

Fourth year of state of emergency

Fewer detentions, but the state has other ways to crush dissent

With the advent of the fourth state of emergency the Government has come to rely less on mass detentions, and is using other methods, such as the restriction of individuals, including house arrest, for combatting resistance to apartheid.
WYNDHAM HARTLEY reports on three years of emergency rule leading up to the reimposition yesterday.

IN early 1986 civil insurrection was at its height and two partial states of emergency failed to contain it. This led President P.W. Botha to impose a national state of emergency on June 12, saying that circumstances had arisen which threatened law and order and the safety of the public.

On the same day the detentions began, with more than 1 000 activists being detained in a pre-dawn raid. By the time the

first year of emergency rule closed on June 11, 1987 more than 25 000 people had been detained. This figure includes those detained for less than 30 days who are not recorded in official Department of Law and Order statistical releases to Parliament.

The second year of the national emergency saw a dramatic decrease in detentions with 5 000 people held by the state and the third year saw this drop even further

with 2 000 being detained up to February 1989.

At the end of 1988 about 30% of all detentions were in the Pietermaritzburg area, the Human Rights Commission said in a recent report.

"More than 20% of the detainees are UDF affiliates, many of these being from Hammarsdale ... Inkatha members and members of the Black Consciousness organisations remain relatively untouched."

The most dramatic response to emergency detentions occurred earlier this year with the mass hunger strikes by detainees which successfully secured the release of many detainees. Most were, however, served with restriction orders upon their release.

However detention as a means of combatting resistance to apartheid and the National Party Government has become less important to the authorities and has been used less and less as the emergency has continued.

The late David Webster, murdered recently by unknown gunmen outside his Johannesburg home, in an article published by the Human Rights Commission, said that in the last 18 months there had been a discernable drop in the militancy of extra-parliamentary opposition and that detentions were normally an accurate reflection of the state of the struggle.

He suggested that this could be explained by activists evolving more secretive and evasive techniques of organisation and "the decline in the number of detentions can be explained by the state's use of other methods to achieve the same results".

One of the methods used was the restriction of both organisations and individuals.

This began in earnest during the run up to the municipal elections when on February 24, 1988 the state effectively banned 17 organisations including the United Democratic Front — seen to be at the forefront of

the internal resistance movement.

Also on the list were the Azanian People's Organisation, its youth wing Azayo, the Detainees' Parents Support Committee, Detainees' Support Committee, the National Education Crisis Committee, the National Education Union of South Africa, and the South African Youth Congress. At the same time the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) effectively had, through a restriction order, its activities confined to the work place.

In an attempt to circumvent the bannings the Committee for the Defence of Democracy was formed in the Cape after the initial restrictions. The state took only six days to impose similar conditions on it.

Along with the organisations, individuals, including local UDF chairman, Mr A.S. Chetty, and local clergyman Reverend Simon Gqubule, were restricted to their homes.

Dr Webster wrote of the banning orders: "The restrictions tend to prohibit the restricted person from engaging in the activities which occupied them before their detention. This effectively renders such people unemployed, and sometimes unemployable. Zwelakhe Sisulu (editor of New Nation) is one such case, as is Raymond Suttner.

"Both are also house arrested and have to report to the police twice daily."

He pointed also to the situation of two activists on the West Rand who have to report to the police at 10 am and 2 pm, making it impossible for them to find employment. A restricted man on Natal's south coast is unemployed for similar reasons and has to spend R7 a day travelling to the distant police station.

The punitive measures against organisations and individuals were all renewed when the state of emergency was re-proclaimed on June 10, 1988.

The End Conscription Campaign, long a

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thorn in the side of Defence Minister Magnus Malan, became the 19th organisation to be restricted and since then many more followed bringing the total in yesterday's Government Gazette with the new declaration this week to 32.

According to Dr Webster the courts were also used to criminalise opposition and this showed in the sharp increase in political trials during the three years of emergency.

"In the year ending June 1988, for example, 51 political trials involving 165 people were completed with 80 convictions and 85 acquittals. A further 58 trials were in progress involving 232 accused."

