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THE CITIZEN, 13 June 1991

Govt 'petulant about political prisoners'

The Department of Justice's response to the Human Rights Commission's proposals for political prisoner release was 'most disappointing and even petulant', the HRC said last night.

On Tuesday, the HRC suggested proposals to expedite the release of "politicals". It also released to the media and embassies a list of 972 prisoners it regarded as political and accused the government of issuing "patently false, misleading or misinformed" statements on the number of political prisoners still in jail.

Yesterday afternoon, the Department of Justice said the HRC was "creating its own scenarios and disregarding government agreements".

The HRC responded last night by saying the department had "failed completely" to respond to the HRC's proposals to solve the crisis.

"Our only scenario, in terms of making judgments on who qualifies for release, is the Pretoria Minute and its acceptance of the report of the Working Group.

"This was the creation of the government and the ANC, not of the HRC, and it is clear on the seven factors to be taken into account when making judgments. It is also clear that the element of violence does not necessarily disqualify an offence from being political, a fact that the government has already recog-

nised in practice by releasing at least 15 prisoners convicted of murder."

The HRC, together with Lawyers for Human Rights and the Political Prisoner Release Programme, had been involved in an "auditing exercise" with the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) to reach agreement on prisoners qualifying for release.

"HRC entered into the prisoner auditing exercise with the DCS in the spirit of ensuring that no one who was possibly a candidate for release in terms of the Pretoria Minute should be overlooked," the HRC continued.

"The only important discrepancy between the HRC and the DCS are 58 prisoners on the HRC list designated by the DCS as "ordinary criminals" and 133 homeland prisoners for whom the DCS rejects responsibility. — Sapa.

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BUSINESS DAY, Johannesburg, 13 June 1991

Top UN official due for talks on exiles

A HIGH-ranking UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) official is due in SA next week for talks that may finally open the way to the world body's involvement in repatriating SA exiles.

Nicholas Bwakira, director of the UNHCR's regional bureau for Africa and the leader of a delegation which visited SA in February, will hold talks in Cape Town with government officials.

This was announced yesterday by National Co-ordinating Committees for the Repatriation of SA exiles (NCCR) national co-ordinator Mankekolo Mahlangu.

PATRICK BULGER

Ngcobo.

Bwakira's visit comes two weeks after a visit to SA by the legal adviser of the international protection division of the UNHCR, K Kalumiya. Kalumiya was in SA to try resolve a legal disagreement between the UNHCR and government over the question of a blanket amnesty for an estimated 40 000 returning SA exiles.

The SA government and the UNHCR jointly produced a memorandum of understanding to facilitate the return of exiles.

THE CITIZEN, Johannesburg, 13 June 1991

No ANC bases in the Transkei — Holomisa

UMTATA. — The existence of African National Congress bases in the Transkei has been strongly denied by the homeland's leader, Major-General Bantu Holomisa.

In a statement released yesterday, Gen Holomisa reacted to newspaper reports claiming the South African Government had

received intelligence reports that the ANC had established two training bases in the Transkei at a cost of R250 000.

Referring to members of the South African security establishment who had been appointed during the rule of former State President P W Bo-

tha, the homeland leader said "a certain group... has a vested interest in ruining the negotiation process".

"It is clear that these wild allegations are intended for a certain audience that may be ill-disposed to Transkei," Gen Holomisa said. — Sapa.

THE CITIZEN, 13 June 1991

FW likely to talk on SA role in Africa

Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN. — The end of apartheid and plans for increased South African involvement in Africa are likely to be discussed in full when State President De Klerk addresses a joint meeting of Parliament next Monday (June 17).

Following Mr De Klerk's visits to Kenya and Swaziland this week, there were hints that he would "report to Parliament" before the present session ends, probably on Friday, June 21.

Dr Helgard van Rensburg, Chairman of Parliament, announced yesterday that the Speaker, Mr Louis le Grange, had received a message from the State President requesting a joint sitting of Parliament at 4 pm on Monday.

Mr De Klerk promised that apartheid legislation would be scrapped by June 30 this year, and that date had already been set for the repeal of the Group Areas Acts, Land Acts and a large number of other discriminatory laws.

The special joint meeting on Monday would therefore give Mr De Klerk

a final opportunity before Parliament adjourns to explain the consequences of ending apartheid and to map out plans for the immediate post-apartheid era.

This would include proposals to get negotiations under way to draw up a non-racial constitution.

South Africa's planned participation in affairs in Africa as a whole could also be fully discussed by Mr De Klerk, following talks he held at the weekend with President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya. As a key state in both the Organisation of African Unity and the Commonwealth, Kenya is seeking to assist South Africa's re-entry into African affairs.

There is already speculation of visits by Mr De Klerk later this year to Egypt and Nigeria, among other states which are seen as politically and economically stable, and wishing to see Africa's prospects and economy improved.

The fact that Mr De Klerk has been drawn into plans to revitalise Africa is seen in Parliament as a significant move towards ending sanctions and boycotts.

