

NYmpoc/2004/23

All-out bid to get talks going

25.1.93

CAPE TOWN. —
The government is to make a supreme effort in talks with the African National Congress and Inkatha Freedom Party this week to secure agreement on the resumption of multi-

party negotiations.

Minister of Constitutional Development Roelf Meyer and his top negotiators continue bilateral talks with the ANC at a southern Cape

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All-out bid on talks

FROM PAGE 1

nature reserve today and tomorrow and then meet an IFP delegation in Cape Town on Wednesday.

Their main objective is to secure an agreement which will lead to multilateral talks soon, particularly some firm commitment by the ANC and IFP which will allow State President De Klerk to report progress when he opens Parliament on Friday.

The government is set to move ahead with the constitutional process without the Pan Africanist Congress or any other parties which persist in delaying it.

Late last week it formally notified the PAC that further meetings, until it cuts links with its armed wing, the Azanian People's Liberation Army, or suspended the armed struggle, were pointless.

The most likely next step will be the setting up of a preparatory meeting at which the main Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa) parties can remove obstacles and set a date and agenda for a full plenary of an expanded negotiating forum.

The first obstacle is to overcome the IFP's suspicions against the government and the ANC, which it perceives as ganging up to strike a bilateral deal behind its back.

There was some optimism that the IFP's meeting with the government on Wednesday would steer matters into calmer waters.

Meanwhile the government has told both the IFP and the ANC that it is now sick and tired of being a go-between and being accused by each side as being the champion or

partner of the other.

Sources close to the Cabinet said they had been told to get together and sort out their problems directly.

The ANC's talks with the government started in Pretoria on Wednesday last week and were interrupted for the weekend.

The talks have already dealt extensively with security matters, particularly violence and the ANC's armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, with legislative requirements preparing for the transitional phase and elections, land matters and some economic issues affecting the Budget and particularly education.

Before adjourning for the weekend, constitutional principles were tabled and are due to be discussed this week. Neither party has been prepared to make any comment on progress thus far. — Sapa.

Negotiations heading for decisive week

Staff Reporter

The negotiation process enters a crucial stage this week, with the immediate future of multiparty talks depending on the Government's meetings with the ANC and Inkatha.

The future of multiparty discussions hangs on the outcome of three separate events — the ANC-Government bosberaad, the second round of talks between the Government and the Inkatha Freedom Party, and President F W de Klerk's opening address to Parliament on Friday.

The bosberaad, which started in Pretoria last week, is expected to end in Cape Town tomorrow. According to sources, the ANC and the Government were to discuss constitutional matters, including the reincorporation of the TBVC states and a draft electoral Bill.

The second round of IFP-Government talks is to resume on Wednesday after the collapse of discussions last week, when a flurry of acrimonious and accu-

satory memoranda changed hands.

De Klerk's speech will set the tone for the forthcoming legislative session — probably the last under the present dispensation. The talks with the ANC will be critical in this regard, and the Government is confident the discussions will be concluded successfully.

If all goes well, legislation easing the way for transition will be passed. This includes the creation of transitional executive councils, legislation to facilitate a transition, and the passing of an interim constitution effectively ending the present dispensation.

ANC spokesman Gill Marcus said yesterday: "This is a fairly decisive week. The whole function of Parliament is to introduce legislation to facilitate the transition process. This legislation should be drawn up according to the agreements reached with other parties, and hinges on the talks with the ANC."

● Sapa reports that the IFP yesterday demanded "open disclosure" by the Government of transitional and constitutional discussions between itself and the ANC-South African Communist Party alliance.

Star 25/1/93

ANC has programme for general election

THE African National Congress' PWV region yesterday announced a programme of action to

prepare the organisation and potential voters for a general election later this year.

The programme — to culminate in a "Votes for All" election campaign with a theme of peace, freedom and democracy — will be conducted in three phases. ANC PWV region secretary-general Mr Paul Mashatile said at a Press conference in Johannesburg.

He said the campaign would start today, and will continue until elections for an interim government or constituent assembly were held.

The first phase will entail the mobilisation of all activists in ANC branches and mass democratic movement structures, with the main aim being the consolidation of structures and the rebuilding

of street and block committees.

Phase two will focus on the dissemination of information on ANC policies linked to a huge recruitment drive, voter education and fund raising.

