

Colonial cupola resting place for Mahatma memorial

Furious protests over Gandhi statue

DAILY NEWS

18 SEPT 1989

TWENTY years after the Indian government removed a statue of King George V from its place of honour beneath an elegant cupola at the end of New Delhi's finest processional avenue, long-delayed proposals to replace the imperial relic with a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi are arousing furious protests from Indian architects and historians.

The critics say that one of the world's finest masterpieces of modern urban design — Sir Edwin Lutyens' Rajpath — is "in danger of being desecrated" by plans to tear down the pink stone cupola to make way for a new statue of Gandhi.

There has been controversy over the imperial canopy ever since angry nationalists damaged George V's statue in the 1960s. The statue was removed in 1968, but the government's plans to install a Gandhi memorial in its place have

Controversy is raging around proposals for a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi. **TONY ALLEN-MILLS** reports from New Delhi.

been plagued by indecision and dissent.

Some Gandhian supporters argued that the father of independent India should never be made to rest beneath a colonial cupola, others complained that Rajpath itself was wholly inappropriate for a Gandhi memorial — in life the Mahatma would have been horrified by the display of military hardware that India trundles down the avenue during its Republic Day parade each year.

There has been no official announcement on the cupola's fate, but Indian newspapers this month quoted government sources as saying the structure would be removed by October 2 to make way for a statue of Gandhi meditating.

It is the fourth time in the last two decades that the government has reportedly settled on a plan for the site. And once again, as

happened when the three previous decisions were announced, this latest report has provoked a storm.

From the Gandhian purity camp, there were renewed protests that the Mahatma's non-violent image would be sullied by annual exposure to tanks, ballistic missiles and the like.

From the historians and conservationists, there were expressions of shock that the architectural harmony of Rajpath would be ruined by the removal of a crucial feature in Lutyens's grand processional design.

Rajpath starts in a handsome plaza before the Indian Parliament, and sweeps majestically down a broad boulevard to the triumphal arch of the India Gate war memorial, with the canopy providing a handsome apostrophe a few hundred yards beyond.

"Dismantling the

canopy will be a sacrilege," complained Habib Rehman, a prominent New Delhi architect. "It will definitely destroy the harmony of the design and the India Gate environs."

There was even concern from the traffic-safety lobby. The cupola stands in the middle of one of the busiest roundabouts in the city, and most of the traffic heading for the city centre from the south and east of Delhi crosses Rajpath at India Gate.

Critics of the new scheme warn that pedestrians attempting to pay homage at a new Gandhi memorial would be mown down in droves.

Cynics have noted that the memorial is due to be unveiled shortly before a general election is due, and if a little of the Mahatma's magic happened to rub off on Mr Gandhi as a result, well, the Prime Minister needs all the help he can get. — The Independent News Service.

Jackson invited to visit South Africa

JOHANNESBURG: Jesse Jackson was reported last night to be considering a visit to South Africa, which has in the past refused him entry. The proposal is that he should go to Johannesburg to help to resolve the plight of three political detainees who have sought refuge in the American consulate there after escaping from police custody.

According to a statement issued to the news media in Johannesburg by Frank Chikane, the secretary-general of the South African Council of Churches, and Alan Boesak, the chairman of the Alliance of Reform Churches, Jackson has accepted the invitation, although no timing was given for the intended trip.

But a spokeswoman for Jackson in Chicago said that he ~~was not planning to visit South Africa~~ "has no immediate plans" to visit South Africa. "Nothing is scheduled at the moment," she said.

She confirmed, however, that Jackson did talk last week to the American ambassador in Pretoria and to the three political activists taking refuge in the consulate, who are demanding direct talks with the South African government, the release of all political detainees and unconditional freedom for Nelson Mandela. According to Jackson, their action will make South Africa an election issue in the United States.

There are doubts that Jackson would be granted a visa by South African authorities to enter the country. A visa has been turned down once before.

(Peter Godwin)

The Sunday Times.
18 Sept. 1988 London

Behind the scenes of last week

LONDON - Distant observers may be forgiven for drawing the wrong conclusions about South Africa last week.

A quick reading of the news suggests a most extraordinary turn of events - that Archbishop Desmond Tutu and President FW de Klerk looked into one another's eyes and it was not the Archbishop who blinked.

This would be an electrifying but incorrect interpretation of the South African Government's decision to order the police to let Wednesday's peaceful march through Cape Town take place without interruption.

