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# Federalism offers fair powersharing base: FW

DURBAN. — South Africans would refuse to accept majority domination and suppression of their rights, State President De Klerk said yesterday.

He told the Natal National Party congress in Durban that the Westminster system negated people's rights while federalism offered a foundation of fair powersharing.

"Just as the majority refused to accept the domination of the past, so too will South Africans refuse to accept majority domination and suppression of their rights in the future."

There was a growing realisation that the Westminster system, to which the African National Congress attached so much importance, could not work in South Africa.

"Furthermore, from our own experience and the example set by several other countries, we know that federalism and/or regionalism is not directed at undermining democracy," said Mr De Klerk.

## Solution

The solution lay in strong federalist principles with decentralisation and devolution of power to strong regional governments of territories with meaningful borders.

"An ethnical basis for

the determination of boundaries will not be successful." Instead commonalities such as economic, geographic and topographical factors would have to determine the borders of such regions or states.

## Foundation

Federalism or regionalism offered a foundation for genuine, fair and equitable power-sharing.

"It is able to guarantee a better, fairer, purer and more lasting form of democracy than other models, such as the Westminster system."

"It is my conviction that strong regional government, based on sound federal principles in a constitutional state is able to make an important contribution to reconciliation, long term peace, progress and prosperity."

The government planned to have further meetings with a variety of parties over the next three weeks to negotiate, as he put it, regularly and extensively on federalism and other issues.

Some of these parties held widely divergent views, he said.

"In spite of a standstill at Codesa, discussions

and negotiations are continuing."

Substantial progress was being made in many areas.

"Until we return to multi-party negotiations which include all the parties, the National Party will continue to build consensus among those who indeed want to negotiate and to take the lead in the process of continued reform."

## Committed

"We are committed to write a new constitution, not to please or benefit ourselves, the ANC or anyone else in the short term, but a constitution that will be able to accommodate the complexities of our difficult society and deal with all of the inherent tensions built into our country, effectively."

"It may work well in homogeneous societies,

but it is not suitable for heterogeneous societies."

"In essence it is a domination model which, in situations such as ours, has led to a negation of the rights of individuals and of cultural minorities."

"Just as the majority refused to accept minority domination in the past, so too will South Africans refuse to accept majority domination and suppression of their rights in the future."

Mr De Klerk said that this was why the old system had to be replaced by a new system which would: include all South Africans; extend the vote to all; grant all citizens equal participation in political, economic, social and all other activities and processes; have the capacity to deal meaningfully with the complex questions of a multi-cultural society. — Sapa.



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## 'Inappropriate' to fence all hostels

NOT all hostels are associated with violence and it would therefore be inappropriate to fence them all off, according to the interim report on hostels issued by the Goldstone Commission of Inquiry.

Mr Justice Richard Goldstone said that according to a preliminary report by the committee investigating the issue, "not all hostels are associated with violence, and the problem should properly be seen as one of criminality in a limited number of hostels".

Mr Justice Goldstone's interim report, dated September 21 and

released by the State President's office yesterday, was issued urgently in the light of talks between the government and representatives of, among others, the African National Congress, concerning hostels.

"The criminality that is associated with those hostels is a matter that must be addressed and dealt with by the government, which has the primary responsibility for maintaining law and order," Mr Justice Goldstone said.

The commission withdrew its earlier recommendation that all hostels be fenced off.

Instead, it proposed that, where practical, only those hostels associated with violence be fenced off.

Mr Justice Goldstone stressed that regarding the development of hostels, "the fullest consultation is required between all parties concerned if future conflict surrounding these issues is to be avoided".

At the commission's request, the Human Sciences Research Council had begun a project "aimed at developing a proper understanding of the many sensitive issues that underlie future hostel development".

— Sapa



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# Natal CP backs Zulus on march

THE Conservative Party in Natal yesterday vowed to support the Zulu people "in resisting any incursion on to their soil" if the African National Congress pressed ahead with its proposed march on the KwaZulu capital, Ulundi.

In a statement, Natal CP chairman, Mr Carl Werth, expressed solidarity with Inkatha Freedom Party leader, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, in his opposition to the proposed ANC march, and left it to the Zulu leadership to determine if and how their support was needed.

He called on Natal CP members, particularly those in the Newcastle, Vryheid, Kliprivier, Umfolozi, Umhlanga and Greytown constituencies, who were trained in civil defence, "to prepare themselves to a state of full alert" so that they could respond to any call for assistance.

