

Whites must get out of Imbali, warns Inkatha MP

23 NOV 1989
ECHO

WE ARE THERE TO HELP, SAY IMBALI 'GUESTS'

by Christelle de Jager

A GROUP of whites are breaking new ground in the struggle to "normalise" South African life with a new initiative in which whites are staying with families in Imbali on a regular basis to deter violence in the area.

The concept of the Imbali Support Group is to place white "guests" with families requesting support, an idea which arose spontaneously during an impromptu discussion between Imbali residents and a member of a local church organisation, Mr Graeme Swan.

Mr Swan had heard about the plight of the Gabela family after the assault of restricted youth activist, Mr Sipho Gabela, and offered to stay with the Gabela family for a week.

"It just grew from there. Currently we are visiting 14 homes and 20 people are on our list of committed white volunteers. The members of the group, some of whom have never spent much time in townships, are from all walks of life," said Mr Swan.

He said the aim was to be a visible deterrent to those threatening elements in the community that wanted to injure or harass local residents.

"It is an unfortunate and sad fact that a white skin can have a dampening effect on the violence. We have seen evidence of this during the time we have spent in Imbali. Potential attackers have run away after seeing whites."

The group also wanted to show concrete support for "our brothers and sisters in the township who have stood alone for too long", Mr Swan said.

Speaking on behalf of the community, Mrs Nomonde Mlotshwa said: "They (the whites) are a godsend to the community and we welcome them. Their presence has definitely helped to ease the tension."

She said the tense atmosphere which had gripped Imbali for so long was starting to lift and people now had a sense of hope for the future.

"We are building bonds of friendship across race divisions created by apartheid and this has been especially meaningful," Mrs Mlotshwa said.

Mr Swan said whites going to the townships were experiencing personal growth and becoming "conscientised" to the realities of life in a township plagued by political violence.

Democratic Party MP Mr Pierre Cronje has given his backing to the Imbali Support Group and spent the whole of last week in the township to follow up an incident and acquaint himself with conditions there. He said he hoped the Imbali Support Group's action would be ongoing and lead to the "normalisation" of contacts between race groups outside white areas.

by Khaba Mkhize

INKATHA wants all whites and Indians who are "squatting in Imbali to get out as soon as possible or we will be forced to take the law into our hands," warns KwaZulu government MP for Vulindlela, Mr David Ntombela.

"They must not come here and interfere in our affairs. They must go to Northdale and attend to the rates increases there. They are coming here just to cause trouble and escalate the violence we are trying to sort out with our brothers in the UDF. When I drive through Moscow the amaQabane greet me... and that shows we're getting somewhere," a fuming Ntombela told Echo on Monday.

About 20 whites are now living in and around Phenduka in Imbali in an effort to discourage the ongoing violence in the township. A spokesman for the group from a Pietermaritzburg church organisation, Mr Graeme Swan said their "aim was to be a visible deterrent to those threatening elements in the community who wanted to injure or harass local residents".

"If the police don't take steps to remove these whites and Indians we will be forced to take the law into our hands," stressed the KwaZulu MP.

Among the whites, described by the MP as "squatting because they had no permit to sleep in Imbali", is Democratic Party MP Pierre Cronje who is now popularly known as "Kronj".

Interviewed by Natal Witness reporter Christelle de Jager, the mayor of Imbali, Mr Phikelele Ndlovu, said there were people who did not want the white people in the township.

"I do not want them there without the consent of the Imbali town council.

"We are black people and black people must obey black rules. They are whites and must stick to white rules."

Mr Ndlovu did not elaborate on what he meant by the term "black rules".

"They must go back to their homes. If there is fighting in Scottsville, black people do not go and stay there."

On the other hand there is strong support for the presence of whites in Imbali. De facto amaQabane leader Mr Bogart "Ndlovu Weydudla" Ndlovu said "these are our whites; they eat our food and they sleep in our homes and not in the opposition's — they are our whites."

Mr Ndlovu pointed out that when a group of white men disguised in balacavas and driving Husky kombis camped in homes of certain residents in Imbali "we never shouted any forced removal orders".

Added Mr Ndlovu: "We are supposed to be fighting discrimination and apartheid with its Group Areas Act. This anti-white line is totally against the struggle for human equality. If these people are not anti-white then what is it they don't want the whites to see in Imbali? Our whites will never leave Imbali until the violence is stamped out completely."

would like to have this done

ECHO 23-11-89

Sisulu backs talks with KwaZulu

TALKS between KwaZulu leaders and newly released African National Congress leaders would be "highly welcomed", former ANC secretary-general Mr Walter Sisulu said on Monday.