What actually happened was more complicated than that. Nobody blinked, but on the eve of formally taking office the new President demonstrated a shrewd sensibility to foreign opinion that his predecessor, P W Botha, lacked. This is encouraging news for British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher, since her strategy for South Africa is based on a belief that persuasion will bring about reform.

Bloodshed

The Mass Democratic Movement launched a campaign of protest de-

FOCUS

monstrations to coincide with the elections to the white Parliament. One purpose of this defiance campaign was to draw world attention to the undemocratic nature of the general election.

This has been achieved, albeit at a terrible cost in bloodshed. Archbishop Tutu and the Reverend Allan Boesak decided that the defiance campaign should continue and that they would make a direct



De Klerk:
"The door to a new South Africa is open. It is not necessary to break it down"

appeal to the outside world.

They summoned a number of ambassadors (or their stand-ins), including representatives of America, Britain, France and West Germany.

They asked for the scrapping of discriminatory legislation within six months and an immediate end to violent police actions. None of the governments concerned disputed that their demands were reasonable, although a number regard six months as unrealistic.

Calls

It is what happened next that is so interesting. Diplomatic questioning of Archbishop Tutu elicited an unequivocal assurance that the proposed march on Parliament would be peaceful. Gentle pressure brought about a changed route, so that the protest ended at the City Hall rather than Parliament.

The news was conveyed to the South African Government through a number of calls to various Ministers on Tuesday. One of the principal mediators was Johan Heyns, Moderator of the Dutch Reformed Church. Another was the British Ambassador, Sir Robin Renwick. At the end of a busy Tuesday, de Klerk gave the go-ahead.

He showed understanding of what the world wants to hear by including in his remarks the observation that "the door to a new South Africa is open. It is not necessary to beat it down".

Game

If this means anything, then it is that Messrs Tutu, Boesak and Co are free to visit the President and place their demands before him. If they understand the rules of the new game that is being set up, they will do so at once, even if they come out through the President's door to announce to reporters that they asked him why there is still a

state of emergency, why Nelson Mandela is not yet free, why there is still discriminatory legislation in place, and so on.

It is their function to put the white government in a spot, but the nature of the task changes when the leader of that government is soft-spoken.

Pariah status

Mrs Thatcher's task is precisely the opposite. She has some influence over the South African Government because she has been stubbornly wrong about sanctions.

The mild official sanctions now in place, plus the private enterprise sanction of declining to invest in the Republic, have hurt both the economy and the morale of whites.

They want an end to pariah status, an end to sanctions. They fear further pressure of the kind that is being contemplated by most Commonwealth governments, some Euro-

peans, and most US Congressmen. Mrs Thatcher will continue to hold out against any additional sanctions at the Commonwealth conference in Kuala Lumpur in October. She is thus reaping the diplomatic harvest of the pressure exerted by others.

It would be wrong to conclude that South Africa is now set for change at the pace set, in a different context, by Hungary and Poland. That would require de Klerk to abandon everything he believes in, starting with "group rights" - the current euphemism for separate development.

'Group rights'

Mrs Thatcher shocked the South African leader on his visit to London when she told him to move away from "group rights". Her own view is that universal suffrage in a unitary state is not on, as it would mean domination by the African National Congress. She prefers the federal constitution espoused by the Democratic Party.

Just what that means is unclear. But before de Klerk can thrash that one out, he has to bring his own security forces under control, release political prisoners, establish an atmosphere conducive to real talks, and entice genuine black representatives, including the ANC, to the negotiation table - while continuing to maintain his slender parliamentary majority.

By Special Correspondent

AN independent Namibia will vigorously oppose the racist system in South Africa and give its full support to the anti-apartheid forces, including the African National Congress (ANC), Swapo president Sam Nujoma said last week.

Speaking on the day of South African State President FW de Klerk's inauguration, Nujoma challenged him to swiftly abolish apartheid.

He said in its future foreign policy, a Swapo government will do all in its power to oppose apartheid racism in South Africa.

Nujoma said that in terms of the

Swapo pledges support for ANC

commitment given to western leaders like Margaret Thatcher that apartheid would be ended, De Klerk must do so soon. *N. African 28/09/87*

He said the Congress movement of South Africa will receive full support from his government. Nujoma noted that South Africa's struggle had given birth to white anti-apar-

theid activists of the caliber of the late Anton Lubowski and that white South Africans were being hanged for opposing apartheid.

