing headbands and armed with pangas threatened to renew the tribal violence.

They apparently surrounded

the number five hostel and demanded that the Xhosas be chased away from the mine.

After further negotiations with the governments of KwaZulu, Ciskei and Transkei as well as representatives of NUM and mine management, the 1 500 miners were once again bused to their homes — this time for eight weeks. Three of these will be paid leave.

The NUM has said that legal strikes will take place at the Tabazimbi, Grootgeluk and Sishen mines for better wages and working conditions after the overwhelming majority of their members voted for strike action.

CP plans talks with blacks

Party gaining respect from 'non-whites', says Treurnicht while urging whites to reject reforms

MARTIN CHALLENGOR

Political Correspondent

THE Conservative Party was gaining respect and understanding from black people and planned to talk to some black leaders within a few weeks, CP leader Dr Andries Treurnicht told about 1 000 people in the Durban City Hall last night.

The meeting was part of the CP's general congress.

In his hour-long address, Dr Treurnicht made an emotional call to whites to secure their right to govern themselves in their own territory, and to reject President de Klerk's reform initiatives. He repeated that the CP would never negotiate away its right to freedom, white political power, white land and white security forces.

He made several references to closer public links with "non-white" leaders, saying that the CP stood for the independence and freedom of the white man, and recognised the ethnic identity and political rights of non-white people in their own territory.

The modern trend in politics was towards self-determination and

self-government for people in their own territory, Dr Treurnicht said. This was an accepted United Nations principle.

President de Klerk's policy of a unitary state for disparate nations and groups was 19th Century colonialism, Dr Treurnicht said.

Not all black people supported the ANC or SACP. Four and a half million members of a black church did not, nor Inkatha and the Zulu people, nor President Lucas Mangope and the

Tswana people, nor all the Indians and coloureds.

These were the natural allies of white people who resisted the ANC and SACP.

Urging his supporters not to despair, he said the CP was gaining respect and understanding from an increasing number of "non-white" people.

In a message to "non-white" people and their leaders, Dr Treurnicht said whether they believed it or not, there was goodwill and good neighbourliness towards members of other races from the CP.

The CP accepted economic interdependence, and political independence.



CONSERVATIVE Party leader Dr Andries Treurnicht and supporters enter the Durban City Hall before last night's meeting.

The CP was prepared to speak to leaders of any nation if they believed in the right of self-determination.

Members would be informed within a few weeks about meetings with other people in South Africa, Dr Treurnicht said.

Black leaders would discover from whom they could expect goodwill, peaceful relations and responsible support.

Earlier, at the congress, Mr Duncan du Bois called on the CP to hold alternative talks to form an anti-communist

alliance to take the initiative away from President de Klerk.

Deputy leader Dr Ferdi Hartzenberg said black people "that are true nationalists, and coloureds and Indians that love their people

have no better friends than the CP".

The CP spoke to more black people than was realised, Dr Hartzenberg said.

Mandela
Mexico
under
17-10-90
fire down

under

SYDNEY—ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela, due on a visit here next week, has 'snubbed' the Aborigines in Australia by his silence on their plight, a radical aboriginal lawyer said yesterday.

Mr Michael Mansell, of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service, said Aborigines plan to protest against Mr Mandela's visit if he stays silent on their situation.

'They (the ANC) seem to believe that the quality of their struggle is far superior to (that of) anyone else,' said Mr Mansell.

Policy

He said Aborigines would protest in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne, all stops in Mr Mandela's itinerary.

An ANC spokesman said Mr Mandela, by declining to discuss the situation of Aborigines, is keeping to ANC policy of not commenting on domestic issues in nations outside South Africa.

'It is a general policy that we can go to any country but we just don't comment on internal matters,' said Mr Eddie Funde, the ANC's chief representative in Australia.

Mr Funde said Mr Mandela planned to meet Aborigines early in his tour and will 'listen to them about their situation'.

'(The policy) does not mean I have not addressed aboriginal people or talked to them of the South African situation, nor that they have not told me about their situation,' Mr Funde said. — (Sapa-Reuter)

16/1/11

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THE NATAL

MERCURY

17-10-90

PEACE CHALLENGE

THERE SURELY cannot now be any good reason — and personal antagonism or continuing militancy of sections within their leadership groups certainly don't qualify — why Mr Nelson Mandela, of the ANC, and Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, head of Inkatha, cannot bury the panga, gun or spear, figuratively speaking, and clasp hands in peace.

Surely not after Monday's meeting of members of the ANC's national executive and the central committee of the Inkatha Freedom Party decided, after a 'relaxed and friendly' meeting in Durban to visit Natal's worst trouble spots to create 'a lasting peace.'