He was reacting to a call by King Goodwill Zwelithini and Inkatha president Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi — made at a rally of more than 70 000 people in Durban on Sunday — for talks between themselves and the ANC leaders.

Mr Sisulu said he would regard such talks as important and would discuss the call with his colleagues. He said if such discussions took place they would centre on Natal violence. — ER & Sapa.

ECHO 23-11-89

Ben Jele's home attacked

NEWLY elected Imbali town councillor Mr Ben Jele said his home was "badly damaged on Sunday night" after youths fired shots and threw stones at it. Almost all the windows were broken and his car was dented.

He said his wife Carol, his cousin Mr Lawrence Zuma and his four children were inside when they heard four shots. "A gang of boys outside the property began to insult my wife. Then a hail of stones were thrown and shots fired. No one inside was injured."

But Mr John van Wyngaardt, who was spending the night with an Mnsinsi Road family, said shots were fired at youths from a moving vehicle which had been parked near Mr Jele's home. When they went to Mr Jele's home to ask why they had been shot at, they were allegedly fired upon from the house and a 14 year-old boy was injured. A police spokesman said no arrests had been made.

KwaZulu MP tells 'squatters' to leave

Row erupts over whites in Imbali

NATAL WITNESS

23 NOV 1989

by CHRISTELLE DE JAGER

A ROW has developed over the presence of white guests in Imbali, who have been accused of "squatting" and told to leave the area "as soon as possible" by KwaZulu MP for Vulindlela, Mr David Ntombela.

The whites, members of the recently formed Imbali Support Group, are staying with families in Imbali in an effort to discourage attacks and to document and report perpetrators of violence.

Mr Ntombela said this week that Inkatha wanted all whites "squatting" in Imbali out as soon as possible "or we will be forced to take the law into our own hands".

In response, Inkatha secretary general Dr Oscar Dhlomo said he did not know the background to the Imbali situation, but if the motive of the Imbali Support Group was to reassure and support people affected by the violence, it was a commendable effort.

Inkatha stood for non-racialism and multiracial contact, and this should be encouraged wherever it took place, and especially in black townships, he said.

He warned, however, that the members of the support group should be careful of being perceived by sections of the community to be supporting only one side.

"If this happens, their efforts will be misinterpreted and create further problems. They must consult with both parties," Dr Dhlomo said.

But Mr Ntombela said: "They must not come here and interfere in our affairs. They are coming here to cause trouble and escalate the violence we are trying to sort out with our brothers in the UDF."

"If the police don't take steps to remove these people we will be forced to take the law into our hands."

A spokesman for the Institute of Race Relations in Johannesburg said

yesterday that there was no law which prevented whites from visiting black areas.

"As long as they are bona fide guests of residents in the area, it is completely legal. Police can only act against whites in a black area if they have committed a crime," he said.

Mayor of Imbali Mr Phikelele Ndlovu said he did not want the whites in the township without the consent of the Imbali Town Council. "There are people who do not want them here. We are black people and must follow black rules. Whites must follow white rules."

By contrast several members of the Imbali community are enthusiastic about the initiative and have called the visiting whites "a god-send to the community".

Mrs Nomonde Mlotshwa, speaking on behalf of community members involved, said they welcomed the presence of whites and that this had definitely helped to ease tension and prevent attacks.

"We do not feel alone anymore. An added advantage is that we are sharing our lives and communicating with each other in a way which has given us hope."

Democratic Party MP Mr Pierre Cronje has given his support to the initiative and spent last week in Imbali.

He said he hoped it would not just be a crisis response but would be an ongoing project which would lead to the "normalisation" of contact between people of different race groups.

The support group members indicated yesterday they would continue to support the Imbali community by staying in their homes.

Natal X
leaders
to visit
Mandela
23-11-1989

by CARMEL RICKARD

NATAL peace prospects have been given a boost with the announcement that jailed African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela is to hold talks with a party of community leaders from the province next week.

The agenda is open, but members of the nine-person group due to visit Mr Mandela believed that the meeting would aim at finding a way of getting peace talks back on course.

One of the group said that he believed Mr Mandela sensed "an urgent need for communication in relation to Natal violence".