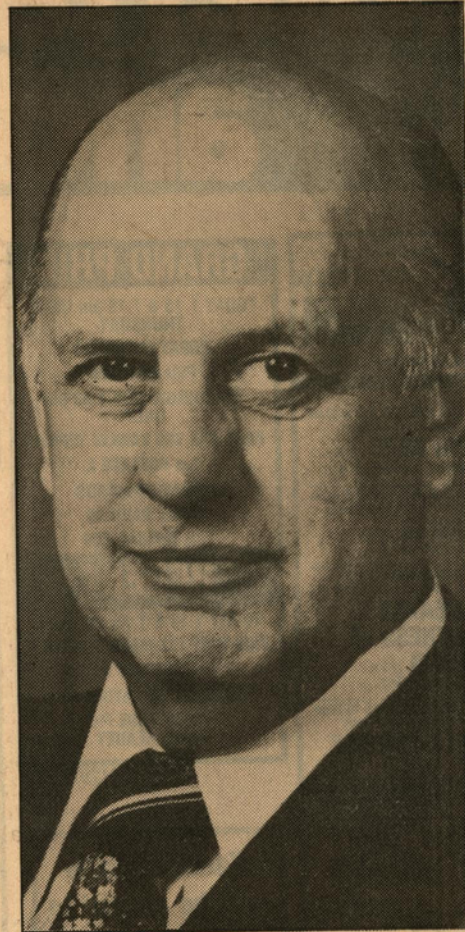
While detentions excited considerable controversy, so to did the emergency media regulations which prohibit the recording of unrest or reporting on police and security force actions. These regulations have survived, with amendments, a number of Supreme Court challenges brought by individuals, organisations and the media.

The media regulations have been used to warn six publications about the publication of "subversive" propaganda which was considered by Home Affairs Minister, Mr Stofel Botha, to be a threat to public safety.

Three publications — New Nation, South and Weekly Mail — suffered suspensions under the same regulations. A number of other publications are reported to be facing charges for publishing material prohibited by the media regulations.

The state of emergency has been used to protect two elections, the House of Assembly polls in May 1987 and the municipal elections last year. One of the reasons for not lifting the emergency is the need to control opposition to the forthcoming general election for all three houses of Parliament.

President Botha, in the end, will now be remembered as the man who failed to cross the Rubicon, failed to release Nelson Mandela and committed the country to a semi-permanent state of emergency.



President P.W. BOTHA

No decision on venue

Peace talks may begin next week

by CARMEL RICKARD

PLANNED peace talks between senior delegations from Inkatha, the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the United Democratic Front could take place as early as the middle of next week.

Although neither side has yet confirmed the date or venue, it is understood that a meeting place in Natal was being discussed.

The meeting was made possible earlier this week when Inkatha president Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi opened the way for initial talks at a venue other than Ulundi.

During discussions in Ulundi this week with a delegation from the Anglican synod, he said he would be prepared to ask senior colleagues to attend a meeting with Cosatu and the UDF "at any agreed venue".

Negotiations between the two sides have been in progress since then, to finalise the date and meeting place.

The proposed meeting has been welcomed by the regional director of the Democratic Party, Mr Roy Ainslie, who said he believed unilateral peace attempts would not work.

He said the only way to begin controlling the violence was through a joint strategy.

Members of Cosatu yesterday expressed the hope that the meeting would deal with "specific proposals" and that they would not get "bogged down discussing the issue of why Cosatu and the UDF had not agreed to go to Ulundi".

10 JUNE 1989
Police deny

banning funeral

Witness Reporter

SOUTH African Police have denied refusing to grant permission for the funeral of Mrs Jabu Ndlovu, a key official of the National Union of Metalworkers South Africa, which was to have taken place today.

Police spokesman Major Pieter Kitching said yesterday that the application had been received late on Thursday afternoon and that it was still in the process of being dealt with.

He said that, as far as the police were concerned, they had not refused to grant permission and that each application for a funeral was dealt with on merit with specific regard to security.

The authority to restrict funerals in the Mountain Rise cemetery lay with the municipality's Parks Department, he said.

Director Mr Frank Quayle said that under delegation of authority he had restricted the funeral because of the "risk to life and property of surrounding residents".

Mr Quayle said there were six other funerals also due to be held today around 11 am and 3 pm and that the funeral could go ahead on Monday.

• Major Kitching said a further two people had been arrested in connection with the murder of Mrs Ndlovu.

Sharp international reaction to continued emergency

Additional clamps on restricted people

NATURAL WITNESS

10 JUNE 1989

TIGHT new curbs including house arrest and bans on media interviews have been placed on a number of activists whose restriction orders were due to end with the current state of emergency on June 12.

