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SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST LEADER TELLS WHITES TO SHARE WEALTH
BY WILLIAM MACLEAN

SOWETO, SOUTH AFRICA, MAY 7, REUTER - COMMUNIST LEADER JOE SLOVO HAS TOLD THE WEALTHY WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS WHO LOATHE HIM THAT THEY MUST PREPARE TO GIVE UP THEIR LUXURY LIFESTYLE AND EMBRACE BLACK MAJORITY DEMOCRATIC RULE.

IN A FIERY SPEECH TO 30,000 BLACKS IN JOHANNESBURG'S SOWETO TOWNSHIP, HE ACCUSED PRESIDENT F.W. DE KLERK OF TRYING TO RETAIN APARTHEID PRIVILEGES FOR WHITES.

+WE CONTINUE TO LIVE IN A COUNTRY THAT IS STILL CHAINED BY APARTHEID. THE ECONOMIC RICHES REMAIN A MONOPOLY OF THE WHITE GROUP,+ SAID SLOVO, 64, A WHITE LAWYER WHO HEADS THE SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY AND HAS JUST RETURNED FROM 27 YEARS IN EXILE.

SLOVO, A CLOSE COLLEAGUE OF AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS LEADER NELSON MANDELA, IS REVILED BY MANY WHITES FOR HIS ROLE IN PLANNING ANC GUERRILLA ATTACKS.

HIS SPEECH ON SUNDAY RESTATED VIEWS WHICH ONCE LED FORMER PRESIDENT P.W. BOTHA TO CALL HIM PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE.

BOTHA SAID HE WAS RESIGNING HIS 50-YEAR MEMBERSHIP OF THE RULING WHITE NATIONAL PARTY IN DISGUST AT LAST WEEK'S OFFICIAL EXPLORATORY TALKS BETWEEN THE REFORMIST DE KLERK AND ANC LEADERS INCLUDING SLOVO ON ENDING APARTHEID.

THE TALKS CLOSED WITH AN AGREEMENT TO TRY TO END VIOLENCE AND TO SET UP A WORKING GROUP ON FREEING POLITICAL PRISONERS. THE ANC HAS SAID SUCH PRISONERS MUST BE RELEASED BEFORE FULL POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS CAN START.

SLOVO SAID HE NOTICED WHEN HE FLEW INTO SOUTH AFRICA FROM EXILE 10 DAYS AGO HOW JOHANNESBURG WAS ZONED UNDER APARTHEID INTO WHITE AND BLACK AREAS.

+ON ONE SIDE WE SAW THE THOUSANDS OF MATCHBOXES (TOWNSHIP HOMES) WHICH ARE CALLED HOUSES. ON THE OTHER SIDE WE SAW THESE BIG MANSIONS WITH ENOUGH SWIMMING POOLS TO FILL A RIVER,+ HE SAID.

+WHEN WE LEFT THE COUNTRY THIS WAS SO, AND NOW FROM THE AIR IT IS SO AGAIN TODAY. IT MUST END.+

IN A PASSAGE OF HIS SPEECH AIMED AT WHITES, SLOVO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THEIR FEARS ABOUT ENDING APARTHEID, WHICH RESERVES MOST OF THE BEST LAND FOR WHITES AND DENIES BLACKS THE VOTE.

BUT HE SAID DE KLERK MUST UNLOCK THE DOOR TO A NON-RACIAL DEMOCRACY +BECAUSE IF THIS DOES NOT HAPPEN WE WILL HAVE TO BREAK IT DOWN.+

ECHOING HIS COMMENTS, MANDELA TOLD THE RALLY THAT THE ANC COULD NEVER ACCEPT THE CONCEPT OF SPECIAL RIGHTS FOR WHITES TO PROTECT THEIR STATUS IN ANY POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

DE KLERK SAYS ANY AGREEMENT MUST CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECT WHITES, OUTNUMBERED FIVE TO ONE BY BLACKS, FROM WHAT HE PREDICTS WOULD BE BLACK DOMINATION BY A MAJORITY GOVERNMENT.

REUTER WM PAE CMS

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