"The need for contact (on the issue) appears to be realised by him as well as by us," he said.

The new initiatives involving ANC leaders follow the apparent breakdown of peace talks between Inkatha, the United Democratic Front and the Congress of South African Trade Unions, and the soaring death rate.

NIC = MDM = UDF

What does this

add up to?

ILANCA
1989 November 23-25

The Inkatha leadership is an elected leadership, stands clearly visible in the glare of publicity, and is known to supporters and opponents alike. Although the King of the Zulus, King Goodwill Zwelithini Zulu, is a constitutional monarch, he is the embodiment of the unity of the nation and his authority is very considerable.

What of the "opposition" in this part of the world? It is shadowy and secretive, but let us have a closer look at it within the constraints imposed by the secrecy with which the MDM and the UDF cloak themselves. These observations are those of an MDM insider:

There is no official leadership of the MDM in Natal. It has never been formally launched in Natal or nationally. It has neither office bearers nor members.

This, we are told, is because it is a alliance or organizations, of which the most important are the UDF and COSATU. Since there are no organizational structures, the numerical strength is impossible to gauge.

The people who have acted as spokesmen for the MDM in Natal are Dr Farouk Meer (Secretary of the Natal Indian Congress), and Dr Diliza Mji, a former leader of SASO and Chairman of NAMDA, and Dr Jerry Coovadia, an ex-

ecutive member of the Natal Indian Congress(NIC).

It is interesting to note that the numerically most powerful constituent member of the MDM in Natal, COSATU, has not produced a spokesman

in the region. The brains behind COSATU in Natal is Alec Erwin, but he chooses to keep a very low profile.

It is also interesting to note that UDF President, Mr Archie Gumede, has not appeared as a speaker on MDM platforms. Church leaders, on the other hand have, despite the fact that they ostensibly do not have either formal or informal relations with the MDM. Thereby, no doubt, hangs a long tale indeed.

The high profile of "church" spokesmen within the MDM is known to have caused tension within the ranks of youthful and worker activists.

With regard to the UDF leadership, Mr Gumede again seems to have fallen from grace and isolated from the mainstream of UDF politics following his now-famous interview with "Leadership South Africa". He retains, though, his position of National President.

The leadership of the UDF has been concentrated in the hands of a small group of NIC leaders, who control the organization in the same way they

control the MDM. Due to the lack of organizational structures within the movement, this small group of individuals has little difficulty in keeping tight control over leadership positions and acting as spokesmen.

The NIC might have minuscule support within the Indian community, but through its cabal-like control of the MDM and UDF, it exerts considerable influence in Natal. The existence of this cabal has, however, alienated many once

respected NIC members such as Rabi Bugwandeen, R Ramesar and M J Naidoo.

The leading members of the cabal are, not surprisingly, the individuals who act as spokesmen for the UDF and the MDM - Farouk Meer, Jerry Coovadia and M Ramgobin, among others.

The midlands chairman of the UDF - including Pietermaritzburg - is Mr A S Chetty, another executive member of the NIC. A distinct lack of an African presence in the UDF and MDM leadership is probably traceable to the fact that the NIC firmly clutches the purse strings.

The elevation of persons such as Dr Mji through the ranks of the MDM and NAMDA has done little to alter the dominance of the NIC cabal in the Natal region. As all the NIC leaders are very

wealthy middle class professionals, claims by the UDF and MDM that they embody "workings class leadership", ring distinctly hollow and are an insult to the African people.

If you have your ear on the ground, you will know that MDM and UDF-supporting activists in the townships are finding it increasingly intolerable that the two organizations are totally controlled by the professional middle class of the Natal Indian Congress.

HAVING obviously won the Cold War, the West is engaged in debating what it all means, what new global system should replace the familiar one of the past 40 years, and how to ensure that the victory of Western political values and economic liberties is permanent.

In this heady atmosphere, all sorts of ideas germinate. One such notion is the fashionable doctrine that history is dead, that the political-philosophical-ideological struggles of man since Plato to define the perfect society are over: Western economic liberalism and democratic principles have won.

At one level that is true, but that victory is a rather abstract proposition for most people in most nations.

The struggle to realise it in practical terms around the globe has a long way to go. Unlike the Namibians who have just participated in one of the most democratic experiences in African history, the majority of mankind lives under governments that were never elected and that probably would not survive free and fair elections.