Election structures made up of the ANC/SA Communist Party/Congress of SA Trade Union alliance and mass democratic formations will also be established.

This will culminate in the third phase, a "Votes for All" campaign which is scheduled for the end of May. "This campaign will intensify the mass-driven ANC election campaign to deliver voters to the poll to vote for peace, freedom and democracy," Mr Mashatile said.

— Sapa.

Citizen 25/1/93

focus on Stanza Bopape

WHEN Stanza Bopape completed his law degree at the University of the North (Turfloop) near Pietersburg, his parents were thankful that their son had finally reached the stage where he would ease their financial burdens.

They had to. Stanza's parents channelled the bulk of their meagre funds into his education.

According to African tradition, the eldest child is expected to play his part in helping those coming after him to succeed in life as well. In Stanza's case there were five others.

On June 9 1989 a group of policemen stormed into Stanza's backyard room in Mamelodi. They confiscated pamphlets and T-shirts with political slogans on them and took Stanza, then the 28-year-old general secretary of the Mamelodi Civic Association, away.

Three weeks after Stanza's detention, police informed the young activist's lawyers about his "escape" from their custody.

Ironically, police claimed Stanza escaped three days after they had arrested him, on the night of June 11-12.

"Ludicrous," cried Jan van Eck, an independent MP who conducted a solo campaign in Parliament demanding that former Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok reveal details of Stanza's alleged escape.

But Vlok steadfastly maintained:

"Stanza disappeared while on his way to pointing out certain spots in connection with acts of terror in which he was allegedly involved."

Vlok has unwaveringly refused to name the three policemen in whose custody Stanza was when he disappeared. "They were repairing a punctured tyre at the time of incident," he said. But how is it possible that the supposedly well-trained trio failed to notice that Stanza, in the back of the car, was up to mischief?

Police, with Vlok as mouthpiece, have maintained that Stanza, who was handcuffed and had his legs in chains, managed to take keys from an officer's jacket and free himself.

Vlok went on to say that his men were "tired" when Stanza escaped.

He says his men only recognised the escape when Stanza was already far from them, before disappearing into the bushes.

"They fired two shots at him but they missed," Vlok said.

Stanza's father, Matome, held a meeting with the Minister and later described Vlok's version about the disappearance of his son as "cooked-up lies." He still does.

He told *Sowetan* at the weekend: "I mistook him (Vlok) for a father, a parent who knows what it is like to go to bed wondering what has happened to your son."

When Stanza's father walked out of the meeting with Vlok he described the talks as "useless".

On June 9 1989 a group of policemen stormed into a backyard room in Mamelodi and took away newly qualified lawyer Stanza Bopape, who has since disappeared.

Abbey Makoe reports:



Stanza Bopape



Adriaan Vlok

“Vlok has unwaveringly refused to name the three policemen in whose custody Stanza was when he disappeared”

He asked the Minister, in what he called a man-to-man talk, for the body of his son so he could bury him and bring to an end the nightmare of suspense and uncertainty.

Vlok responded by firing another broadside: "Someone has given information under oath, saying he had seen Stanza in the company of a man and a woman after his escape."

Vlok said Stanza was seen in the vicinity of another attack "in which people died".

For a man of Stanza's stature, with a host of political and social friends, to fail to contact anyone about his whereabouts would be a ludicrous action.

But Vlok and his cohorts, particularly Law

and Ministry spokesman Brigadier Leon Mellet, share one sentiment: "We reject sharp accusations and dismiss them as scandalous propaganda from radical left-wing circles."

Even if Johnny Mokaleng, as reported on Pages 1 and 2, did not reveal his knowledge about the graveyard in Rustenburg, the public, and most of all the black community led by Stanza's parents, want to know the end of their loved ones.

It would be interesting, apart from Stanza's case, to see what Vlok's reaction would be should he be forced to account for other skeletons found at places Mokaleng knows about.

The veil of secrecy under which the police force has operated, coupled with its twin - unaccountability - has gone too far.

"One wonders what men like Vlok really dream about at night," whispered my colleague and friend Pat Seboko. "I'm sure they have developed a tendency of jumping out of bed screaming," he added, shaking his head as he walked away.