Nujoma said he would have to trade with South Africa as a neighbour but was reserved when asked whether he would 'establish diplomatic relations with South Africa.'

'Of course,' he said, 'but it depends what is understood by the term South Africans'.

By this Nujoma meant the South African people, hinting that a racist minority government will not be accorded diplomatic recognition.

An independent Namibia, he said, will join the Organisation of African Unity and the United Nations.

Nujoma stressed that Namibia must become self-sufficient in food production and approved trade that was mutually beneficial between states, be it north-south or south-south trade. Inter-African trade was a priority goal, he said.

16/1/11

NATAL WITNESS

BACKGROUND TO THE NEWS

18 SEPT. 1989

Towards a Natalian alternative

to RSCs

REGIONAL Services Councils, which have been in operation in some parts of the country for several years, have never been introduced in Natal. The main reason for this has been the steadfast refusal by KwaZulu to participate in this extension and rationalisation of government at the third tier. Given the geographic interlocking of KwaZulu with Natal, not least in the major metropolitan areas, the establishment of RSCs without KwaZulu participation would be impractical to say the least.

What were KwaZulu's objections? Before answers to this question can clearly be understood, it is worth looking more closely at the nature of RSCs themselves.

They have been designed to deal with the "general" affairs of local governments, and are made up of members representing all the primary local authorities within a specified RSC region. The primary local authorities, at present constituted on a racial basis, deal only with "own" affairs, while RSCs are responsible for the bulk supply of water and electricity, sewage disposal, land usage and transport, health services, and so on.

Although the RSC legislation enshrines a so-called "Robin Hood" principle, ie, that better-off local authorities will be obliged to finance the development needs of less well-off areas, the wording is ambiguous. Furthermore, the state exercises direct control over the workings of the RSCs, largely through the administrator of the province in which an RSC operates. The adminis-

trator not only appoints the chairman, but through his power to determine the exact functions of the RSC to a large measure controls the agenda.

KwaZulu's main stated objections to RSCs have been that they were designed without negotiation with black leaders, and that the RSC legislation furthers the "own" and "general" affairs philosophy of the tricameral parliament, a philosophy from which KwaZulu stands aloof.

Other more general objections have been that RSCs entrench the doctrine of separate development, and indeed the Group Areas and Population Registration acts, because they are based on separate local authorities for the various race groups. The intention is seen as an attempt to make "non-white" local authorities financially viable; in other words, to make segregation work better.

Because of KwaZulu's refusal to participate, a deadlock developed in Natal which only began to be resolved after Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi met with National Party leader Mr F.W. de Klerk in May this year. The outcome of the meeting appeared to be that the Government was prepared to shelve the implementation of RSCs in Natal in favour of a locally-designed alternative.

This alternative, in the form of a bill which provides for the establishment of Joint Services Boards (JSBs), was hammered out by the multiracial KwaZulu/Natal Joint Executive Authority (JEA) and ratified by the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly and Natal's Executive Committee in June. The bill has now been handed to the Minister of

ment before it becomes law.

Two questions immediately arise: in what way do JSBs differ from RSCs? and will the cabinet approve of these differences? Neither question has a clear cut answer.

With regard to the first, the details of the bill will only become known after the cabinet has approved it. Nevertheless, there are clues. Writing in the latest issue of the South African Institute of Race Relations' Quarterly Countdown, Shaun MacKay says: "Sources involved in the JEA indicate that the JSBs are to be structured on much the same lines as RSCs." The method of funding and

representation of primary local authorities will remain unchanged. But they are likely to differ in some important respects.

- The draft bill stipulates that the JSB's funds must be used in underdeveloped areas, while the legislation governing RSCs states that funds must be used in areas where the greatest need exists. This wording has proved ambiguous as several existing RSCs have spent large sums in white areas. Under the JSB bill, it is presumed that this will not happen.

- The administrator's powers over RSCs will be assumed by the Joint Executive Authority. As we have seen, these powers are significant, and they would now be wielded by a multiracial authority rather than by one appointed by the white State President.

Speaking on this subject last week in Durban, Mr Ron Pistorious, erstwhile Provincial Director of Local Government, said that the Government would be unlikely to object to this change in control "because it is entirely in sympathy with the intentions of the KwaZulu/Natal Joint Executive Authority Act. This implies that the duties of the administrator will be taken over by the JEA, which will demarcate regions, set up the boards, allocate functions and appoint chairmen".