The burdens of history are evident in the struggles for perestroika: how do you move toward a market economy when the entrepreneurs have been killed off and the people have forgotten the meaning of work?

I'm not sure that history is dead in Europe or Asia either. Marxism, the last of the Utopian philosophies, most certainly is dead in Europe.

One has to visit out of the way places like SA to find people who can, with a straight face, carry banners around saying things like "workers of the world unite". One has to visit places like Cuba, Ethiopia or North Korea to find people who run Stalinist regimes and who believe that classical Marxism — which I define as "ministerial ownership of the means of production" — can work.

Leninism is also dead in Europe. As a technique for conspiring to seize and hold a monopoly of power, Leninism is under basic challenge in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. A symbol of all these trends is the extraordinary breaching of the Berlin Wall and the legalised mass

Democracy's victory *BUSINESS DAY* *23 NOVEMBER 1989* sounds a far way off in the Third World

CHESTER CROCKER

migration of East Germans to West Berlin and West Germany.

Within the Soviet Union, however, the primary alternative to a constantly redefined Marxism-Leninism is the principle of nationalism.

The Soviet leadership is now paying an enormous price for the decades of a policy of "separate development" in which local orientations and loyalties have taken root in the party and state structures of 15 union republics, 18 autonomous republics, 23 autonomous provinces and 48 autonomous regions (all of them multinational). Sound familiar?

All the "isms" — even Marxism — are still contending for influence in the Third World. About 95% of all the wars that have occurred since 1945 have taken place in the Third World.

Why is this so? After all, General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and his team have apparently rejected the legacy of Third World expansionism they inherited and come to recognise that their Third World entanglements were a costly waste of time and money and political credibility.

It is not Moscow and Washington or Beijing and London that have caused the clash of "isms" and the hideous price tag of Third World turmoil.

A most persuasive case can be made that the world's great powers have by the very carefully ritualised nature of their competition actually



□ CROCKER ... can history be dead?

restrained local conflicts. Sometimes, by their diplomatic involvement, as in the US and British efforts in southern Africa over the past 10 years, they have helped resolve such conflicts.

And it is by no means clear that superpower disengagement from the Third World would by itself enhance regional stability in such places as the Persian Gulf, south Asia, the Horn of Africa, southern Africa or Southeast Asia.

The reasons for conflict in the Third World lie elsewhere — in the

inherent societal and regional frictions set in motion by the emergence of a global system of Western-style nation-states during the latter half of this century. The Third World will be the last arena to eliminate such conflicts because it represents those regions and societies most recently organised into a series of modern nation states.

Thus, it should not surprise us that the Third World remains a laboratory for the clash of "isms".

Leninism, for example, has offered some political leaders a model for seizing and monopolising power, in the name of the people but in the interest of themselves and their power base.

Marxism has been utilised as a rationale for ministerial profiteering in the name of the people. Nationalism has been used as a means to unity in fragmented societies and a source of legitimacy that is otherwise lacking.

But wait, I can hear you say: Doesn't the track record of the past 40 years in the Third World give us fairly conclusive results from this laboratory of the "isms"? Is it not fairly obvious by now that democracy and free market economics are the answer?

Surely, there's no contest, and history will end when more of the Third World simply wakes up to these realities? Surely that day will also usher in an end to violent conflict in the

Third World? It's a strong case, but it misses an awkward point: in much of the Third World there is no political accountability.

That means there is no capacity on the part of the people and their local institutions to demand that national leaders do what they should do: respect the rule of law, resist the vast temptations of official corruption, permit a genuinely free Press to operate, tolerate political opposition and create a climate where men and women can freely enjoy the fruits of their labour and entrepreneurial skill.

In much of the Third World, leaders are in business for themselves and a rather narrow group of supporters, whatever "ism" they may use to rationalise their power. When the results of such rule become intolerable, governments are changed but usually by the army in the name of the people and whatever "ism" is handy. For the people of such countries, nothing much changes.

Third World nations that remain trapped in the morass of left- and right-wing autocracy are the real losers of our age.

Since they have nothing much to offer the dynamic, vibrant societies of the West — or, today, the failed Marxist societies of the East — their linkages to the world are eroded. Investors and bankers leave.

In our "information age", they are not totally ignored. But the attention they receive is not like the attention received by successful societies: instead they become theme parks, Disneyworlds of barbarity and deprivation, places for which funds are raised by rock concerts.