Seboko's feelings, I think, represent those of the majority. What the hell do they really dream about at night?

Stand by, Vlok, it seems the hour has finally come.

Sowetan 25/1/93

ANC has 'right to reopen inquests'

By Mzimasi Ngudle

THE African National Congress reserved the right to reopen all inquests into political assassinations when it came to power. ANC PWV region chairman and national executive member Mr Tokyo Sexwale has said.

Opening an ANC PWV regional council meeting, Sexwale said he was surprised at Mr Justice Michael Stegmann's finding in the inquest into the death of Dr David Webster.

Sexwale said the inquest into the 1985 death of Mr Matthew Goniwe and three other Eastern Cape activists, Mr Fort Calata, Mr Sparrow Mkhonto and Mr Sicelo Mhlauli, may follow the same trend.

Sexwale echoed the words of Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo) publicity secretary Dr Gomolemo Mokae, who said:

"Azapo feels that, on attaining freedom and in as much as Jews were entitled to the Nuremberg trials, the

■ NO PROOF Official says he is surprised at Webster death finding:

oppressed people of Azania will have the right to put on trial agents of the regime suspected of involvement in the killings of its opponents.

"The truth about the death of Steve Biko, Mapetla Mohapi, Onkgopotse Tiro, David Webster, Neil Aggett and many other opponents of the regime will only out through an independent commission of inquiry with no links whatsoever to the regime," Mokae said.

'Charade'

Mokae said no structure instituted by the current regime could review objectively the circumstances of the death of opponents of the regime.

"What we say is that the inquest was a charade," he said.

In the same vein the Pan Africanist Congress said the inquest had made it clear that "the question of an inde-

pendent judiciary is a sham".

"Inquests into the death of Steve Biko and many others demonstrate this very well.

"Also the veil of secrecy surrounding the security forces will obviously make it impossible to bring the culprits to book," PAC secretary for political affairs Mr Jaki Seroke said.

At the close of the seven-week inquest, Mr Justice Stegmann said no proof beyond a reasonable doubt had been established that prime suspect and fired Civil Co-operation Bureau agent Ferdi Barnard had been responsible for Webster's murder.

Stegmann said that although a veil of secrecy had been thrown around the security organs of the State, there was no basis for suspecting the involvement of Military Intelligence, the security police or the State Security Council in the murder.

Sowetan 27/1/93

Inkatha document will set stage for showdown

CAPE TOWN — Inkatha will put its controversial negotiations document to government again this week — setting the stage for a showdown between the erstwhile allies when they meet on Wednesday.

And yesterday it also vowed to retain the white "advisers" — including founder member Walter Felgate — who government believes are intent on bedevilling relations between the two organisations.

Felgate yesterday rejected the charges and accused Constitutional Minister Roelf Meyer of trying to divide Inkatha.

Government has insisted that Inkatha withdraw the memorandum issued a week ago which accused the NP and ANC of connivance. The government delegation responded by slamming the "advisers" and ended the talks on an acrimonious note.

Yesterday Inkatha's central committee resolved "to formally restate the points in our memorandum to which government so vehemently objected". This was "a conciliatory effort" to ensure that any misunderstandings could be clarified.

However, the resolution returned to the

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very issue that sparked last week's row, stating its "outright rejection at the way in which the government and the ANC/SACP alliance are bilaterally deciding the future of all South Africans behind closed doors".

Government sources indicated yesterday they were losing patience with Felgate and US constitutional experts Prof Albert Blaustein and Mario Ambrosini. But Inkatha's central committee rejected "with contempt" the insinuation that advisers dictated policy.

Sapa reports from Stanger that Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday the process of multiparty negotiations was becoming more and more uncertain and, according to government and the ANC, might not be finalised before 1996.

This was why government and the ANC were envisaging transitional arrangements. "I can, however, sense a dangerous and unseemly haste to achieve a quick-fix at any cost for our economy and for the political settlement that we all desire."

By Day 25/11/93

Buthelezi warns against quick fix

STANGER. — The process of multi-party negotiations for a new South African constitution was becoming more and more uncertain and, according to the government and African National Congress, might not be finalised before 1996. KwaZulu Chief Minister and Inkatha Freedom Party president Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday.

Addressing a meeting at Stanger on the Natal North Coast, he said it was for this reason the government and ANC

were envisaging the creation of transitional arrangements.