Police yesterday served new orders — many containing additional clauses — on most of the 500 people and 32 organisations currently restricted in terms of the emergency regulations.

The renewals follow an announcement by State President P.W. Botha on Thursday that the state of emergency was to be re-imposed.

The most notable additional curb is a clause forbidding the restricted person from taking part "in any interview with any journalist, news reporter, news commentator or news correspondent".

According to Law and Order spokesman Brigadier Leon Mellet, however, while some restricted persons may have been "silenced", restrictions on others have been eased.

"It's not a new trend. Not everyone has been prevented from speaking

to the media. It all depends on the circumstances of the individual. Some have had their restrictions eased and some have had them lifted altogether," Brigadier Mellet said last night. He was unable to give numbers.

Among those served with a house arrest order was human rights lawyer and chairman of the Johannesburg branch of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers (Nadel), Mr Azhar Cachalia.

In a statement last night Nadel said Mr Cachalia had been placed under house arrest from 8 pm to 5 am every day.

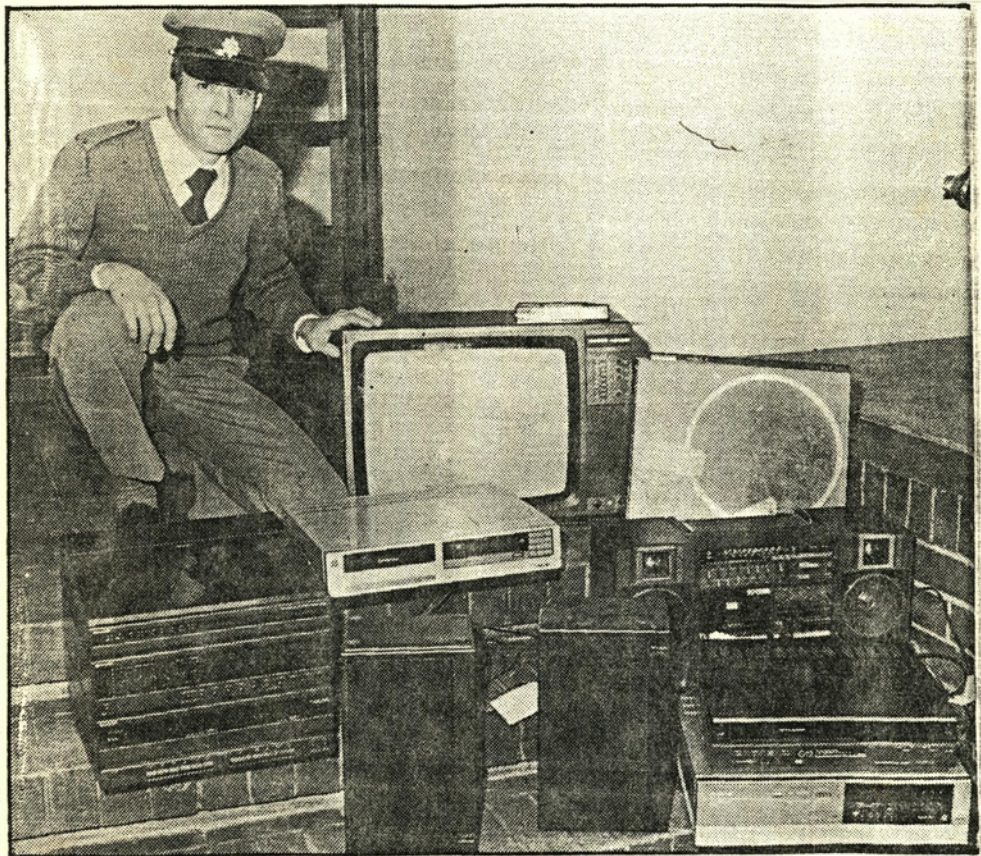
Nadel condemned the restriction order and said it would make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for Mr Cachalia to practise as an attorney with a nationwide practice.

Meanwhile, international reaction to Mr Botha's announcement has been sharply critical. "We consider this action a serious obstacle to a solution to South Africa's

true dilemma — racial discrimination and minority rule," the U.S. State Department said.

Fifty-seven senators from the U.S. Congress sent a telegram to Mr Botha expressing their

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Constable A.W. Jaftha at the Plessislaer Police Station with a number of stolen items recovered by the S.A.P. recently. The goods include a Soni video machine, two National videos, a music centre and a radio cassette player. Anyone who is missing any of the above items can phone 984222.