Saddest of all, these countries lose their best and brightest citizens. Unable to vote meaningfully and shape their destiny locally, they vote with their feet. Expatriates in the cities of Europe and North America bear witness to the agonies of Africa and the Middle East, Central America and Southeast Asia.

□ Crocker is a former US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. This is an edited extract from his address at the 50th anniversary of the SA Institute of International Affairs in Johannesburg last night.

Activists invited by Mandela for talks

DURBAN. — Nine South African activists will visit Nelson Mandela next week in the latest talks between the jailed leader and anti-apartheid campaigners, Mr Farouk Meer, of the Natal Indian Congress, yesterday.

He said the African National Congress leader had invited the nine to his luxury bungalow prison at Paarl.

Four would see him on Monday and five on Tuesday.

Dozens of government opponents have visited Mandela this year following a relaxation of rules on whom he may meet.

Mandela has been in captivity since 1962.

Mr Meer said did not know what Mandela wanted to discuss, "but he's probably interested in national politics and in particular the Natal situation".

About 2 000 people have been killed in two years of clashes between rival Black organisations in Pietermaritzburg and Durban.

Mr Meer said the nine would include Mr Archie Gumede and Mr Curnick Ndlovu of the United Democratic Front, whose supporters in Natal have clashed repeatedly with Inkatha.

Meanwhile, it's reported from Lusaka that a delegation of South African opposition activists began talks yesterday with exiled ANC leaders there.

The 26-strong Mass Democratic Movement delegation is scheduled to return to South Africa late today.

Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, general secretary of the National Union of Mine-workers, described the two days of talks as part of a programme of regular contact between the ANC and anti-apartheid leaders in South Africa.

He said the agenda included discussion on arrangements for ANC leaders released from prison in South Africa to visit the ANC's external headquarters in Lusaka once they receive passports.

Other members of the delegation included Mr Jay Naidoo, general secretary of the South African Congress of Trade Unions, and the Murphy Morobe, of the United Democratic Front. — Sapa-Reuter-AP.

● The Citizen's political correspondent reports that the three co-leaders of the Democratic Party yesterday met Mr Walter Sisulu and other recently-released security prisoners for what was described as "an exchange of views".

It was the first meeting between the released ANC men and the DP co-leaders. Dr Zach de Beer, Dr Denis Worrall and Mr Wynand Malan.

In a brief statement, afterwards, they disclosed nothing of the content of the talks, which were held in Soweto.

The statement said: "The talks were open-ended but fruitful, because they enabled participants to exchange views about recent developments in South Africa."

Strike violence

VIOLENCE and intimidation during strikes are neither new to this country nor unique to it. Other societies, including Britain, have seen strikers ranged against police, and other countries have had strikers or strike-breakers injured or killed.

When a strike becomes violent, it changes from a labour issue to a criminal one. Murder, assault and arson are serious crimes and must be dealt with as such. The first way to minimise strike violence is for the police to raise significantly the likelihood that violent crimes will not go unpunished and that perpetrators will be brought to court for the law to take its course.

In some cases, the police have been successful. In others, such as when four black team leaders were

murdered before numerous witnesses at Western Holdings three years ago, it is only after police put their minds to it that arrests have been made.

A second way to minimise violence is for the unions to do their utmost to discourage violence among their members. Unions regularly deplore violence, but they have a duty of moral leadership. They also have a vested interest; violent incidents not only harden attitudes but subject the unions to police attention.

Union members may see labour confrontation as an avenue of political expression. Their cause is not helped when strike-breakers are killed and railway officials doused with petrol and set on fire.

THE CITIZEN COMMENT

ANC talks

IT is now so fashionable for people to have talks with the African National Congress that it is beginning to look as if nobody in authority really cares.

True enough, the State President, Mr FW de Klerk, has made it known that he is against such talks.

But with leading Broederbonders, Afrikaner intellectuals, including academics, and others trotting off to Harare, Lusaka and other places for chats or conferences with the ANC, it hardly seems as if anyone is listening to what he says.

The trouble, of course, is that in pre-De Klerk days the trek to the ANC had already begun and nothing was done to put a stop to it.

Seizing passports had become unfashionable. Anyone could go to see the ANC unless he was on a restricted list.

Besides, there were institutions like Idasa that were able to use funds from overseas to encourage such meetings.

In the absence of any curb on these funds, there was nothing but cluck, clucks at the idea of people talking to the ANC while it was still engaged in terrorist attacks and still refused to denounce violence.