Nor will reasonable people — and when they've come to think on it even many hotheads — see any good sense in the two leaders not now following suit. That is, themselves not only moving about preaching peace but setting up, perhaps, joint monitoring bodies dotted about the countryside in still troubled areas, to move quickly with the co-operation of security forces to douse any flareup and help resolve disputes.

The simple fact is that Monday's joint commitment to peace binds the participants to carry the message through to all supporters, above and below them.

The effect could be pro-

found, with the immediate benefit being an end to much, if not most, of the violence and the isolation of the criminal elements and any other malevolent forces which might be at work.

With such co-operation between the ANC and Inkatha, the police could then concentrate on their proper task of curbing the burgeoning crime rate and restoring civil order, the lack of which has contributed to their deteriorating image.

Simply expressed, the more peace and co-operation there exists among reasonable people, the more the unreasonable are exposed and the more easily can they be dealt with.

And from peace should grow increasing confidence for the future, perhaps more so because it has emerged from all the terrible tragedy of death and destruction of the past.

For the people, but especially leadership, can now be in no doubt of the consequences of failing to find consensus on a new South Africa. The reality is that as bloody and destructive as the violence has been so far, it would have been no more than a tiny spark compared to the holocaust that failure to compromise on all sides could bring.

The Durban 'accord' demands urgent responses from both Mr Mandela and Dr Buthe!

16/1/11

Peace Prize irony

WE WONDER how many members and potential members of the recently launched South African Communist Party appreciate the irony, for them, of this week's award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. 17-10-90

He has been given the award for dismantling the system his party spent 70 years building — the same basic system that Mr Joe Slovo and the other unre-generate political fossils of the SACP would like to impose on South Africa.

It was a system that eventually collapsed under the weight of its own inefficiency, brutality and repression.

Mr Gorbachev shares the Peace Prize with only one other Russian, Andre Sak-

harov, who was reviled and condemned as a traitor to his country when he won it in 1975, as was Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, an earlier winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature. Their brave stand against the 'evil empire' has now been fully vindicated in their own country.

MERCURY

Mr Slovo and his SACP comrades will, of course, try to tell you in their modified Marxist jargon and beguiling socio-babble that they are different.

How can they be while they march under the now totally discredited banner of communism? And how long will it take the ANC to realise what a millstone it has round its neck while it remains allied to the SACP?

In the ANC court 17/10/90

THE game's up for sport apartheid. Recognition of this has come from Peter Hain who, after two decades as public enemy number one to many sport lovers, has become a champion of the cause for ending South African sport isolation. For Natal the prospect of the pilot tours that Mr Hain proposes is particularly alluring, since the Currie Cup rugby kings must surely be in line for any international showing.

Unfortunately the run-in to full participation is unlikely to

be fast and smooth. As the ANC watches various sanctions crumble it will not lightly take the decision to loosen its grip on one of its most powerful remaining weapons. Mr Hain's about-face, however, shows that even he is convinced that reform is as irreversible in sport as it is in politics. Unless the ANC accepts this soon and times its inevitable backdown well it will surely lose control of the game, and with it support and sympathy from the sporting world.

Bishop attacked in funding row

SIR — It is with a certain amount of sadness that I read the Bishop of Kokstad's letter (The Daily News, October 3).

The sadness felt being for the present state of the Catholic Episcopacy when one of its prominent members is reduced to attaching his name to such an inadequate explanation of what exactly the SACBC's involvement with the EEC Special Fund is.

Bishop Napier would of course be fully justified in rejecting Mr Konigkramer's statements should those statements be totally erroneous as he claims, but that at the same time he should have used that opportunity to attack my integrity in expressing a genuine concern about the allegations can only make any reasonable person wonder if perhaps there was something more behind his letter than a mere honest refutation of the said disclosures — no doubt the Bishop knows best his intentions in this regard.

Given the already well known involvement of the Catholic bishops with the openly Marxist "New Nation", does Bishop Napier honestly prefer to believe it more reasonable for me to have automatically questioned the integrity of the managing director of a reputable newspaper?

It is interesting to note that the article in question appeared on August 31 and that prior to my letter of September 24 there was not a whisper of a protest.

By this belated denial of Mr Konigkramer's allegations Bishop Napier has certainly NOT closed the matter satisfactorily because at this stage it is still his word against Mr Konigkramer's.

But contrary to his rather wild surmise about my intentions nothing would give me greater peace of mind than to read in print not only a denial but solid evidence of the SACBC's total non-involvement in the funding of the ANC and affiliated organisations.

G. ROBERTS, Kokstad

The Herald Sun
17.10.90



● Mr Mandela

Mandela set for city key

MELBOURNE City Council will meet on Friday to decide whether to bestow the city's highest honor on South African black leader Nelson Mandela when he visits on October 25.

Moves to offer the Freedom of the City to Mr Mandela are being led by former Lord Mayor, C Bill Deveney.