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THE CITIZEN

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Govt must admit to security executions, says Amnesty

THE government must publicly acknowledge "that extrajudicial executions, torture and other grave human rights violations continue to be committed by members of the security forces and others acting apparently on their behalf" if reform is to continue.

This was according to Amnesty International, in a report on South Africa released today.

The organisation made several recommendations after warning that unless the security forces were made accountable for their actions, "the prospects for a democratic transition in South Africa

are seriously threatened". Amnesty International called on the government to:

- Acknowledge, at the highest level, that human rights violations continued to be committed by members of the security forces and others acting apparently on their behalf or with their acquiescence.

- "Declare publicly that such violations will not be tolerated under any circumstances in South Africa.

- "Make clear that all members of the security forces will be held fully accountable for their ac-

tions and that those responsible for committing, instigating or encouraging human rights violations will be brought to justice.

- "Implement fully the United Nations Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-Legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions as part of a policy of combatting extrajudicial executions.

- "Issue clear instructions to all law enforcement personnel that they may use lethal force or firearms only in exceptional circumstances in accordance with relevant international standards".

Amnesty International then detailed proposals on the prevention of extrajudicial executions, including enforcing strict control over all officials authorised to use force and firearms.

Other proposals included the immediate suspension and investigation of security force members suspected of being involved in extrajudicial executions; and that members of the police and SA Defence Force be made aware they had a right to defy orders authorising assassinations.

To halt the security forces impunity of action, the human rights organisation called for the repeal of legislation which gave the security forces immunity against prosecution.

In addition, Amnesty International called for "the prompt, thorough and impartial investigation, by individuals or institutions independent of the security forces or those in control of the security forces, of all reports of unlawful killing by members of government and government-backed forces".

It also urged that "relatives of victims and their legal representatives are informed of, and have adequate access to, any hearing and to all information relevant to the investigation, and are entitled to present other evidence".

Members of the security forces implicated in extra judicial executions or related crimes should be immediately disarmed "and removed permanently from positions of power or control, whether direct or indirect, over complainants, witnesses and their relatives, investiga-

Cops and army fan violence — Amnesty

Amnesty International today issues a report on South Africa titled "State of Fear", detailing police involvement in killings of political activists. **Sowetan Investigations Editor MATHATHA TSEDU** reports on the major findings of the report.

FOR the second time in under two weeks, an international organisation has found South Africa's police and defence forces guilty of complicity in killings of black people.

The London-based human rights organisation, Amnesty International, says in a report released in London this morning that security forces in South Africa continue to attack or stand by as vigilantes of Inkatha members attack political opponents.

Amnesty says the De Klerk Government at a political level is guilty of complicity as it has at best "been grossly negligent" in failing to "act against all but a tiny proportion of human rights violators within the police and military".

Inkatha comes in for hard criticism in the 100-page report, which documents evidence of a systematic pattern of police and military involvement in torture and assassinations during the two years.

The report also touches on the ANC's mistreatment of its own members in detention camps in African states.

The reform process, it says, could break down unless the violence, which has claimed 7 000 lives in just over two years, is stopped by state intervention to safeguard human rights.

"The reforms of the past two years have brought some sweeping changes in South Africa but, as far as the security forces are concerned, it is business as usual.

"And all too often that means

taking part in political killings or standing by while others massacre political opponents.

"Despite Government promises to take the police out of politics, the fact is they have continued their war against the African National Congress and allied organisations and the Government has been slow to react despite the mounting evidence against the police," Amnesty says.

Detailing examples of incidents of police and military involvement since early 1990, Amnesty says police have continued their war on those seen as traditional enemies: progressive forces such as ANC, Cosatu, SACP, Naxtu, Azapo, PAC and allied structures.

Their treatment of Inkatha however is different, Amnesty says, pointing at police reluctance to intervene in Inkatha attacks, escorts for Inkatha attackers, early release of Inkatha people arrested for attacks on political opponents and non-investigation of Inkatha murders.

