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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

ANC REACTION TO THE INTERIM REPORT OF THE GOLDSTONE COMMISSION INVESTIGATION INTO TRAIN VIOLENCE

The ANC finds some of the findings of the Committee looking into train violence both disturbing and alarming. It is an outrage that the statistics of the incidents of violence kept by the police are incomplete due to what the Committee calls "routine destruction of records". How is it possible that records of serious and unsolved crimes are "routinely destroyed"? This can only be interpreted as action to hide the nature of the train violence and who is responsible.

The destruction of records, inadequate investigations or gathering of evidence on train attacks has resulted in very few cases being brought to court, and even fewer cases of successful prosecutions. The Committee views the situation as "unsatisfactory and disturbing". The resultant loss of faith in the administration of justice, also identified by the Committee, concerns the ANC equally. This is another typical example of the crime of omission on the part of the state and its agencies.

The Committee has also identified the 27 hostels along the rail system and adjacent to townships as a definite factor in the train violence. Since the IFP has repeatedly claimed the hostels as their strongholds, particularly when arguing against their closure, the political responsibility for the actions of hostel dwellers must rest primarily with it.

The Committee has concluded that the carrying of weapons in public, including on trains, has contributed to the fear, intimidation, death and destruction on the trains. The incidents of arms-wielding IFP supporters at Isando Station resulted in black and white passengers frantically disembarking from a train clearly illustrates the connection between weapons carried in public and train violence.

The report of the Committee should convince the IFP of the need to stop its supports from carrying weapons in public, and to accede to the banning of such weapons in public. Furthermore, this report provides the

government with additional reasons, if any were needed, why it should immediately phase out hostels and ban the carrying of weapons in public.

The Committee must, in spite of the difficulties it cites in this interim report, pay particular attention to points (b) and (c) of its terms of reference. The lack of public opprobrium directed at those who perpetuate violence has the same effect as the failure of the administration of justice - it tells the perpetrators of violence that they can get away with their crimes.

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door of both government and business which have, in concert, intimidated and threatened reprisals against people whose only voice is that of peaceful, public protest.

The ANC remains firmly committed to a campaign for peace and democracy that is both peaceful and disciplined. We will do all in our power to ensure there is no violence. Failure of government and business to do likewise has created deep-rooted reactions within our people that will scar our society for a long time to come.

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WASHINGTON - The assassination of Algerian leader, Mohamed Boudiaf underscores the fact "that violence simply cannot be the solution to Algeria's problems," says United States assistant secretary of state, Edward Djerejian.

KABUL - Afghanistan's new president, Burhanuddin Rabbani, is disbanding all military and police organisations and forming a new Islamic-based security service.

the talks, including an agenda".

Unionist leaders have long opposed any compromise that includes a role for the Irish Republic in their future and particularly want Dublin to drop articles in the Irish constitution claiming sovereignty over the north.

The mutually suspicious Unionist and Roman catholic politicians launched Strand I of the talks in Belfast 10 weeks ago.

Strand II, involving Dublin and the four main northern parties, has not yet formally opened and no dates have yet been set for the continuation of the Strand III talks between the London and Dublin governments.

ment to fighting on Sierra-Leone's southeast border.

The government of the former president Joseph Momoh, now living in exile in Guinea, had ceased to function and was riddled with corruption, he said. Momoh embroiled Sierra-Leone in "a brutal war

would "return the country to constitutional rule at the earliest possible time".

He declined to specify when elections would be held, saying: "We want to make sure that the type of democracy that we are bringing to Sierra-Leoneans is not hijacked by some other selfish politicians".

Sese Seko talks on foreign cash

THE man reputed to be one of the richest world leaders, with investments worth billions of rands abroad - Zairean president Mobutu Sese Seko - made an unexpected call to his countrymen this week to return money held abroad.

In a television broadcast on the 32nd anniversary of independence from Belgium, Sese Seko urged his countrymen to repatriate money held abroad.

"It is unacceptable to ask foreigners to invest here

while Zaireans fail to show a spirit of confidence in our own country," he said.

Sese Seko has never put a figure on his personal wealth, although domestic and foreign critics in books and public statements, have estimated it at several billions of rands.

He is known to have sumptuous residences in France, Belgium, the United States and Ivory Coast. A French minister, Bernard Kouchner, last October described Seko as "a walking bank-account in

a leopard-skin bonnet" who should be made to hand back his embezzled fortune.

The man who has ruled with an iron hand since taking power in 1965, said Zaireans with hard currency assets abroad should invest to help rebuild the shattered economy.

"Free enterprise and the privatisation of certain publicly owned companies will provide a framework in which national and foreign capital can compete," he said.

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