Some of the trekkers have been businessmen who think it important to know what the ANC has in mind should it take over the country.

Big Business knows by now what the ANC's plans are — which businesses it intends to nationalise and which it doesn't, how it will take over the land from the farmers and so on.

Still they go in the hope that by talking they may encourage the ANC to moderate its position — a foolish hope, since the ANC still clings to the Freedom Charter and is still mainly dominated by the South African Communist Party with its Marxist ideas.

Or they go in the hope that if there is an ANC government, they will be on good terms with it.

Other trekkers — notably the academics — believe the ANC is going to be the main player in any negotiations on the future of South Africa, thus it is a jolly good idea to have political discussions with it.

Sports administrators have also gone to see the ANC to try and do a deal with it on the lines that they will integrate Black and White sports bodies and, as a quid pro quo, the ANC should ease or lift the boycott of their sport.

The majority of the trekkers to the ANC, however, are either representatives of its fronts in South Africa or are active sympathisers.

Together with them, the ANC considers strategies for taking over the country.

The next great indaba, which Idasa is again helping to arrange, will be at the end of the month at a chateau just outside Paris.

The ANC has let it be known that it will be sending 25 top members and that it expects a contingent of 110 leading South African businessmen, politicians and academics to attend.

At the same time it has been made known that the seven ANC leaders released recently are going to hold other rallies in various parts of South Africa as a result of the success of the Soccer City rally near Soweto.

No wonder a senior official in Washington says that "the state of emergency is virtually lifted on a de facto basis" and "the ANC has been virtually legalised".

The ANC is now so active in South Africa that its external wing is "almost a bystander" (the latter part of his remark, as we have shown, is far from correct).

What it all amounts to is that the ANC is being de-demonised while it has still not given any undertaking to seek peaceful change, and while it is determined to continue the "armed struggle."

The dangers that this situation is creating should be obvious to everyone.

The ANC is moving into the second revolutionary phase — the mobilisation of the masses — and is encouraging a section of White opinion to side with it.

Nats say poll will choose team to negotiate with the Government

23 OCTOBER 1989 DAILY NEWS

Possible election to select black leaders

Daily News Correspondent

PRETORIA: A general election for black people is in the offing to choose their team to sit at the negotiating table with the Government.

This idea is circulating in the National Party in the belief that it should be made clear to the African National Congress that "they are not the only pebbles on the beach".

The Government's chief negotiator and Minister of Constitutional Development, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, said at the National Party's Transvaal congress at the weekend that negotiations would be multipartite.

"It is a fundamental misunderstanding that there are only two real opposing parties, namely the Government and the most extreme of the militant radical organisations," he said.

Dr Viljoen said the Government had in principle accepted that black people should be entitled to appoint their representatives to the negotiating table by way of a special election.

"The nature and details of such an election must also, through negotiations beforehand, be found to be generally acceptable. Only in this way can it be determined with certainty which alleged leaders actually represent their communities."

Dr Viljoen said there were several important black parties and groups who had had the courage to submit themselves to democratic elections in the past in self-governing states and local councils.

They had negotiated vigorously for years for reforms, and had produced results.

"These groups and leaders have established themselves as experienced authorities who obviously have a large and important role to play as influential par-

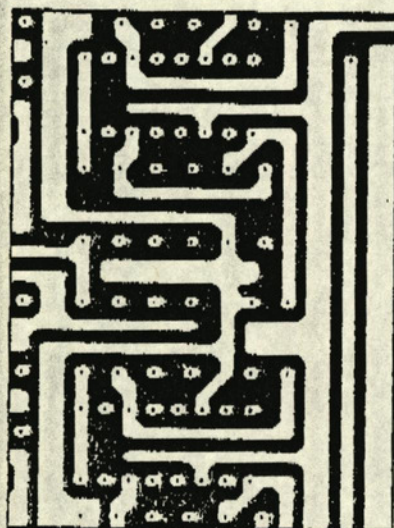
ticipants in the negotiating process," he said.

They had long ago enunciated preconditions for negotiation which, nowadays, were the monopoly of extreme left radical groupings. They had produced results without becoming "passive puppets" as they were unfairly branded, Dr Viljoen said.

President de Klerk said his government would not allow them to be elbowed out of the negotiating process: "There is no single party or grouping that can say it alone speaks for all blacks."