Some of the cases in which police and military personnel either participated directly or stood back to allow massacres to occur include:

- 80 people killed during an onslaught by thousands of armed Inkatha supporters on a Maritzburg township in March 1990;

- 80 people killed in two days of

attacks by Inkatha supporters and masked white men on Phola Park "squatter" camp, East Rand, in September 1990;

- 29 people killed "when 1 000 Inkatha supporters with active police involvement invaded Swannerville squatter camp, West Rand, on 12 May 1991";

- 18 residents of Bruntville township, Natal, killed during attacks by hundreds of Inkatha supporters on the night of December 3 1991, "with police in unmarked vehicles raiding residents' homes for weapons which they might have used to defend themselves"; and

- 18 people killed "by armed Inkatha supporters and police in a dawn attack" on March 13 1992 at Uganda settlement outside Durban.

Amnesty says despite this and other innumerable examples of police involvement in the killings, only one of the above cases has resulted in a prosecution while another had resulted in an independent inquiry,

a clear reference to the Trust Feed case which led to irrefutable evidence of police actions to enhance Inkatha's political standing.

The organisation decries the intervention of state instruments, especially the police, in official and independent inquiries into police conduct, citing the harassment and shooting of witnesses and human rights monitors in the Western Transvaal.

"In 1990 and 1991, high profile judicial inquiries into military and police "death squads" found evidence of murder, poisoning, kidnapping, arson, perjury and destruction of evidence by members of the police and military.

"Not a single prosecution fol-

lowed. Political assassinations and other violations are not a thing of the past, as the Government claims.

"They have not been stopped by the reform process", Amnesty says.

The report comes in the wake of another presented by the International Commission of Jurists, who spent two weeks in this country investigating violence and came to the conclusion that senior elements in the police force were fomenting the violence.

It also follows on the now controversial interim report of the Goldstone Commission into violence which found that the police and the army, as well as rivalry between Inkatha and the ANC, were the chief instigators of the violence.

Also not in the report are recent disclosures by several newspapers which included:

- The ordering of the Goniwe murders by defence force senior officers;

- The existence of secret police squads operating from "safe" houses where activists were allegedly taken and instructed to kill political opponents of the regime; and

- The revelation by *Sowetan* that people were being hired for a fee to kill and get paid for each person killed.

A man who refused to get involved in this scheme in Alexandra was nearly killed but police refused to investigate the linkage with the violence.

Amnesty says the remedy could include a public acknowledgement by the Government that assassinations, torture and other grave human rights violations continue to be committed by security forces "and others acting apparently on their behalf or with their acquiescence".

FOCUS

Sowetan 10/6/92

Govt negligent, says Amnesty

Report links armed forces to violence

LONDON — Amnesty International has accused SA's security forces of involvement in violence and says government is guilty of "gross negligence at best" in not bringing the culprits to book.

The London-based human rights organisation also said unless steps were taken to safeguard human rights the political reform process in SA could break down.

These were among the conclusions reached by Amnesty in a 100-page booklet, called SA — State of Fear, which was based on a month-long visit to SA by senior members in December last year and subsequent monitoring operations.

The report, released worldwide today, said reforms in SA had brought sweeping changes but it was "business as usual" for the security forces — often including collusion in political killings or standing by while others massacred political rivals.

Law and Order spokesman Capt Craig Kotze described the report as partisan and one-dimensional.

It could "therefore not be regarded as a constructive addition to the debate on violence due to the fact that it represents an almost complete whitewash of the ANC, one of the main, if not the major, antagonists in the violence". Kotze said it ignored the fact that policemen were victims of violence.

Inkatha and the KwaZulu police were also heavily criticised in the report. It also accused the Bophuthatswana government of violent coercion and said there was a strong suggestion authorities in the home-

**CHRIS BATEMAN and
GAVIN DU VENAGE**

land condoned the use of torture.

It said the ANC had been guilty of abuses against its members as well as involvement in township violence in the past two years. "The ANC and its supporters have been responsible for deliberate and arbitrary killings."

Although victims of violence came from across the political spectrum, the "overwhelming majority" had been members or perceived sympathisers of the ANC and other formerly banned organisations.

The report documented what it called a "systematic pattern of police and military involvement in torture and assassinations" during the past two years.