- Mr Pistorious also pointed out that JSBs would be established astride the borders of KwaZulu and Natal. "Local authorities on either side of the border will thus have full membership status on the JSBs from the start. In RSCs, inclusion of local

The controversial issue of Regional Services Councils in Natal has not yet been resolved, but progress has been made towards their replacement by locally-designed Joint Services Boards. Should this initiative succeed, it will be, in the words of one observer, "A triumph for regionalisation and negotiation politics".
DAVID ROBBINS reports.

Constitutional Development and Planning, who will prepare a memorandum for the cabinet. If and when the cabinet approves, the bill must go to the standing committee handling constitutional affairs and pass through all three houses of Parlia-

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Towards a Natalian Alternative to RSCs FROM Pg 1

bodies in self-governing territories is by negotiation."

- The appeal board, which can override JSB decisions if a local authority appeals against them, is expected to consist of the administrator and the Chief Minister of KwaZulu. At present, RSC appeals are heard by a board with an inbuilt white majority.

- The JSB draft bill is said to contain "unique" mechanisms which ensure that there will be no domination of poorer areas by richer ones.

And what of the second question: will the cabinet approve of these changes? The answer is probably "yes". Some observers see the willingness of the state to deal with KwaZulu in this way as evidence of the Government's eagerness to make important concessions in order to try to attract negotiating partners and participants in the proposed National Council.

"If this initiative (to introduce the locally-designed JSBs) succeeds, it will be a triumph for regionalism and for real negotiation politics," Mr Pistorious said.

And, according to Shaun MacKay: "If the JSBs provide much greater power to black local authorities (as they seem likely to do), this could prompt demands for similar changes in other provinces."

If the cabinet or Parliament does not approve the draft bill, the course of action is clear and depressingly familiar: RSCs will be introduced whether KwaZulu participates or not.

Business welcomes appointment of

Durr

By Brian Stuart

CAPE TOWN. — For the first time since Dr. H F Verwoerd included two English-speakers in the Cabinet in the 1960s, English-speaking voters again have two representatives in Mr F W De Klerk's first Cabinet.

Mr Kent Durr, MP for Maitland, is a successful businessman turned politician, who became the first English-speaking Nationalist to wrest a seat from the United Party when he won Maitland in 1977.

As Deputy Minister of

Finance he played a leading role in the government's privatisation and deregulation drive, as well as being in the forefront of the battle against sanctions and disinvestment.

He has been part of the government's team seeking increased contact and co-operation between the private and public sectors.

Mr Durr was Deputy Minister of Finance from 1984 to 1988, when he was appointed Minister of the Budget and of Works

in the House of Assembly. In this capacity he was responsible for preparing government expenditure on "own affairs" departments.

A keen conservationist, he is also a life member of Lions International, Milnerton.

His appointment of Minister of Trade and Industry and of Tourism has been welcomed by members of the business community.

Mr Durr and his wife, Suzy, have three children. The other English-

speaking member of the Cabinet is Mr George Bartlett, who will become Minister of Transport and of Public Works and Land Affairs.

He is a former New Republic Party member in Natal who defected to the NP. He has been a member of the House of Assembly since 1974, and represents Amanzimtoti.

A professional engineer by profession and also a Natal farmer, Mr Bartlett previously served as Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology, under Mr Danie Steyn.

At the NP Natal congress in Pietermaritzburg at the weekend, Mr Bartlett was elected Natal leader of the NP — becoming the first English-speaking NP leader in any province.

He was nominated by Mr Con Botha, MP for Umlazi and chief information officer of the NP, who was believed to be in the running for a Cabinet post.

Instead, government sources indicated at the weekend that Mr Botha was likely to become Administrator of Natal later this year in succession to Mr Raddlyffe Cadman.

'Surprised' Rina ready to meet challenge

Citizen Reporter

THE first woman to serve in the Cabinet, Dr Rina Venter, feels attention

should be drawn away from the fact that she is a woman.

Dr Venter, who has been appointed Minister

of National Health and Population Development says she does not believe she was appointed because there has never been a woman in the Cabinet before.

"I am very surprised and honoured by my appointment. It is a big challenge and I am looking forward to it. I will endeavour to do my best and live up to expectations."

Dr Venter said she aims to keep an open mind and to approach the task with all the seriousness and dedication it demands. Her first priority will be to get to know the department thoroughly.

Dr Venter is well qualified to deal with the portfolio. She obtained a doctorate in social work from the University of Pretoria, worked for many years as a social worker with the SA Vrouefederasie.