"We will support the Zulu people in resisting any incursion onto their sovereign soil, which will have to be launched from within the borders of Natal."

"We leave it to His Majesty King Goodwill Zwelethini, Dr Buthelezi and his Cabinet to determine if and how they will call on us for support," said Mr Werth, who is also a President's Councillor.

The Communist-dominated ANC alliance's threat of mass action was "another in a long series of threats and blackmail" to the country and its neighbours, said Mr Werth.

The Whites of Natal had for years lived in perfect harmony with the Zulu people and would not stand by idly "while a trusted neighbour is

undermined by a prancing, dancing, arrogant rabble", he added.

The Natal CP associated itself with Chief Buthelezi's statement that

enough is enough with his warning that the ANC should "desist from this aggressive and inflammatory behaviour".

— Sapa.



## MK plot to disrupt Shaka Day — general

MEMBERS of the ANC's armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, some of them externally trained, and members of Self-Defence Units have been moved by road and air to the Natal/KwaZulu region as part of the plan to forcibly disrupt the Shaka Day celebration tomorrow, South African Army Chief, Lieut-Gen Georg Meiring, said yesterday.

He said the MK and SDU members had come from as far as the PWV region, the Eastern Transvaal, Eastern Cape and Transkei. Gen Meiring said

there was information that weapons were being moved into KwaZulu to supplement those that had already been

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## Shaka Day tension

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cached in the area, and that MK/SDU members had been ordered to use force to disrupt the celebrations.

Planning included attacks on headmen by MK/SDU members dressed as SADF soldiers and policemen, in an attempt ultimately to place blame on the security forces.

It appeared that the modus operandi was to use MK/SDU members living in one area to operate in another where they were unknown and could not be identified.

Despite placing their lives in jeopardy, certain individuals had been concerned enough to report on developments in the Natal/KwaZulu region, said Gen Meiring.

"The movement of people and weapons into KwaZulu where tension is already unacceptably high can only be regarded as dangerous, sinister and reckless.

"This is especially so when coupled to highly provocative statements

from a number of various individuals over the past few days.

"This has done nothing to calm fears and lessen tensions in this region," Gen Meiring said.

Tension continued to mount at KwaMashu, north of Durban, yesterday with scores of residents reportedly leaving the township.

At the same time security and monitoring plans being made to try to prevent clashes between Inkatha Freedom Party supporters who will attend a Shaka's Day rally tomorrow, and ANC-supporting residents.

A third meeting hosted by the Natal KwaZulu Regional Dispute Resolution Committee (RDRC) ended yesterday with the final touches to a joint monitoring, security and liaison committee.

RDRC spokesman, Mr Dominick Mitchell, described the meeting as "ground-breaking" because it had been agreed that a joint security committee would work closely with police

to advise and propose policing measures in the volatile township.

The security committee comprises members of the IFP, ANC, United Nations, KwaMashu Civic Association, KwaZulu Police and SA Police.

It would assist in mediating when conflict threatens, as well as in law enforcement, said Mr Mitchell.

Resources such as communications networks and vehicles bearing the logo of National Peace Accord structures have been made available and a large contingent of monitors will work alongside eight United Nations observers.

The teams will travel throughout KwaMashu tomorrow to try to prevent violence.

Police have undertaken to crack down on people carrying firearms and dangerous weapons, although short spears, sticks and "kieries" — all regarded as traditional weapons — will be allowed. — Sapa



# De Klerk Freeing Prisoners; Talks Today

By BILL KELLER

Special to The New York Times

JOHANNESBURG, Sept. 25 — The South African Government today began the release of hundreds of prisoners convicted of major crimes in the guerrilla war against apartheid, clearing the way for a meeting Saturday of the country's top black and white leaders.

The meeting between President F. W. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, their first since May, is to concentrate on the issue of violence.

But both sides regard this as the prelude to resuming deadlocked negotiations on South Africa's transition to nonracial democracy.

## Concessions to Mandela

Mr. Mandela agreed to end the angry impasse after winning three Government concessions: the phased release of more than 500 imprisoned guerrillas, about half of them convicted of murder; tighter security around migrant-worker hostels that have become centers of black factional killing, and restrictions on the public carrying of spears and machetes, the so-called "cultural weapons" favored by the rival Inkatha movement, a Zulu-based group.