Government had failed to act against "all but a tiny proportion" of human rights violators within the police and military. This served to give the security forces the impression that they could "get away with anything, even murder", the report said.

The report follows last week's stinging criticism of police by the International Commission of Jurists, as well as an interim report by the Gelatung commission which also implicated police in violence.

The Amnesty report said in spite of President F W de Klerk's promises to take the police out of politics, the police had continued their "war against the ANC and allied organisations". Government had been slow to act against policemen despite mounting evidence.

In township violence which had cost

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Amnesty report

□ From Page 1

7 000 lives since early 1990, police had continued the fight against those they saw as "the enemy".

The report documented many incidents in which police were alleged to have been involved in violence or colluded with Inkatha supporters in massacres.

The report noted that in only one of these cases had the conduct of the police been subject to independent inquiry. When there had been official inquiries these had been hampered by violence and marked by official failure to act on their conclusions.

One exception was the "rare example of professional police investigative work" of Maj Frank Dutton, the policeman who brought to court seven policemen accused

of murdering 11 people at Trust Feed.

A western Transvaal probe into torture, killings of detainees and extra-judicial executions by police resulted in witnesses and human rights monitors being harassed, threatened and shot at by police.

Amnesty noted not a single prosecution followed the high-profile judicial inquiries of 1990 and 1991 into "death squads" where evidence of murder, poisoning, kidnapping, arson, perjury and destruction of evidence by the police and army had emerged.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said yesterday the report confirmed "our concerns over SAP complicity in the violence".

A Bophuthatswana government spokesman described the report as "nonsense".

h/day 16/6/92

Kotze slams Amnesty attacks on police

CAPE TOWN. — A highly critical Amnesty International report on violence in South Africa has been denounced by Law and Order Ministry spokesman Capt Craig Kotze as partisan and one-dimensional.

"This Amnesty International report can therefore not be regarded as a constructive addition to the debate on violence due to the fact that it represents an almost com-

plete white-wash of the African National Congress, one of the main, if not the major, antagonists in the violence," Capt Kotze said.

In the 100-page report entitled "South Africa, State of Fear", released today, the London-based human rights organisation repeatedly criticised the

SAP for either failing to halt the violence, or for participating in attacks on mainly ANC supporters or activists.

Capt Kotze pointed out the report ignored the fact that the SAP itself was a victim of the violence. Scores of policemen had been murdered and injured in more than 3 000 attacks on the security forces.

"It also almost completely ignores the indisputable fact that the violence is primarily the result of the bloody power

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Kotze slams Amnesty

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struggle between the ANC and Inkatha.

"It is glaringly obvious that the Amnesty International report has a critical lack of balance and a one-dimensional view of the violence in South Africa."

Amnesty International apparently conveniently glossed over the fact that South Africa, and with it the SAP, had entered a new era with State President De Klerk's reform process.

"The SAP fully accepts the inevitability of the reform process and has indeed itself inaugurated fundamental changes internally, such as fully integrated training to mention but one, to keep pace with reform initiatives.

"In fact, the SAP in certain key areas is well ahead of the reform process itself.

"But Amnesty International in its obvious partisan approach to the violence has once again chosen to ignore key elements in the debate surrounding the violence.

"It, for example, fails to mention that the ANC and Inkatha have failed to control their supporters on the ground; that the vi-

olence can only really be ended by those involved in it, especially Inkatha and the ANC; and that the SAP is streets ahead of all other signatories in implementing the National Peace Accord."

In addition to blaming the police and security forces, Amnesty slammed the Government for its failure to swiftly, credibly and publicly investigate allegations of human rights violations by members of the security forces.

"The effectiveness of investigations into police abuses has also been hampered by what can only be described as the general passivity of the Attorney General's office."

While its report focused on abuses by the authorities or people acting on their behalf, Amnesty also stated "the political struggle in South Africa has, however, clearly involved abuses on all sides".

This included human rights violations by the ANC against its own members and the fact that congress supporters had been responsible for deliberate and arbitrary killings in the townships.

Amnesty said, howev-

er, that the ANC had formed a commission of inquiry into allegations of abuses of prisoners held in its camps.