She was also President of the Federasie and was a member of the board of the SABC and the National Housing Commission.

Dr Venter feels her appointment will be a big challenge for her family. She is married to a medical doctor, Hennie. The couple have two sons Adrian (23) and Dick (18).



The National Party MP for Turrfontein, Mr ANDRE FOURIE, who was appointed Deputy Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, with his wife AN-NATJIE and children, SANDRE (12) and twins ARENDÉNE (standing) and MARIETTE (5).

CITIZEN
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Parow MP will handle thorny racial issues

By Brian Stuart

CAPE TOWN. — The man who will take political responsibility for such thorny issues as the Group Areas Act and the Separate Amenities Act in the new Cabinet is Mr Hernus Kriel, who becomes Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs.

Mr Kriel, MP for Parow, takes overall charge of physical planning and policy co-ordination in provincial matters as well as those local government affairs that do not fall under "own affairs" administrations.

He obtained his law degree at Stellenbosch University and practised as an attorney in Parow before his admission to the Cape Bar as an advocate.

He was a Member of the Provincial Council and was for many years MEC in charge of local government before his election to Parliament.

On entering Parliament, he became chairman of the Cape Provincial Affairs and the Cape Provincial Accounts committees.

He therefore has a thorough background in the issues he will handle as Cabinet Minister.

Mr Kriel's new department is one of three formed from the department previously administered by Mr Chris Heunis — constitutional issues going to Dr Gerrit Viljoen, self-governing

states to Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, and the overall political control of provincial and local government issues to Mr Kriel.

But Mr Kriel's portfolio also includes the Separate Amenities Act and Group Areas Act, previously handled by Mr Roelf Meyer.

Five testing years for SA, says FW

PIETERMARITZBURG. — The State President elect, Mr F W de Klerk, says the next five years will be testing ones for South Africa.

Addressing the Natal Congress of the National Party on Saturday, in Pietermaritzburg, Mr De Klerk said the nerve, courage, vision, faith and ability of South Africans to change would be tested.

The government would work to make South Africa a more just country in which all people would have a fair say in government decisions and in developing the economic potential of the country.

Referring to pleas at the Congress for clarity on the question of segregated beaches, Mr De Klerk said the party leadership would seriously have to consider giving even greater direction.

However, it had already been indicated that the National Party was not married to legislation such as the Group Areas Act and the Separate Amenities Act.

It was willing to negotiate.

He added that, before any Act was abrogated, it was necessary to know what would come in its place.

The general direction was to give people options wherever possible.

The National Party would continue to move away from discrimination in a practical manner. — Sapa.

R100 000

FW announces NP's nominated members

Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN. — The State President-elect, Mr F W de Klerk, has announced the names of the four MPs he will appoint, in terms of Section (41) (b) of the Constitution, to the House of Assembly.

They are Mr Alex van Breda, representing the Cape, who will again be elected Chief Whip of Parliament;

Mr D P A Schutte, representing Natal, was

maritzburg North, who lost his seat to the Democratic Party. As a nominated MP, he will serve as Deputy Minister of Justice;

Dr W A Odendaal, representing the Free State, is a former Administrator; and

Dr W J "Wim" de Villiers, representing the Transvaal, who will get immediate promotion to the Cabinet, as Minister for Administration and Privatisation.

LET'S lapse into fantasy. The year is 1994 and South Africa, as turbulent and uncertain as ever, is coming up to another election. The right-wing is seen as a threat, and black people resent the whole affair. There has been a lot of violence.

Yet the country has changed. It feels different. A popular way to put it, at least among us hacks, is that hope has conquered the despair of 1989.

The Great Indaba has been in progress in Bloemfontein for 18 months now, and although it has broken down five (or is it six?) times, the two convenors are optimistic. President de Klerk's choice of Zach de Beer, whose integrity in the DP negotiations had impressed him, is generally regarded as inspired.

De Beer's insistence on Nelson Mandela's release was, of course, expected, but his choice of Van Zyl Slabbert as co-convenor was a surprise. However, Slabbert, given useful work to do, has proved both brilliant and tenacious, especially in bringing hostile people to the table.

So far, almost nothing has been agreed except the shape of the table (circular) and who should come (everybody). But Bloemfontein has got used to seeing ANC leaders, flown under safe passage from Lusaka, in the hotels.