BUSINESS DAY, Johannesburg, 13 June 1991

American Express seizes ANC cash

HARARE — The Zimbabwean Foreign Ministry was reported yesterday to be trying to reverse the seizure by the American Express Company of a US\$1m donation to the ANC by Col Muammar Gaddafi's Libyan government.

The Herald, which is close to President Robert Mugabe's government, said ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela had been "infuriated by the actions of the American company". The two-month delay already caused had resulted in serious financial difficulties for the ANC, said the newspaper.

MICHAEL HARTNACK

ANC chief representative in Harare M X Mlonyeni, it said, was instructed to transfer the money, sent from Tripoli to Harare "through normal banking channels", to an ANC account with the National Westminster Bank (Natwest) in London.

The Herald said "the transaction should never have been known to anyone else in the first place (as) the ANC only supplied an account number with Natwest, to which the money was supposed to be transferred".

Harare sources, however, suggested the account with Barclays Bank Zimbabwe was in the name of the Libyan government, not the ANC, thus triggering American Express to act on the requirements of strict US State Department sanctions against Gaddafi's regime. Libya is accused of funding international terrorist organisations, including extreme Palestinian factions.

The Herald suggested the ANC itself might be on a State Department blacklist.

Both the ANC and the Libyan People's Bureau in Harare said they had approached Zimbabwean Minister of Foreign Affairs Nathan Shamuyarira and his deputy Stephen Nkomo in the hope Zimbabwe could rectify the matter.

Mlonyeni said he had spoken to the US embassy in Harare and had been promised the matter would be "dealt with expeditiously".

The Herald said Mandela had only been dissuaded by his juniors from taking the matter up directly with the US department because they thought the American embassy in Harare could sort the matter out.

The Herald claimed the Americans had infringed Geneva diplomatic conventions on diplomatic funds by intercepting the Libya-ANC funds.

However, it said financial sources in Harare believed Barclays was bound by banking rules to refund the money to the ANC, as it bore responsibility for the money until it was deposited with Natwest in London.

Confidential

The Herald said Barclays Bank Zimbabwe carried out the Libyan request and deducted a Z\$30 000 commission. But a few days later the bank informed the ANC's Harare bureau that the money had been impounded by American Express "without offering any reasons".

Barclays Bank Zimbabwe MD Herbert Swenepoel said he could not comment on a confidential matter involving a client.

THE CITIZEN, Johannesburg, 13 June 1991

Dutch delegation to assess SA economy

CAPE TOWN — A high profile economic delegation from the Netherlands will arrive in South Africa on June 23 for a week-long visit, the Netherlands Embassy announced in Cape Town yesterday.

The 25-member delegation, which is to visit Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town and Durban, will be headed by

Mr F A Engering, Director-General for Foreign Economic Relations of the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Other members of the group will consist of top businessmen, representing major Netherlands companies as well as government officials.

They will assess the economic situation and prospects for the future in South Africa and ex-

plore opportunities for co-operation in the field of trade and investment, the embassy said.

They will also meet Cabinet Ministers and other South African Government officials, business leaders, representatives of the parliamentary and extra-parliamentary political opposition and trade unionists. — Sapa.

BUSINESS DAY, 13 June 1991

Hawke visit under threat

CAPE TOWN — SA might call off a planned visit later this year by Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke following the controversy-plagued trip by Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, government sources said yesterday.

Australian ambassador Colin McDonald has been called in for high-level discussions about Evans's behaviour on his visit.

While the focus of the storm has been on the Minister's alleged foul language to a policeman in Khayelitsha on Sunday, government regards this merely as a symptom of the problem.

It believes Evans has repeatedly disregarded protocol and prior agreements affecting his visit.

The rumpus is creating waves in the Australian and British Press, with much comment being critical of the Minister.

Political Staff

And yesterday Inkatha lashed out at Evans's announcement of a cash handout to the ANC by his government.

Inkatha president Mangosuthu Buthelezi delivered a stinging rebuke at a luncheon attended by Evans in Ulundi yesterday.

Buthelezi accused Australia of not contributing to the resolution of SA's problems, but of making them worse. He said the country had developed a consistently inaccurate picture of policies and practices of Inkatha.

"You are very, very wrong, Senator Evans," he said at one point. Observers described the talks between the two men, and the subsequent luncheon, as "very tense".

The PAC has refused to meet Evans.

A well-placed SA government source said yesterday that, in general, the importance of relations between SA and Australia had been exaggerated and SA's standing in the international community would improve regardless of Evans's standpoint.

It was alleged yesterday that Evans had recently resorted to pelting police guarding him with apples.

One of the security contingent was reputed to have said yesterday: "I cannot stand it any longer."

Evans's clashes with the SA authorities came as something of a surprise as he is understood to have had congenial meetings with a number of Cabinet Ministers in the first half of his stay.

One government source said Evans appeared to have adopted a more aggressive stance towards the SA authorities after meetings with the ANC.

"Things went well until he met the ANC — then he seemed to go haywire."

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok is understood to be upset about Evans's attitude towards the SAP during his visit and the issue was raised at yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

Government officials were loath to be quoted about the row until Foreign Minister Pik Botha had spoken to his Australian counterpart on his departure from Jan Smuts Airport this afternoon.