"I can, however, sense a dangerous and unseemly haste to achieve a quick-fix at any cost for our economy and for the political settlement that we all desire," Chief Buthelezi said.

"I do not believe we are going to achieve a lasting solution if we indulge in unseemly haste to find a solution that is not the product of a fully representative multi-party conference."

He said he was "very

apprehensive" about the suggestion that if the government and ANC South African Communist Party alliance could between them find a solution, they should "simply go ahead".

"I am very apprehensive about this suggestion not because I am worried about being left out, but because I am certain there are many South Africans who will fight of necessity rather than be subjected to another oligarchy, even if it has a White and Black face. — Sapa.

Original 25/1/93

Councils reluctant to let Eskom take over supply

COUNCILS of Vaal Triangle townships are reluctant to grant Eskom direct electricity supply rights, saying this will deprive them of much needed revenue.

Eskom West Rand sales and customer services manager Paul Marais said at the weekend the utility was negotiating with, among others, the authorities of Sebokeng, Sharpeville, Boipatong and Bophelong, as well as the Vaal Civic Association (VCA), with a view to taking over all power supply in the region.

Reef townships which have already ceded their electricity supply rights to Eskom are Soweto, Dobsonville, Diepmeadow, Alexandra, Vosloorus and Tsakane.

Marais said the utility was negotiating with a number of townships, which owed it money for primary

WILSON ZWANE

electricity supplies, but could not meet their accounts because of low levels of payment from residents.

Sharpeville and Bophelong administrator Eben Combrinck said he did not like "the idea" of Eskom taking over because it would cripple the town councils.

These councils, Combrinck said, used electricity revenue to pay for other services such as refuse removal and sewerage.

In another development, it was decided that services in the Vaal Triangle townships would not be reduced from today as had been threatened.

Councils in the area warned last week that unless 65% of residents paid their accounts, water supplies would be reduced by 50% and electricity would be supplied only between

8am and 4pm.

Combrinck said the decision to suspend the reduced services strategy was taken after discussions in the recently formed normalisation task team in the area.

The task team comprises representatives of the TPA, the local authorities and the VCA. It was formed in an attempt to restore stability to the unrest-torn region.

Combrinck said the VCA had undertaken to urge residents to step up payments so as to avert reductions in services.

The situation would be monitored closely and should residents not "flock to the offices to pay", services would be reduced next Monday.

The VCA has warned that the reduction in services would spark fresh outbreaks of violence in the "still volatile region".

Civic bodies to take on local authorities over water cuts

TOWNSHIP civic organisations are to take up cudgels against local authorities trying to break rent and services boycotts by cutting the water supply to residents.

The Civics Association of Southern Transvaal (Cast) said at the weekend it would take an "appropriate" measure to ensure that water supply and all other services rendered in townships were depoliticised.

Cast publicity secretary Pat Lephunya said his organisation was concerned that local authorities, who had been cutting power in an attempt to break boycotts, were now cutting the water supply.

Lephunya said negotiations were necessary between the civic movement and water boards, with a view to getting the water suppliers to supply directly to township residents, rather than via local authorities.

Cast general secretary Dan Mofokeng said although the rendering of services to townships would be dealt with at a local government negotiating forum, to be launched in the near

WILSON ZWANE

future, an "appropriate measure will be taken against the councils, which are discredited and which use water to prolong their lives".

Town councils of Vosloorus and Katlehong, on the East Rand, recently reduced water supply in an attempt to get residents to pay their accounts.

Civic organisations have so far been negotiating with Eskom to take over the electricity supply in all townships. Cast general secretary Dan Mofokeng said recently the transfer of supply rights to the utility was necessary in the transitional period. Once the "mess" at local government level had been cleaned up and once nonracial local authorities had been installed, the matter would be reviewed.

Negotiations with Eskom began after it had become clear to civic organisations that local authorities were trying to break rent and services boycotts by cutting electricity.

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Bopape is buried near Phokeng - former cop

By Abbey Makoe

A GROUP of black and white police officers in the Western Transvaal secretly murdered and buried political detainees in their custody, including Stanza Bopape, between 1985 and 1990.

Sowetan was told that at least one was buried alive - inside holes dug six feet deep - by other detainees.