Concerning its main attack on the police, Amnesty said the security forces waged an undeclared war on the ANC and the pro-ANC United Democratic Front before 1990.

In Natal, for example, police appeared to abandon their neutrality, either assisting in attacks on communities which supported anti-apartheid movements, or being guilty of "racial acts of omission: Failing to provide adequate or any protection for UDF or non-Inkatha communities".

The police also failed to investigate complaints or violence where UDF supporters were the victims.

Then, in January 1990, Mr De Klerk told 500 police officers at the Pretoria Police College that in the past they had been required to handle typical crime situations "but you also had other tasks to fulfil, and that was a control function connected to a specific political party ..."

Mr De Klerk announced he wanted to remove the police from the

political arena.

"We don't want to use you any more as instruments to reach certain political goals."

"We as politicians must take full responsibility for politics ... This is the direction we are taking and I want you to make peace with this new line."

According to Amnesty however, "it would appear that President De Klerk's January 1990 message ... has yet to filter through to members of the police force on the ground".

There was also ample evidence of covert intervention by the police in the taxi war in the Western Cape, the report said.

"The ostensible source of violence in the townships and squatter camps is a long-standing rivalry between two taxi associations which are competing for lucrative routes.

"However, one of the associations apparently has majority backing in the strongly pro-ANC township communities. There is ample evidence of covert intervention by the police on the side of the rival association."

Sapa.

• See Page 4.

Separate nations a creation of God:

CP document

By Brian Stuart
CAPE TOWN. — Separate nations are a creation of God and the Afrikaner volk came about through Divine Providence, the Conservative Party has said in the preamble to decisions taken at last weekend's meeting of its general council in Pretoria.

The Afrikaner volk therefore had a right to govern itself in its own territory, separate from other peoples in South Africa, the CP said in a five-page document released yesterday, getting out in full the CP's decisions relating to a volkstaat.

This was a right demanded by self-respecting people and for which they would "negotiate and, if necessary, fight".

In the document, which will go before the party's congress on June 27 for ratification, the CP declared itself to be an Afrikaner national movement, to serve the Afrikaner volk and protect its interests.

"We accept that only ethnic communities are acknowledged as people (volke) by the international community, and have a claim to self-determination.

"We demand this recognition for the Afrikaner volk and for patriots of other languages who are linked with the destiny of the Afrikaner volk, on the basis of mutual acceptance and a mutual striving for freedom.

"The CP reaffirms that it is irrevocably committed to obtaining the freedom of our volk in our fatherland, under our own government, and that this striving for freedom will enjoy priority in the party's struggle.

"The CP accepts the role of a volksbeweging

(national movement) which strives in various terrains for the free existence of the Afrikaner volk in his own land and under his own government.

The document stated the CP would act both within and outside Parliament. A full-time planning committee would be set up to co-ordinate its activities to achieve a volkstaat. The CP would also work with other conservative organisations, whether within or outside South Africa, to achieve freedom.

A decision was taken to call "an imaginative volks rally" within the near future, or alternatively to hold regional rallies, to stimulate the movement and to make the Afrikaner more motivated.

"The CP decides as a party to stand ready for by-elections or a general election. However it may take place, the volk will vote again."

The CP again stated that Codesa was an unacceptable forum for negotiations about the freedom of the Afrikaner volk.

It would continue its own negotiations with national leaders who were sympathetic to Afrikaner nationalism and self-determination.

There were three political streams in South Africa: Those wanting self-determination, those seeking non-racial powersharing, and revolutionary or terrorist organisations who wanted to take over control of the whole country.

The CP rejected a one-man-one-vote system, rejected powersharing between peoples as a "deceitful and unacceptable" political recipe, and re-

jected revolution and violence for political ends.

It also rejected government plans for an interim government.

A federal system had certain merits, but was not a recipe for true freedom because the federal states remained under a central form of government.

"The CP stands for a confederation or commonwealth system for the

various people of south Africa, on the basis of voluntarily participation, with political independence in their own states and economic interdependence.

"There will thus be no central government or legislative body."