All striving for peace should be given the chance to participate or, if negotiations brought South Africa to that point, to prove themselves democratically at the ballot box.

Watt?



Until very recently, electrical (as well as electronic) engineers and mechanical engineers could hardly understand one another's technical jargon. Metrication, like many other evolutionary steps, could not have come at a more opportune time. At one stroke of the pen all engineers in South Africa were using the same units and, a universal language became the norm. The terms watt, kilowatt and megawatt are no longer questioned; they have become household words in the engineering profession.

In this period, there have been even more fundamental boundary shifts, such as the pivotal position occupied by the computer and electronic instrumentation in mechanical engineering today. Since its inception the Bureau has developed a significant ability in not only using computerised electronic instrumentation, but also designing and manufacturing this advanced equipment. One such product is already freely available, an instrumentation amplifier marketed by the firm Spescor TMS, while several others are in the process of development, also at the special request of clients.

The Bureau's experimentalists, assisted by the designers in the Computers and Electronics Group, are well equipped to meet South African needs in the fields of experimental measurement, instrumentation and data acquisition and reduction. For further information, contact:

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BUREAU FOR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Sandy prospects

An independent Namibia faces the prospect of an independent economy at a time when traditional donor nations are increasingly sceptical of development aid; especially if Swapo continues with Marxist economics. Organic growth *must* be the fledgling nation's priority 28



Zulu vs The Rest

Ethnic polarisation rears its ugly head following King Goodwill Zwelithini's statements at the Zulu mass rally in Natal. The dread spectre of tribal, especially Zulu, nationalism could become a reality unless an ANC snub is atoned for 47

Software pleading

The local software industry is hoping the Trade & Industry Board's investigation will see funding for local development in this strong growth sector 81

Aerial city

Sats offers developers a unique opportunity for innovative design: 7 000 m² of airspace above Johannesburg railway tracks is to be leased to keen developers 75

The big chicken

John Geoghegan is lifting some of the secrecy surrounding Rainbow Chicken which has long ruffled henpecked journalists' feathers, though the clucker king's coop is still not easily breached 73



Iron Curtain rout

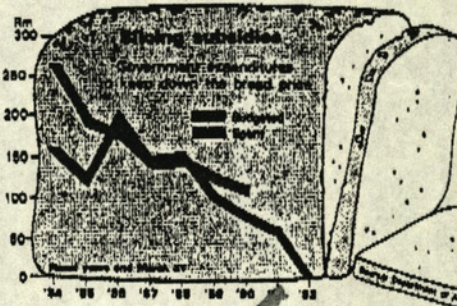
The tidal wave of reform sweeping the Eastern bloc sees much of the communist status quo beached. Czechoslovakia is the latest cauldron. Rumania's Ceausescu alone stands firm, but the times are against his doctrinaire reign 55

Depression's cure-all

Preliminary CSS figures for September show a massive leap in retail sales — notably at grocers, butchers, bookshops and stationers. In an otherwise cooling economy, it is surprising that South Africans are spending so much on food and comics; then again, maybe not 39

Rag trade summit

The local clothing industry's convention at Sun City emphasised the need for commitment to quality exports to ensure future growth, though 1989 is set to be a good year. A stitch in time ... 83



The bread line

The bread price has rocketed lately and further hikes are unavoidable as government continues to phase out subsidies. Deregulation could make for competitive pricing 30

The Thatcher decade dissected

The Spectator has collated an anthology of droll and acerbic views of Britain under Thatcher. The paper is known for its impeccable writing and conservatism, but the quality of journalism has ensured more than merely Tory readership 122

Periodically, advertising inserts are carried by the *FM*, some containing what appears to be editorial endorsement of advertised products. The *FM* is merely the carrier of these inserts; it does not accept responsibility for them. All *FM* supplements can be identified by the *FM* Survey logo.

FINANCIAL MAIL

DATE

POLITICS

The Zulu factor

Anything that looks like a move towards peace will be clutched at desperately in Natal-KwaZulu. Close on 2 500 people have died there in political violence in the past three years (including 72 in Durban and the coastal region in the last two months).

This may explain the optimism which greeted statements made by Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini ka Bhekuzulu and the ANC's Walter Sisulu at the weekend. They agree that talks should be held between KwaZulu and ANC leaders.