The change of mood can be traced back, perhaps, to De Klerk's decision to set aside the emergency law to permit 35 000 people to march in Cape Town only days before he became State President. Other marches followed, and eventually degenerated into violence, but De Klerk's initial decision had given a lift to the spirit.

More important, it gave credibility to his now-famous phrase that "the future is an open door — there is no need to batter it down".

South Africans, grown sceptical through the years of Nationalist dissimulation and semantic trickery, listened warily, but a week later he announced that his government

Let's give free rein BUSINESS DAY — 18 SEPT. 1989 to visions of how it might all turn out

KEN OWEN

accepted the programme of change put forward by the Law Commission earlier in the year: first, a firm statement of intent to create a democracy; then, a systematic purge of the statute book to remove all laws that would conflict with a bill of rights; third, a public education programme; fourth, adoption by referendum of a bill of rights based on international norms; and finally, negotiations between all significant parties to settle the political question of how power was to be distributed and controlled.

De Klerk, quietly abandoning the phrase "group rights", warned frankly that the National Party intended in those negotiations to demand cast-iron "protection for minorities", but when Harry Schwarz — in a now-famous exchange — asked what he meant by "democracy", the State President replied: "Democracy is democracy. The people vote for the government."

His choice of Mr Justice Olivier, principal author of the Law Commission's report, to direct the purge of the law had a dramatic sequel. Within three weeks, the judge, concerned about his own credibility, announced that his task could not even sensibly begin unless the Group Areas Act

and the Separate Amenities Act were repealed.

De Klerk's acceptance of this demand was the breakthrough. It solved nothing, but it won him time to do other things, some of them very unpopular.

For example, in combination with the severe monetary policies of the new Reserve Bank governor, Chris Stals, it broke the back of the international debt problem. So much credit was rolled over, especially by the German banks, that the notorious debt standstill came to an end in mid-1992. That made an enormous impression abroad and quite demoralised the sanctions lobby.

Not much money has returned to the country — no sane Northern Hemisphere investor puts money into Africa — but the capital flight was checked.

Anyway, so much investment had been brought on-shore that we now save more every year in dividends and interest payments abroad than we ever got in capital.

The repeal of group areas, it turned out, was less painful even

than the repeal of the pass laws had been. It mitigated resentments by making 37 000 housing units in formerly "white" areas available to wealthy blacks (most of them, in fact, were Indian), and sent middle-class property values soaring.

More important, it cleared the way for the adoption of the sensible urbanisation policies proposed by the Urban Foundation to cope with the enormous influx of peasants to the cities, which are bursting their seams.

Meanwhile, the work of the Law Commission, like the earlier pioneering work of the Law Review Project under Professor Louise Tager, quickly "freed up" vast areas of South African life. It has become plain to most people that, in a plural society like ours, the less government the better. Increasingly, our lives are based on the common law and the law of contract, rather than the eccentric opinions of the "administrators" and social engineers.

The privatisation of Iscor, which turned out to be a bonanza for amateur stags, prepared public opinion for the rapid sale of the Post Office, Foskor and Sats. The government even relinquished its controlling share of Sasol, and was quickly trimmed down to a shadow of its

former bloated self as departments like Water Affairs and Development Aid were sold off or shut down.

De Klerk's boldest reform was surely the decision, based on P.W. Botha's successful regional diplomacy, to reorganise national defence around four battalions of highly trained, helicopter-borne forces — the *blitz-boere*, the soldiers call them — at Kuruman, Zeerust, Pietersburg and Hoedspruit.

They can, it is said, hit any point on the border within 60 minutes, and the Israeli-built spy satellite, launched in 1992 by the CSIR, ensures there will be no surprises.

As a result, conscription has been cut to six months, with annual camps of 10 days. Contrary to most expectations, the military budget was not reduced (the money now goes for high-tech equipment) but the effect of releasing the energies of 55 000 skilled workers into the private economy has generated sufficient taxable wealth to finance a doubling of the police force.

The police, freed of much of their former duty to enforce hated laws, and better trained and equipped, are beginning to overcome public hostility. Indeed, a career in the police is now said to be an attractive prospect for many young black men, as it was for young whites in the Great Depression.

Nothing is settled. We are a turbulent, Third World people, with an alarming propensity for violence, quick to anger and slow to forgive. We are short of everything, from houses to schools to crime control to hospitals and courts, but we have broken out of the deadly mould into which Verwoerd forced the country a long time ago.