In regard to negotiations about borders, the CP said the territorial areas should be "reasonably negotiable"

Cizer
10/6/92

Opportunity lies beyond the current state of gloom in SA

DENIS WORRALL

SOUTH Africa is in a fast-changing situation, and perceptions of its stability and economic prospects will vary from time to time. And right now, whatever the longer-term view may be (and I am positive), the short-term view is a sombre one.

The ANC's decision to engage in a campaign of mass action must, as its leadership knows, postpone the implementation of interim government and not hasten it. The campaign also has little to do with constitutional negotiations and everything to do with grassroots attitudes.

The ANC is responding to a restiveness within its membership around the following issues:

□ Unhappiness with general socio-economic circumstances (joblessness, cost of living, homelessness, and so on), and the fading prospect of rapid improvement;

□ Political violence and its impact on the lives of ordinary people in the townships and, more specifically, the government's perceived inability to deal with the issue;

□ Widespread anger at the NP government. Aside from the fact that this is a minority government which is viewed as having no moral right to rule, it is increasingly being perceived as incompetent and corrupt. The widespread view is that it is also clinging to power for dear life;

□ General unhappiness at what many ANC supporters see as a lack of progress towards an interim government and a new constitution at Codesa. This applies especially within the trade union movement, which is not directly involved in Codesa;

□ Radical tendencies within the organisation. There have been several instances where renegade members of the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe have clashed with Cosatu leaders — resulting in deaths on the Witwatersrand and in Natal.

tions its delegation had committed the movement to at Codesa. For example, its compromise agreement to a 70% majority for the approval of constitutional proposals, as opposed to the two-thirds majority which it had previously insisted on; and its acceptance at one stage of the principle that regions will have effective powers which are enshrined in the constitution — in other words, federalism — runs counter to the ANC's official position that regional powers should be devolved from the centre — in other words, a unitary state.

The consequences of a campaign of mass action on the lines envisaged by the ANC and its allies, aside from slowing down the constitutional negotiations process, are obviously likely to increase the possibility of violence and bloodshed. This is likely in Natal and on the Witwatersrand where the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) is bound to tell its supporters to ignore calls for mass action.

The campaign is also likely to contribute to the political polarisation of SA. With this campaign, the ANC risks forfeiting what little white support it has, and it is likely also to cost it support within the coloured and Indian communities. From a political point of view, therefore, the campaign is likely to benefit the NP.

Aside from slowing down the con-

stitutional negotiation process, the campaign is bound to make the resolution of outstanding issues much more difficult. The ANC's turnabout on the powers and functions of the regions will confirm deeply held suspicions within Inkatha. The IFP will therefore be even less trusting of the ANC in the future, and will press in Codesa's working group 2 for even larger majorities.

Clearly, the ANC's campaign will have a extremely negative effect on business confidence that is already depressed.

Regarding the timetable and the installation of interim government, before Codesa. If an informed view was that the interim government would be in place by late September/October. That will not happen — unless something unforeseen occurs.

Somebody has written that SA's conflict will lead itself to bargaining and compromise when both sides are approximately equal in power, and the cost of maintaining minority rule exceeds the benefits. In this view, real negotiation will take place only when there is a sense on both sides of a stalemate. That is where, when the campaign of mass action has run its course, the ANC is going to find it-

self. In the final analysis, it has to deal with the NP and, increasingly, with a strong regionally based IFP.

As for the longer view, any serious business evaluation must look beyond what is currently happening to what is substantial and enduring. The World Bank's recent studies on SA reflect this approach, and it is reflected also in Japanese business's hard-nosed approach to this country.

Looked at this way, SA must be a unique business proposition due to a combination of four factors — wealth, infrastructure, geographic location and underdevelopment.

Firstly, SA is an inherently wealthy country — especially from the industrialised nations' point of view — due to its enormous natural resources. Secondly, the country has a commercial infrastructure of telecommunications, transport, of financial services and managerial skills comparable to western Europe.

But, thirdly, and probably most important from a business perspective, SA is largely underdeveloped in many business sectors due to having been shut off from the world business community for so long. There is consequently a need for foreign expertise, know-how and skills.