NATALWITNESS - 10 JUNE 1989

Tutu elected to Harvard board

CAMBRIDGE (Massachusetts) — Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu was elected to Harvard University's governing board of overseers this week despite strong opposition from the Alumni Association. Archbishop Tutu was nominated by a Harvard alumni group which opposes apartheid and has been pressuring the university to divest \$160 million in investments related to South Africa. The election provoked a bitter public battle and Harvard officials, normally neutral in such elections, urged alumni not to vote for "single-issue candidates". — Sapa-AP

Ciskeians 'must plough their fields'

BISHO — Ciskei's rural communities have been called upon in the National Assembly to plough their fields, with one MP even suggesting land found lying idle should be confiscated.

The calls were made during debate of the policy speech of the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Luyanda Ngoma. Chief Z.P. Siwani proposed a bill empowering the confiscation of fields that were not tilled by their owners. He criticised headmen for not doing their work in the rural areas. — Sapa.

Renewed emergency: mixed reaction within country

From page 1

disappointment at his decision. The Japanese government "strongly requested" Pretoria to repeal the state of emergency immediately.

Reaction inside the country was mixed. Democratic Party spokesman on Law and Order Tiaan van der Merwe said the Government was causing South Africa to be in a permanent state of emergency.

KwaZulu Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said the re-imposition of the state of emergency "is a tragic indication of the abnormality of our society", while Lawyers for Human Rights said the Government and widespread, massive violations of human rights had become synonymous.

Black Sash members conducted a demonstration in Johannesburg yesterday condemning the renewal.

The National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (Numsa) said it was a clear indication the Government was committed to the use of force to suppress the democratic rights of the majority of South Africans.

But the Conservative Party yesterday came out in support of Mr Botha, with Mr Moolman Mentz, spokesman on Law and Order, saying it was clear that the re-imposition of the emergency was justified.

The leader of the National Party, Mr F.W. de Klerk, said positive results had already been obtained from the previous state of emergency and a certain degree of stability had been achieved through the application of law and order.

Minister of Finance Barend du Plessis said those seeking to sow chaos in the economy had to be stopped. — Sapa-WR.

A paler shade of group areas

Saturday Star 10 June 1989

Make no mistake, the 'free settlement' option means rigid controls — and non-racial towns with their own local government are unlikely. PATRICK LAURENCE reports.

AFTER decades of preaching the virtues of residential segregation, the National Party has finally accepted there is a need to establish areas of "free settlement".

It has already taken the first tentative steps in that direction with the passing of the Free Settlement Areas Act and the formation of the Free Settlement Areas Board this year.

The newly-created board is entrusted with the task of overseeing and controlling the emergence of racially open settlement areas.

Mr Heinz Kruger, the board's chairman, said that he hoped to clear the way soon for the establishment of free settlement areas at Countryview in Midrand, and Diepsloot, north of Johannesburg.

"I am hoping to get somewhere with those two by the end of July," Mr Kruger said. After that, he added, the board will investigate the next three areas earmarked for possible free settlement: parts of Mayfair, Windmill Park adjacent to Boksburg, and the Warwick Triangle in Durban.

Associated with the free settlement is a related concept: voluntary association. It allows for the genesis of a new group of people who prefer not to be classified according to race, but rather as a racially open or non-racial group.

Voluntary association stands in the same antithetical relationship to mandatory race classification as free settlement does to enforced residential segregation.

The Government, however, is not offering free settlement and voluntary association as a replacement for its policies of residential segregation ("own areas") and race classification. They are propounded as an option to the

older policies and will co-exist with them.

These modifications of, or addenda to, established policy have drawn conflicting reactions. Two can be identified at the extremes.

One sees them as a bold step designed to facilitate gradual transition from the old racial order to a new non-racial society as more and more people vacate the racially segregated towns for the brave new world of free settlement and voluntary association.

The opposing interpretation perceives them as a stratagem devised to bolster the old order.

It sees them as a strategic retreat in which some areas are abandoned or identified for free settlement in order to better protect the segregated strongholds from underlying demographic and socio-economic forces (the rapidly growing black population and the emergence of a new

class of blacks no longer paralysed with docility).