According to information in Sowetan's possession, white officers had themselves a braai and drank beer, brandy and whisky while detainees dug their own graves.

After burying detainees of their choice, the white officers fired shots in the air, reportedly in celebration of a job well done.

These allegations are contained in a sworn declaration by a former Potchefstroom police constable, Mr Johnny Mokale, who served in the SAP for more than eight years.

This alleged covert operation, according to Mokale, took place on a remote farm, some 500m from Kgale section in Phokeng village, between Rustenburg and Swartruggens.

When approached for comment, a spokesman for the SAP's Directorate in Pretoria, Major Ruben Bloomberg, said it was "strange that the man (Mokale) did not report the incidents while still serving in the police force".

Bloomberg said: "We consider his allegations in a very serious light. We request him to make his evidence available so that we can thoroughly investigate the matter."

Bopape, a Mamelodi, Pretoria, activist, who police said escaped while in their custody on the night of June 11-12 1988, is alleged to have been tortured, murdered and buried on the farm.

And although black labourers living around the farm associated the owner with the SAP, attempts to establish the claim last week drew a blank.

It is believed that several political activists who disappeared mysteriously during a police crackdown since the mid-1980's could have been buried at the same site after long sessions of torture inside a white room in the farmyard, labelled the "truth office".

■ SECRET GRAVES At least 10 detainees buried in operation which started in 1985:

Two were wrapped in big, black plastic bags and the other two detainees were still wearing their blood-soaked clothes. One of the men was still breathing. "They were thrown into separate holes and some policemen picked up shovels and filled in the graves."

Mokale (29) says he once joined the group in one of its many escapades. It was on the night of October 10 1988.

He says that night many detainees were badly assaulted on the farm, culminating in himself and members of the group burying four detainees that day.

"Two were wrapped in big, black plastic bags and the other two detainees were still wearing their blood-soaked clothes. One of the men was still breathing.

"They were thrown into separate holes and some policemen picked up shovels and filled in the graves."

According to Mokale, the covert operation by the group started in 1985. Police stopped burying detainees on the farm after the unbanning of political organisations in 1990, he said.

Mokale claims that "to the best of my knowledge, at least 10 bodies were buried on the farm".

Mokale said a group of policemen came to the Ikageng police station on October 10 1989

looking for activists in the local township.

The policemen arrived with a group of about six or eight activists who were in the back of a minibus.

"They appeared to have been assaulted before they arrived. The assaults continued in my presence," Mokale said.

Mokale said after he and other policemen assaulted several activists at the Welverdiend police station in Carletonville, they drove to the Dwaalboom police station in Rustenburg where they found "a group of teenagers who had been detained without trial for almost 120 days".

"The detainees, numbering more than 20, were then ordered into the police van and were taken to a farm outside Phokeng village.

"The detainees were divided into two groups. The first group was taken to a room in the farmhouse, where we tortured them with electricity, kicked them and assaulted them with our fists and batons."

Mokale said the second group was taken about 700 metres into the veld and ordered by police to dig holes about two metres deep.

"This happened in the early hours of the morning and they dug by moonlight. A group of policemen, who were watching the detainees dig the holes, had a braai and drank beer, brandy and whiskey.

"Out of interest I looked around at the graves, looking at the name tags. I was unfamiliar with most of the names but I remembered the name Stanza Bopape on one of the tags.

"I later learnt that Bopape was a political activist who had disappeared. A white policeman, whose name is not known to me, confirmed to me later the same night that that was where Bopape was buried.

"Bopape's name tag had a number on it: SAP 14. I understand this to mean a police exhibit.

"White policemen started firing in the air with their service pistols - apparently in celebration of their completed job. It was around 4am when we left the scene," Mokale said.

Sowetan 25/1/93

ANC unveils plan to woo 5-m voters

Staff Reporter

Optimism for the transitional process was underlined by the ANC PWV region's plan for a mass recruitment drive for voters, which was announced at the weekend.

The three-phase campaign, which is aimed at about 5 million potential voters in the region, kicks off today with the mobilisation of all ANC activists.

The first phase prepares the organisation for elections, and activists have been called upon to consolidate structures and rebuild street and block committees.

According to a press statement, the second phase begins in mid-March with a mass recruitment drive and a campaign to educate voters about ANC policies and fund-raising.