Finally, SA is the gate way to the rest of sub-Saharan Africa, and with a GDP three times greater than

Nigeria (its nearest rival), and 22 times that of Zimbabwe (the next country in size in its own sub-equatorial region), SA inevitably will become the flywheel for the region.

Granting all this, the response may be: what about future government policy, especially the policy of an ANC-influenced government?

The internal dynamic of economic practice, policy and debate is toward a mixed economy of the social market kind in which middle-class values are recognised and in which the racial imbalances of the past are corrected by growth and fiscal processes rather than nationalisation.

This is evident in the ANC's economic policy adopted at its recent national policy conference. As Business Day editorially observed: "It is difficult to take serious exception to the economic policies proposed at the weekend, and that in itself is a measure of how far the ANC's leadership has shifted from its earlier unflinching support for socialism."

In any event, if Derek Keys is correct, future governments are not really going to be able to deviate greatly from certain inherent economic fundamentals — or imperatives as he calls them: economic growth; job creation; stimulating exports; and regional economic blocs, or "the benign consequences of the Republic's position in the region".

These, says Keys, will be as close to being fixed constituents in looking at any future SA economic scenario as you can hope for and will be the basic determinants of any government's trade and investment policy.

This internal dynamic of practice, policy and debate is being reinforced by external factors in the form of foreign expressions of investment interest, the opening up of new trading possibilities and enterprising individual foreign investment. The World Bank, MF and other international funding agencies will no doubt add their influence to this external dynamic when they become fully involved in SA.

□ This is an excerpt of a speech delivered on Monday to a Price Waterhouse business banquet in London.

Editor 10/6/92

No absolution without confession and reparation

NOW that it has been established that a senior military officer sought permission from the State Security Council to assassinate three black community leaders in 1983, the question arises more sharply than ever of how the New South Africa is going to live with its past.

Great crimes have been committed in this country, both individually and collectively. Indeed the United Nations declared apartheid a crime against humanity. People were tortured and murdered, beaten to death in interrogation rooms, robbed of their homes and driven from their land. Families were ripped apart and children denied education.

It is a past stained with 18 million pass law arrests and 3.5 million forced removals.

We reek of crime and drip with guilt. We need a Nuremberg trial to cleanse the soul of this nation, a tribunal that will bring out the truth so there can be justice for the dead and a purgation of anger.

But you cannot have a Nuremberg trial after a negotiated settlement. Ours is an armistice, not an unconditional surrender. Any

hint of an apartheid-crimes tribunal would send the ruling party scurrying from the negotiating table.

So what are we to do with that guilt? With all that criminality and "stactured sinfulness" as Allan Boesak has called it? Just sweep it under the carpet with all the other detritus of the shameful system that was constructed here? That is what President de Klerk wants.

But you cannot have reconciliation that way. The theologians tell us that to attain reconciliation you must first have confession and receive forgiveness. Only then can there be redemption and reconciliation. With confession, of course, goes penance, atonement, compensation.

Aye, there's the rub. For we are too greedy for that. We want the new society, an end to sanctions and the old polecat status, but we don't want to pay for what we did. We want to forget that. And being a good theologian himself, President de Klerk knows that once he confesses that the past was riddled with injustice he will have to go the whole hog and pay the



Allister Sparks

compensation.

So he stops short. Apartheid was a mistake, he says, not because it was fundamentally evil and did millions of people grievous injury, but because it didn't work. It was "impractical," "inefficient," "outdated", but never unjust.

The pattern began when Barend du Plessis thanked Nat congress delegates for agreeing to open party membership. After declaring that this had given rise to "a liberated National Party that is now operating on a moral basis", he paused to ask rhetorically: "Is there implicit in what I have just said an accusation that our predecessors were not moral, that they were unjust?"

"Absolutely not," was his reply. "The truth is that if it had been possible to divide this country so that the whites could be a majori-

ty and the blacks had their own sovereign states, then we would have been able to escape that way from accusation of discrimination and injustice.

"But over a long period of time it became clear that total segregation was not possible, and with that we realized that we had to change course and that power-sharing was the only way for us to go," Mr du Plessis said.