After examining the Free Settlement Areas Act and the Local Government in Free Settlement Areas Act two points are certain: establishment of free settlement areas is subject to rigid controls, and rapid development of non-racial towns, with their own local government structures, is unlikely.

Recent speeches dealing with

voluntary association by the outgoing Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, and the new National Party leader, Mr FW de Klerk, emphasise another point: guidelines as to how the racially open voluntary group will be slotted into the political order at national level are extremely vague.

At local government level there is more clarity; the provisions of the Local Government in

Free Settlement Areas Act suggest that a subordinate niche has been planned for the racially open towns.

The State President is empowered to proclaim free settle-

ment areas in any part of South Africa outside of the land set aside for blacks exclusively under the 1936 Land Act.

He can do so in "controlled areas" — ie territory outside the "black homelands" which has not been declared a "group area" for any particular race — and in land designated for settlement by one race only.

But even the State President is bound and controlled when it comes to establishment of free settlement areas.

If he wants to declare a free settlement zone on land designated as a white area, he can do so only with the concurrence of the white Minister's Council. Si-

imilarly, if he wants to open land reserved for coloured or Indian occupation to free settlement, he needs the approval of the coloured and Indian Minister's Councils.

That is not all, however.

Before the President can issue a proclamation, he must first consider a report by the Free Settlement Boards on conditions in the land which he, the State President, may envisage as a area for free settlement. The board's report must include an account of socio-economic conditions in the area, of the attitudes of people there, and the stance of local organisations and institutions.

The board, moreover, has to

inform the local authority concerned that it is investigating the possibility of opening the area to people of all races; it must, in addition, give the local authority an opportunity to inform all municipal voters that the inquiry is under way.

These controls or safeguards must be assessed, as Mr Nic Olivier of the Democratic Party argues in the light of two facts.

First, whites have benefited most from the Groups Areas Act and to redress the apartheid-induced imbalance white-designated land must be primarily tar-

geted for free settlement; second, whites are given every opportunity to mobilise opposition to any move to create racially free zones on land reserved for them under supposedly obsolete apartheid doctrines.

Under these conditions, as Mr Olivier observes, the chances of free settlement areas emerging on a large scale are minimal.

At the same time, however, there is — to quote Mr Oliver again — a grave risk of racial animosity being stirred up by white conservatives mobilising against any move to lower apartheid barriers in their areas.

The only white areas where change may occur without too much organised agitation are

those where black occupation is already far advanced. Hillbrow in Johannesburg and Woodstock in Cape Town are two obvious examples.

Inquiries by the board into the advisability of proclaiming an area a free settlement zone can be ordered by the State President, the Minister of Constitutional Affairs, a Minister's Council and a Provincial Administrator.

Inquiries can be requested by local authorities and township developers. But the board is not compelled to launch the inquiry; it must, in any case, first consult with higher authorities (the Minister, the Minister's Council or the Administrator, depending on the nature of the request).

The Sandton City Council thought of applying to have the whole of Sandton declared a free settlement area. It says, however, that it has had second thoughts.

Mr Peter Gardiner, chairman of the Sandton management committee, explains: "It came before the management committee in April. It was then decided that the legislation did not provide for an entire municipality applying for free settlement status."

One aspect which worries Mr Gardiner is the status of local government in a hypothetically free settlement Sandton.

The relevant law — the Local Government in Free Settlement Areas Act — provides for the residents of a racially open zone to be represented by a management committee. A management committee, however, has advisory powers only and is subordinate to a fully-fledged municipality.

At the same time the law entitles white voters in a newly proclaimed free settlement zone to remain on the old municipal voters role.

Thus, if an entire city opts for free settlement status, a minority of conservative white voters may decide to remain on the old apartheid municipal voters' role.

Consequently, as the SA Institute of Race of Relations notes in its latest "Quarterly Countdown", the minority could elect a city council with the power to override decisions of a management committee representing a majority of residents.

Mr Gardiner focuses on the anomaly: "There are certain technical defects in the legislation ... It is difficult to conceive of a management commit-

tee running alongside a municipality. It just doesn't make sense."

Mr Kruger declines to comment on fears that the management committee will be subordinate. "I only go on the facts," he declares.

"The moment an area becomes a free settlement area within a local authority area, elections take place on a universal suffrage basis, all races included, for a management committee.

"Then, in addition to that, the Administrator has the authority to create another body, consisting of equal representatives from the management committee and from the local authority concerned."