The ANC-SACP-Cosatu alliance and other sympathetic organisations will establish election structures during this phase.

The final phase is to begin in May with a "Votes for All Campaign". Activities include house meetings, public meetings and debates, and visits to voters by regional and national ANC leaders.

Peace will be a recurring theme throughout the campaign and peace summits are to be organised in all regions. "There can be no free and fair elections unless peace prevails," the statement says.

Star
25/1/93

IFP stands by memo that angered government

Citizen Reporter

THE Inkatha Freedom Party last night stood by the controversial report drawn up by adviser, Mr Walter Felgate.

In a statement issued in Ulundi, the IFP's central committee said it wished formally to restate the points made in the memorandum, which was said to have evoked a furious

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IFP stands by report

FROM PAGE 1

response from the government at talks with an IFP delegation last week, and from Constitutional Affairs Minister, Mr Roelf Meyer, in particular.

It appears that Mr Felgate, with whom some IFP leaders were said to

be at loggerheads over the memorandum, attended yesterday's central committee meeting.

The Bay Hospital in Richards Bay, where Mr Felgate had been recovering after a serious accident near Melmoth on Friday, said he had "left the hospital for the day", but was expected to return for further treatment.

A further meeting between the government delegation and that of the IFP will take place in Cape Town on Wednesday.

Yesterday's statement by the IFP's central committee was a clear endorsement of the position set out in the document read at the outset of discussions between the IFP and the government by Dr Frank Mdlalose, national president of the IFP.

It said the central committee had fully studied and debated the government's response to the IFP memorandum.

At yesterday's meeting the IFP resolved:

"To further state our concerns and outright rejection of the way in which the government and the ANC/SACP alliance are, in fact, bilaterally deciding the future of all South Africans behind closed doors in private discussions with, we believe, the expectation that their decisions will be

rubber-stamped by other parties and/or coerced and manipulated into compliance."

While regretting the tone and the substance of the government's intemperate response and dismissing the divide-and-rule tactics inherent in the remarks contained therein, "on reflection we believe that the leaking to the Press of this document by a party or parties unknown has given the South African public and parties other than the South African Government and the ANC/SACP alliance a unique opportunity of assessing for themselves the treatment afforded to those who dare differ and choose their own language to do so."

The IFP took note of the South African Government's outrage and its sensitivity to the fully mandated and honestly expressed sentiments in our party's memorandum and the way in which they were expressed, "but nevertheless insist on our democratic right and our intention at all times to express our ideas, political concepts and opinions in whatever forum we so choose."

The IFP formally restated the points in its memorandum to which the government so vehemently objected, "in a conciliatory effort to ensure that any misunder-

standing on their content and purpose can be clarified in an atmosphere conducive to reconciliation".

The IFP stressed it was committed to open and constructive dialogue capable of correcting misunderstandings and to this end feels that it is crucial at this critical juncture in South Africa's history for all parties concerned to frankly articulate their viewpoints and, in particular, differences in perspective of current government strategies.

It will request the South African Government to acknowledge that there will be occasions "we will have to agree to disagree".

It would at all times insist that any bilateral agreements reached privately between the government and the ANC/SACP alliance "will have to stand the test of democracy in open, inclusive, multi-party debate and negotiation and where necessary referenda".

It demanded open disclosure of the nature, content and extent of the government/ANC/SACP alliance discussions relating to the transitional and constitutional process.

The IFP asserted the right of the party and its leadership to seek expertise, or assistance, both from within South Africa and abroad.

ANC, govt mum on talks

WILSON ZWANE

TALKS between government and the ANC, which began in Pretoria last Wednesday, will continue in Cape Town today and tomorrow.

No comments could be obtained from either party yesterday on the direction the talks were taking. Senior ANC officials said an undertaking had been made by both sides not to comment until the talks were concluded.

A source close to Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer said a statement on the talks would be made either tomorrow or on Wednesday.

However, substantial progress on the future control of security forces has reportedly been made.

The Sunday Times reported yesterday that government and ANC negotiators discussed a package which would establish a multiparty transitional executive council to control all armed forces. It is envisaged to be in place by July.

Also discussed were mass action, statements inciting violence and the peace accord.

Bl day 25/1/93