We stagger along, straining to reach modernity, just as the Great Indaba staggers along, straining to reach consensus. Nelson Mandela, idealistic after a life-time of enforced contemplation, found he did not have much stomach for the close-in knifework of the younger men, and retired to Port Alfred....

Oh, well, I told you it was a fantasy.

Call for 18/09/89 a return NATAL MERCURY to sexual morality

NONGOMA—King Zwelithini Goodwill and Kwazulu Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi yesterday attacked apartheid's migratory labour system for the erosion of family life, which led to sexual licence.

Speaking at the annual celebration of the Reed Dance at Nongoma, the King of the Zulus called for a return to sexual morality to avoid the extinction of entire populations by AIDS.

The king said young girls were the only salvation from the ravages of AIDS and called on them to refuse to have sex outside marriage and with anyone 'who has loose sexual morals and sleeps with any women he can get hold of'.

He warned those who did not heed his warning: 'You will die. You will cause your children to die. You will cause your husband to die and you will bring shame on the nation'.

King Zwelithini said moral decay was more of a threat than politics.

The migrant labour system had damaged the solidarity of local communities and robbed families of the men who should have been there to maintain social and religious discipline.

In the consequent sprawling urban communities and ghettos, lack of family control led migrant workers, hungry for female company, to prey on innocent girls.

'Illegitimacy in places like Soweto rose rapidly and finally reached a plateau along which something like 60% of children were born illegitimately.'

The Zulu monarch quoted statistics reflecting the spread of AIDS, which was a direct result of lax morals and said, 'I want to warn the nation ... and very particularly the young maidens of today, that unless we as a people change our attitudes to sex, the nation will be destroyed'. — (Sapa)

US preparing to 'turn up the heat in mid-1990'

Mandela's

STAR

release is

18 SEP. 1989

high on agenda



Dr Viljoen ... willing to talk to Mr Mandela, British TV viewers told.

The release of Mr Nelson Mandela is "high on the agenda", South Africa's new Minister of Constitutional Development, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, told British television viewers last night.

Mr Viljoen, interviewed for ITN's main evening news broadcast, said he would be willing to talk to Mr Mandela on South Africa's future "if he is released and if he is in favour of participating in these discussions".

ITN's reporter asked if Mr Mandela's release was now imminent. "I think his release is a matter which is very high on the agenda," Dr Viljoen replied.

Dr Viljoen said the gamble of allowing last week's marches in Cape Town and Johannesburg had paid off. "If we can move forward in this way to relax restrictions on the expression of political views held by different groups and people ... this is an essential part of really implementing democracy."

In the United States, *Newsweek* magazine reported that the Bush administration expects State President-elect Mr F W de Klerk to release Mr Mandela and end the state of emergency. But further progress on the dismantling of apartheid would probably be slower "than a lot of people wish", a senior government official told the magazine.

Newsweek said the White House was prepared to turn up the heat on Mr de Klerk in mid-1990 if he has not moved dramatically. South Africa was expected to seek a roll-over of its \$9 billion debt — and the US had the power to block it.

Bargaining tool

"Officials say this will be the United States' most effective bargaining tool in trying to end racial-separation politics. You will see us focus on South Africa's financial interest," said the senior presidential aide. "De Klerk has till the middle of 1990."

● British newspapers reacted cautiously to the Cabinet named by Mr de Klerk at the weekend.

The Times said he had "steered clear of a team of reformists that would indicate his readiness to push ahead with bold change". The paper added: "Attention will focus on how quickly he and Dr Viljoen can get to grips with negotiating change with recognised black leaders."

The Financial Times said: "The remarkable decision last week by Mr de Klerk to allow peaceful protest, legalising two of the largest protest marches in the country's history, is believed to be part of the process of reaching out to black leaders. However, the choice of the new Cabinet gave no clear indication of any accelerated commitment to political reform on the part of Mr de Klerk." — The Star Bureau, Sapa-Reuter.

Monday, September 18, 1989

THE FORUM

Letters
to the
Editor

NATAL MERCURY

Peaceful protest & 'safety valve'

SIR — During the darkest days of the war when all looked lost, an Afrikaner women's organisation held a demonstration in Pretoria to protest against South Africa's continued participation in the war. Hundreds of women wearing Voortrekker kappies, and many waving vierkleur flags, congregated in the city and marched up Church Street to the Union Buildings with the intention of handing a petition to General Smuts calling on him to sign a separate armistice with Hitler.

It happened that Smuts was not in his office that day so the petition was handed to one of his subordinates.