Only once has De Klerk himself uttered any words of remorse, and that was when he told an obscure Japanese newspaper in October 1991: "We are very, very sorry for the pain which was caused by that period in our history and we are glad that the period has passed."

He has said nothing to the people here at home who actually suffered that pain. The closest any Minister has come to that was Leon Wessels, who said last February: "We failed to listen to the ... crying of our fellow countrymen. That must never happen again."

This refusal to come to terms with our past is not only morally reprehensible, it is dangerous. As Kadar Asmal, Professor of

Human Rights Law at the University of the Western Cape, warned in a powerful inaugural lecture the other night, it can kindle resentment on the part of those who suffered under apartheid and induce a chauvinist response.

Beneath the surface of the new society the old antagonisms will continue to fester, making it difficult to reach out to forge real non-racial unity.

"We need a revival of moral conscience if we are ever to build a common citizenship and a common national consciousness," Professor Asmal said.

So the truth must be admitted to heal the wounds and provide redress for those who have suffered. Confession and atonement. Asmal wants a "reconstruction accord" to atone for the past. It must include compensation payments to those who have suffered and been dispossessed, and affirmative action programmes for those who have been disadvantaged.

He also wants justice. Although there can be no Nuremberg tribunal in South Africa, Asmal believes there are certain categories of crime, such as murder, which

are beyond amnesty or any statute of limitations.

Retribution, he says, is not the primary motive. Nor is it simply a question of money. "It is the acknowledgement which is vital to the process of rehabilitation."

I find the arguments compelling. The precedents are there. Germany paid reparation to those who suffered under Nazism. Today it is restoring land appropriated by the former East German regime to the original owners, or compensating them if the land cannot be returned.

The US government has decided to compensate Japanese Americans who were detained after Pearl Harbour. In Russia the KGB is opening its files. Argentina is paying R14 000 to people tortured by the military dictatorship which ran that country from 1975 to 1982.

Chile set up a commission after Pinochet was ousted. As Kadar Asmal puts it: "The struggle for human rights is a struggle of humanity against the misuse of power. It is also the struggle of memory against forgetting." □

clon 10/6/92

ANC demands the withdrawal of Bill

THE African National Congress yesterday demanded that the government withdraw the Provincial and Local Authority Amendment Bill with immediate effect, and called on its supporters to ensure the Bill "does not work on the ground".

"The government has once more acted unilaterally ... this Bill, if passed, will impact negatively on both the negotiations at local level and on the constitutional negotiations in Codesa," the organisation's Department of Information and Publicity

said in a statement.

Rejecting the Bill the ANC said: "The regime has failed to consult our people and their organisations about the implications of the proposed demarcation of boundaries."

"Like the interim Measures Act, the Bill undermines all principles of democracy and arrogantly gives the provincial administrators powers to demarcate municipal boundaries."

On the one hand the Bill created an undemocratic advisory commission on financial aspects regarding Local Government Affairs, while

on the other hand, the government continued to force local authorities officials to negotiate "with our people on the ground", the ANC said.

Concerns

"This type of behaviour reaffirms concerns that the regime can continue to act as a player and a referee."

The ANC also criticised the Bill on the grounds that "it proceeded from the premise that the notorious interim measures on Local Government Act had produced acceptable local structures".

— Sapa.

Citizen 10/6/92

ANC and police wrangle over death of official

By Bronwyn
Wilkinson
Crime Staff

The ANC and the police in the eastern Transvaal are at loggerheads over the death of an ANC executive member shot in KwaDela after being arrested as a suspect in the murder of a policeman.

Police said investigating officers shot Reuben Nkosi (38) when he pulled out a gun in his home yesterday.

But the ANC claims Mr Nkosi was gunned down in cold blood.

A police spokesman said Mr Nkosi was arrested on Monday on the strength of an affidavit linking him to the death of Constable Jacques Scheepers in the township last month.

Mr Nkosi took members of the Crime Investigation Service to his home after his arrest.

While the police were searching the house, Mr Nkosi pulled out a loaded 9 mm pistol which had been hidden and "swung it towards the investigating officer", the spokesman said.