Explaining the thinking behind the arrangement, he says: "One of the main intentions was to make quite sure that there is communication and co-operation between the local authority and the management committee."

The City Council of Cape Town wants to open the entire city to all races. It does not want to do so, however, under the Free Settlement Act. It rejects the law in principle and shares the same anxiety as Sandton about the law's implications for local government.

One final thought: the Houses of Representatives and Delegates do not see the Free Settlement Act as a path to a non-racial future, having rejected it when it was presented to them in Parliament.

They prefer a more direct route to a non-racial society: scrapping of the Group Areas Act.

A pale shade of group areas

POOR WAGTER,
SINCE WE BECAME
A GREY AREA, HE DOESN'T
KNOW WHO
TO BARK AT.



Soweto figure almost doubles — but police hit back hard at thugs

STAR - 10 JUNE 1989

Violent crimes rocket

**DAWN BARKHUIZEN
and PAT DEVEREAUX**

VIOLENT crime in Soweto has risen by a staggering 94 percent, say latest police statistics.

This is compared to figures for the first five months of 1988.

Up to 185 cases of armed robbery are reported in Soweto every month, and vehicle hijackings have more than doubled.

The Soweto Murder and Robbery Squad has hit back hard at gangsters — especially those terrorising vehicle owners. They arrested 69 suspects between March and the end of last month.

On Thursday, police arrested eight suspected "Gaterways" gang-rape members in Soweto. They are believed to be linked to the series of rapes and break-ins in the Yeoville-Berea area.

And the latest in the spate of armed robberies sweeping the Witwatersrand — 18 attacks have been reported within the past eight days — the owner of a Johannesburg engineering works and his wife were yesterday held up with guns and knives and robbed of R8 982.

The brazen daylight robbery brings the total haul in armed robberies reported to the Brixton Murder and Robbery Squad since January 1 1989 to R21 159 269.

Of this, diamonds made up R12 million and cash about R7 million.

In the latest robbery, police believe the movements of Mr Irvine Stockler (53) and his wife were well known to the robbers — who appear to have lain in wait while the couple went into the bank to draw a payroll.

Witwatersrand police liaison officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Frans Malherbe, said the couple were attacked minutes after leaving the Stan-

dard Bank in Eloff Street Extension, Johannesburg.

They were walking back to Dickie and Stockler Ltd in Ingleston Road, Village Deep, when two men armed with guns darted from behind a car and blocked their way.

Spinning round, they found a man with a long hunting knife blocking their retreat.

The robbers demanded and grabbed the bag with the money and fled.

The couple were not injured.

There have been no arrests and it is not known if the robbery is connected to the wave of other hold-ups.

Organised crime has seen police at work around the clock, and plans have set in motion to intensify patrols in the central business district.

There have been closed-door meetings with the Associated Chambers of Industries

to devise a strategy to safeguard businesses.

As a special measure, Johannesburg police this week announced a new telephone number — 838 1178 — solely for information on getaway vehicles used by robbers.

So far, only one robber has been arrested. He was knocked out by a woman security guard at the Checkers Warehouse.

Lieutenant-Colonel Malherbe emphasised that, while carefully planned crime had shown a sharp increase in recent weeks, there had been a drop in crimes such as thefts and house-breakings.

He said media publicity this week on the bank robberies and gang rapes had created the impres-

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VIOLENT CRIMES
ROCKET

STAR - 10 JUNE 1989

Soweto crime wave *

● FROM PAGE 1.

sion that crime in general was on the increase. But there was no need for panic.

"We are following up positive clues relating to the bank robberies," he said.

"To combat the recent organised crime, we have long-term and short-term strategies which will hopefully hamper these criminals."

Those crimes linked to "The Gaterways" are:

- A 25-year-old woman was raped at her home in Berea, on April 26.
- A grandmother and her teenage granddaughter were raped in Hillbrow last week.
- On May 20 an 18-year-old woman and her 24-year-old friend were each raped twice by three men in their home in Yeoville.
- A 36-year-old mother was gang-raped at the weekend by four men at her home in Bellevue East.
- A Yeoville man and his wife were assaulted in their home last week.

Detectives also recovered stolen goods in their swoop.