The first 150 prisoners are to be released by Sunday, with the rest promised their freedom by mid-November.

"I hope that when this is done," Mr. de Klerk told a conference of his governing National Party in Durban today, "it will be understood as a deed of reconciliation in order to unlock the future."

The South African President had refused to include these prisoners in a 1990 amnesty on the ground that their crimes — murder, attempted murder, terrorism, arson — were too serious.

## Implicit Gains for de Klerk

The Government is believed to have received in return at least tacit understandings that the congress would curtail its pressure campaign of marches, sit-ins and strikes, and would support a future amnesty that would absolve Government officials of crimes as well as the Government's opponents.

Full details of the agreements were withheld, presumably so that the two leaders would have something to disclose after their meeting Saturday at the World Trade Center, on Johannesburg's outskirts.

The Government and the congress reached a stalemate in May over the drafting of a new constitution that would formally end white-minority rule. The Pretoria authorities insisted on built-in safeguards to protect minority interests, while the congress saw those demands as a quest for a white veto with which to frustrate majority rule.

At the same time, Mr. Mandela feared that he might be moving too fast for his constituents in the black townships.

Both the Government and the congress found themselves under growing pressure to resolve their differences and resume talking.

Even so, officials on both sides said plans for the Mandela-de Klerk meeting had nearly foundered over Mr. Mandela's insistence that the prisoner release include immediate freedom for

## Hundreds who were convicted of violent crimes.

three prominent guerrillas serving life sentences for murder.

The three are anathema to some of Mr. de Klerk's constituents because among the scores of anti-apartheid guerrillas serving sentences for murder, they are thought to be the only ones whose victims were white.

In the end, the Government agreed to parole the three men on Monday. They are Robert McBride, who in 1986 planted a bomb in a Durban bar thought to be an army hangout, killing three civilian women; and Mzondeleli Nondula and Mthetheli Mncube, who set land mines in the northern Transvaal, killing white farmers. Mr. Mncube also admitted killing two policemen during an escape.

## Neo-Nazi May Go Free, Too

Mr. de Klerk had tried to link the prisoner release to a broader amnesty, but the congress refused, arguing that this would amount to the white Government's pardoning itself. But the congress has said it will not oppose an amnesty after an interim national-unity government is in place.

## Anger at the Grass Roots

In June, after the killing of more than 40 men, women and children in the black township of Boipatong, Mr. Mandela was shocked by the explosive anger among his people. On a visit to the Boipatong region, he encountered local youths who sang out, "Mandela, you behave like a lamb while we are being killed."

The congress broke off talks, and demanded that the Government give ground on a new constitution and take measures to curb violence. It began a campaign of mass protest.

The onetime optimism became despair. An exodus of moneyed whites increased, the nation's weak economy went into a tailspin, and violence in the townships continued unabated.

It took a second massacre, the Sept. 7 killing of 28 congress supporters who marched against the dictator of the nominally independent black homeland of Ciskei, to jar things back on track.

The President hinted strongly today that he would also release a number of right-wing prisoners, possibly including Barend Strydom, a member of a neo-Nazi group who shot eight black pedestrians dead in Pretoria in 1988.

The African National Congress has argued that Mr. Strydom, in particular, is not a political warrior but a pathological racist, but it has indicated that the release of such white-supremacist prisoners was up to the Government.

The issues of migrant hostels and traditional weapons were also delicate for Mr. de Klerk since they touch on the interests of Chief Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi, leader of the Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party.

Chief Buthelezi has said that fencing hostels, many of which are Inkatha strongholds, and banning traditional weapons would be offensive to his Zulu constituents.

## Hard and Softer Lines

At a rally on Thursday in KwaZulu, the homeland where he presides, Chief Buthelezi asserted that South Africa had moved into the "first phase of civil war," and he called on Zulus to resist the African National Congress.

Officials of the congress and the Government predicted that they can make fairly rapid progress to an interim government if the meeting on Saturday allows political negotiations to resume. Many of the constitutional disputes of May have been resolved in back-channel talks between Cyril Ramaphosa, the secretary general of the congress, and Roelf Meyer, South Africa's minister for constitutional affairs.

Satyandranath Maharaj, a congress official, told reporters tonight, "I have no doubt that what happens tomorrow will give us some measure of how this country can move forward, and with what speed."