The policeman fired a shot that fatally wounded Mr Nkosi.

A 9 mm pistol, with the serial number removed, was seized and an inquest docket was opened for investigation.

ANC eastern Transvaal publicity secretary Jackson Mthembu disputed the police version of Mr Nkosi's death, claiming he was shot in cold blood in front of his relatives.

Mr Mthembu said the policemen who killed Mr Nkosi were implicated in "what can be interpreted as retaliatory victimisation of the (KwaDela) community" after the death of Constable Scheepers.

"The Davel police have become a law unto themselves," he said.

Constable Scheepers was beaten to death on May 30 when he and a Constable Nkonde were on patrol in KwaDela.

According to police, a crowd surrounded the police van when the two constables stopped at a restaurant. The crowd attacked the constables several times and seven people were wounded when Constable Nkonde fired into the crowd. The wounded men were arrested and two other suspects were later picked up in Bethal.

Mr Mthembu disputed the police version of Constable Scheepers's death, claiming the two policemen picked up Constable Nkonde's girlfriend from a beerhall before firing into the hall for no apparent reason.

Mr Mthembu said Constable Scheepers was beaten to death in the ensuing chaos.

He claimed police had assaulted several KwaDela residents during their investigation.

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Sowetan

Bara strikers dig in their heels

By KENOSI MODISANE

THE NATIONAL Education and Health Workers Union yesterday vowed to defy a court interdict and continue with their strike and pickets over wage grievances at Baragwanath Hospital.

A Nchawu spokesman yesterday said the union members from 10 other clinics in Soweto were expected to join the strike.

A Sowetan team which visited the hospital yester-

day found workers at the kitchen preparing food.

The workers, as well as those in the theatres and mortuary, are exempted from the strike.

Nurses and doctors have to fetch the food from the kitchen for distribution to patients.

"We are operating nor-

mally although the floors and other areas are not clean. Nurses fetch the food for patients in the wards," a chef said.

Some workers at the theatre were found performing their normal chores, though one said: "It is a bit slow since Monday. But we are all the same on duty and exempted from joining the picket."

Nchawu spokesman Mr Chicks Moletsane yester-

day accused the hospital authorities of unfairness and said: "They asked the TPA to apply for an interdict restraining us from picketing in the hospital instead of solving the problem."

Baragwanath officials yesterday locked doors leading to the administration block and security personnel barred reporters from entering.

An attempt to reach the

hospital spokesman for comment through the telephone also drew a blank.

It was yesterday reported that student nurses at the hospital held a meeting on Monday where a decision was taken to picket daily for an hour in sympathy with the striking workers.

"We are prepared to resume our duties as soon as the authorities respond to our demands," Moletsane said.

DET scandal: 2 suspended

A CASH scandal involving thousands of rands in the Johannesburg region of the Department of Education and Training has been uncovered.

By PHANGISILE MTSHALI

The DET's Johannesburg region disclosed yesterday that it was conducting three separate fraud investigations involving more than R280 000. The region's administration director, Mr Giep van den Berg, confirmed that two women clerks from Naledi and Meadowlands in Soweto have been suspended in connection with an investigation

into the drawing of salary cheques amounting to R250 000 for 11 non-existent employees.

"Our internal investigation has revealed that there were cheques for 11 unknown people in teaching and clerical positions which were being drawn monthly," said Van den Berg.

"This has been going on for more than a year. They were appointments that did not exist and for people who were no longer working for the department.

"Documents of people who have left the service were not forwarded to the relevant authorities for cancellation."

Van den Berg said it was possible that there were more people involved in the scam, although it was

difficult to say whether the two clerks, who came from different area offices, were working together.

He said the scam had led to the 11 posts becoming vacant and not being filled, as the department was not aware of the vacancies.

In another DET case, the principal of Alexandra Technical College has been suspended after it was found that R10 000 was missing from the department's funds. This case has also been handed to the police, according to Van den Berg.

Meanwhile, another high-ranking official in the region's personnel department is being investigated following the disappearance of an overtime cheque for one of the department's employees.

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