The women then gathered on the lawn at the bottom of the Union Building gardens where they listened to anti-war speeches, sang a hymn and dispersed. Apart from causing minor inconvenience to motorists the demonstration was harmless.

Although it was staged at a time when the whole Commonwealth had its back to the wall in a struggle for its very survival the police took no action. There were no arrests, no teargas or rubber bullets or birdshot. Their Voortrekker costumes were not ruined by being sprayed with purple dye.

Gen Smuts appreciated that in a free society people must be allowed to gather together and protest against anything that they believe to be wrong, even in time of war.

I hope it will not be long before Mr de Klerk also realises that peaceful protest is a safety valve in a volatile situation and is an essential ingredient in the recipe for reform.

Eshowe

H J BRAATVEDT

Eight newcomers in FW's team

THE new Cabinet announced by Mr F W de Klerk, for appointment after his inauguration on Wednesday, comprises (newcomers are signified by an asterisk):

Mr Pik Botha, Foreign Affairs.
Dr Gerrit Viljoen,

Constitutional Development, also National Education.

General Magnus Malan, Defence.

Dr Dawie de Villiers, Mineral and Energy Affairs, also Public Enterprises.

Mr Kobie Coetsee, Justice.

Mr Barend du Plessis, Finance.

Mr Eli Louw, Manpower.

Mr Adriaan Vlok, Law and Order.

Mr Gert Kotze, Environment Affairs, also Water Affairs.

Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, Education, also Development Aid.

Mr Eli Louw, Home Affairs.

*Mr Kent Durr, Trade and Industry, also Tourism.

*Mr George Barlett, Transport, also Public Works and Land Affairs.

*Mr Hernus Kriel, Planning and Provincial Affairs.

*Dr Rina Venter (Dr E H), National Health and Population Development.

*Mr J de Villiers, Agriculture.

Deputy Ministers are:

Mr Roelf Meyer, Constitutional Development, also National Education.

Dr Org Marais, Finance.

Mr Weynand Breytenbach, Defence.

Mr J A van Wyk, Water Affairs, also Land Affairs.

Dr Theo Alant, Trade and Industry.

Mr Leon Wessels, Foreign Affairs.

Mr Andre Fourie, Planning and Provincial Affairs.

*Dr Piet Welgemoed, Energy Affairs, also Public Enterprises.

*Mr P A Schutte, Justice.

*Mr Piet Marais, Education, also Development Aid.

Ministers' Council in the House of Assembly:

Mr Kobie Coetsee, chairman.

Mr Amie Venter, Minister of the Budget and Local Government.

Mr Piet Clase, Minister of Education and Culture.

Mr Sam de Beer, Minister of Health Services, Welfare and Housing.

Dr Kraai van Niekerk, Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply.

The Ministers' Councils of the House of Representatives and House of

Significant omissions from Cabinet

Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN. —Among the significant omissions from the new Cabinet are Dr Willie van Niekerk and Dr Org Marais, while the whole Department of Information is to be "transformed".

Dr Van Niekerk, Minister of National Health, who is a Cape MP and a long-time supporter of Mr P W Botha, will be dropped from the new Cabinet. Government sources said he will be appointed new Chairman of the President's Council, when this is re-constituted on September 26.

Among those not promoted is Dr Org Marais, who remains Deputy Minister of Finance. He made the controversial statement in Parliament on the eve of the election that Whites are "no worse off" than they were 20 years ago.

The statement was likened in political circles to that of Dr Lapa Munnik that pensioners could live on R20 a month, a statement that preceded his political retirement.

Dropped from the Deputy Ministers is Mr Myburgh Streicher, who asked to remain an "ordinary MP" for personal reasons.

Others who remain Deputy Ministers are Mr Wynand Breytenbach (Defence), Dr Theo Alant (who moves from Economic Affairs and Technology to Trade and Industry), and Mr Leon Wessels (who moves from Law and Order to Foreign Affairs).

The Ministry of Information is also being dropped.

In the words of Mr De Klerk, the department will "in due course be transformed into a smaller and more professional communication service which will provisionally report directly to the State President".

Its future function will be "the improvement of communication between the government and the public".

It could, therefore, play a role in the activities of Mr De Klerk's new negotiation team, headed by Dr Gerrit Viljoen, but will no longer warrant a Cabinet Minister.

Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, who was previously Minister of Information, becomes Minister of Education and of Development Aid, the portfolios previously held by Dr Viljoen.

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