Pan Africanism: A Modern Assessment. Part II

10 June 1989
by Horace Huntley, Ph.D.
BIRMINGHAM WORLD

The second concentric circle deals with the united efforts of Africans on the continent. During the 1960s in America, one of the short falls of the Civil Rights Movement was the lack of the recognition of a unifying force between the revolutionary and cultural nationalist and the non-violent portion of the movement. In South Africa, this also seems to be a problem. The African National Congress

(ANC), the United Democratic Front (UDF), the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) and Inkatha seem to be the major players. The former three have decided that a violent overthrow of the South African government is the only way to end apartheid. The latter, Inkatha, retains the initial philosophy of the ANC and is dedicated to finding a non-violent solution to the problem. Just as there were vio-

lent confrontations between Huey Newton's Black Panther Party and Maulana Karanga's US, the same has been the case in South Africa between ANC affiliated organizations and Inkatha. The two men whose names are most closely associated with the two organizations today is Nelson Mandela and Mangosuthu Buthelezi. While one is revered, the other is ostracized.

Mandela has spent the last 25 years imprisoned by the South African government for advocating the end to apartheid. He has become the symbol of all that opposes South African apartheid. While he is incarcerated, his organization, the ANC, has been outlawed from operation in the Republic of South Africa. On the other hand, Inkatha, organized in 1975 by Buthelezi, and although pressured from all sides, the organization has grown to more than one million members and points to successes as a Black voice within the confines of South Africa. The two groups have come to oppose each other, not differentiating in their opposition to apartheid, but in the methods by which it should be disposed of. While the ANC-in-exile has found it rather difficult to demonstrate what post-apartheid South Africa will look like Inkatha in the Kwa-Zulu/Natal Indaba is a model experiment in representative government. Inkatha is the most powerful Black political organization in South Africa and is looked upon as a challenge by those that control apartheid. Buthelezi was accused

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by the White South African Minister of Justice of broadening Inkatha's base from strictly Zulu to include all Blacks. The minister accused Mr. Buthelezi of rejecting his Zulu background because his aim was to include all Blacks in Inkatha. He also suggested that the Chief Minister was in effect pitting all Blacks against Whites and called this racialism. Buthelezi replied, "Yes I am a Black man as much as you are an Afrikaner and a White man - I am a Black man and a Zulu too." Buthelezi went on to say that "Our unity is an absolute prerequisite to our liberation. The privileged White minority elite opposed it because they know that Black unity is the key to our freedom." In this exchange Buthelezi reaffirms what Colin Legum said in his book entitled PAN-AFRICANISM. "African nationalism (is) to replace the tribalism of the past: a concept of African loyalty wider than the nation to transcend tribal and territorial affiliations." The Afrikaner minister suggested that "We are dealing with a man (Buthelezi) who wants the whole cake, it's as simple as that." Buthelezi replied, "Not for me alone. I want to share the whole cake Mr. Minister, all of us." He goes on to suggest that one can not eat of the cake if they are not a part of the house.

As a result of his foregone position, Mr. Buthelezi continues to reject the idea of independent homelands that is designed to isolate and therefore control the Black majority population. Thirteen percent of the land

is reserved for approximately seventy-two percent of the population. According to J. Gus Liebenow of the United Field Service and Information Staff and Indiana University, "The land is of such poor and uneven quality that anywhere from a third to a half of the male population of each Homeland has to leave the rural area in order to find meaningful employment." Buthelezi feels it paramount to refuse quasi-independence that is designed to destroy any efforts that demonstrates movement toward the second concentric circle in Pan Africanist thought-unity.

**BECAUSE MY PEOPLE
MUST KNOW**

By Carlos Morrison

The African-American Community must make a firm stand behind our brothers and sisters who are constantly struggling to change the drug problem in the city's housing projects. Rather than sit by and condemn all housing projects and the people in them as a hopeless problem that can't be solved, we must seek out and support those individuals and/or organizations that are working diligently within the housing projects to bring about a positive change.

Last month, the Elyton Village community center, under the direction of Mr. William Merriweather, III, held a very successful "Community Awareness Day" program aimed at informing it's young people about the harmful effects of drug abuse. The program brought together community

organizations from around the city whose main purpose was to show young people that there were positive outreach programs that they could turn to for help.

Programs such as the one mentioned are being planned and developed in other housing projects in and throughout our city. It is our challenge to support the programs and the people who create them. In this way we show our full support and concern for what they are doing. But more importantly, we learn that there are people who work or live in the housing projects that are just as concerned and determined to see an end to the drug problem as we are.