Talks have been held before — for example, those initiated by the Maritzburg Chamber of Commerce. There has also been a formal court agreement between Cosatu and

Not that Inkatha is solely to blame for the collapse of the peace process. After a year of meetings, it was agreed there should be a summit between KwaZulu Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi and ANC president Oliver Tambo. Buthelezi wrote directly to Tambo, who didn't reply. In the corridors at Ulundi, this was naturally taken as a snub. After that it was only a matter of time before what remained of the peace negotiations was called off.

Buthelezi and Inkatha were further riled when excluded from the series of protest marches which took place around the country last month. The final insult, clearly spelt out by King Goodwill on Sunday, was being left out of the rallies held to welcome back the released ANC leaders, including Sisulu.

Now, peace talks between the opposing factions in Natal-KwaZulu seem further away than ever. The king spoke about the Zulu nation being spurned and rejected by the ANC and, bearing in mind his audience (including thousands bused in from the countryside), the result could well be more violence.

An insult to the king, chief minister and Zulu nation as a whole is a grave offence and could well be interpreted as a call to arms by more traditional Zulu people.

It should also be remembered that the king invited the released ANC members to talk about why he and Buthelezi had been ignored at the welcoming rallies. In his response, Sisulu raised the prospect of the respective leaders discussing the violence in the region.

KwaZulu seems determined to play its role in negotiating SA's future. And, for the time being, it looks as if Inkatha and the ANC will be going their respective ways.

Sunday's *imbizo*, only the second called by the King in his 20-year reign, might have done a lot for Zulu unity. But it did nothing for black unity.



Inkatha. However, each initiative has ground to an acrimonious halt, followed immediately by a sharp increase in violence.

But the statements cloud the real thrust of Sunday's Zulu *imbizo* (attended by between 70 000 and 80 000 people in Durban). If anything, this was a battle cry and a threat to the ANC and other groups that the Zulus are going to do things their way.

The focus of the king's address was on ethnicity and Zulu nationalism. He spoke about "Zulu unity," said no major change could take place in the country which was not supported by "the Zulus" and, citing examples from Zulu history, warned that there could be no successful negotiations with the SA government "by any black group if they try to ride roughshod over us as a Zulu nation."

The *imbizo* formalised a decision taken by Inkatha's central committee last month, to shelve what common ground had been gained in the series of talks between Inkatha and a body representing Cosatu, the UDF and (indirectly) the ANC.

The dissenting councillor, Jo Allen, stood as an independent in the municipal elections but then asked if she could join the NP caucus after being elected. She justified voting against open beaches by saying it was consistent with election promises to her constituency.

When Peter Corbett (the councillor who managed to get the whites-only beach signs removed last month) produced Allen's manifesto, and pointed out it contained no reference to beaches, she said the promise was in a different manifesto.

It seems she has two manifestos.

Another feature of the council meeting on beach apartheid was that, after nearly nine years of fierce debate, the decision was taken quickly and quietly.

The beaches aren't officially open yet but municipal officials have been asked to be discreet with complaints. On December 8 the council will consider objections to opening all beaches. If the decision is upheld it will go to the provincial executive committee on December 12 for pertinent by-laws to be scrapped.

Pretoria pushed

What caused the turnaround?

It was clearly pressure from the top though the caucus is unlikely to admit it. Deputy mayor and management committee chairman Jan Venter, who last month advanced several arguments why beaches should not be opened, at least until after the holiday season (*Current Affairs* October 13), claimed this week to have secured a two-phase concession from the council opposition to break the beaches impasse.

These include the provision of extra facilities and crowd control measures (which Venter estimates will cost the city about R250 000) and the promise to investigate limiting the number of people using beaches on the Bluff — perhaps the most conservative of Durban's white suburban areas.

Ideas include controlling the number of vehicles going to the beach and setting a maximum of 15 people per vehicle.

Venter admits, however, that the NP caucus met last Friday to consider the statements by President F W de Klerk. "We had a long debate on the issue," he says, "but didn't take a vote. We decided to consider the matter over the weekend and meet again on Monday."

The weekend's soul-searching had the same effect on each councillor.

Liberal councillors burst into cheers and applause after Monday's decision to open the beaches.

Cape Administrator Kobus Meiring out-

BEACH APARTHEID

The sands run out

One thing about Nat caucus members which effectively dominates the Durban City Council: they act as one.

Last month they all voted for the five remaining segregated beaches to stay whites-only to set several conditions to be met before all races could use them.

This week the conditions were set aside. All but one of the Nat councillors voted for all beaches to be opened to all races.