MERCURY 17-04-89



Pallbearers carry the coffin of the slain leader of the Inanda-based Church of Nazareth, the Rev Londa Shembe, at his funeral at the sect's headquarters at Ekuphakameni yesterday. Mr Shembe was gunned down in his kraal by two unknown black assailants just before dawn on April 7. In expressing condolences on behalf of the KwaZulu Government and members of the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Chief Minister of KwaZulu and president of Inkatha, said: 'We have lost a young leader, who could have ended up as one of the towering giants of our times, at the prime of life. It is a shocking waste to lose one so young and one so gifted as Mr Londa Shembe . . . I had always seen him as a strong force for reconciliation between the warring political factions in South Africa.'

Healers' body on disease proposed

SA'S traditional healers are looking at setting up a Pan Africanist Traditional Healers' association to deal specifically with the issue of AIDS in their communities.

This was revealed at the weekend by SA Traditional Healers Council president Horatio Zungu at a conference for traditional healers (sangomas), hosted by the SA Institute of Medical Research in Johannesburg.

Zungu said sangomas had not yet treated anyone positively diagnosed as having AIDS, but they were being alerted to the symptoms for possible referral to orthodox doctors.

Referred

It was hoped the weekend conference would foster co-operation between the traditional and orthodox doctors at the institute.

Prof Ruben Sher, head of the insti-tute's AIDS information and training tute's AIDS information and training centre, said the traditional healer was likely to be the first person to come across an AIDS case in the black community, but suspected AIDS cases had to be referred to the insitute for definitive diagnosis.

Religious and political beliefs and traditional norms had to be considered in advising the community, he said. Where people refused to use

DIANNA GAMES

condoms, alternative approaches would have to be looked at.

Zungu said healers would be prepared to advise people to use con-doms even where there might be re-

He said many healers believed a cure for AIDS would be found in Africa, possibly from traditional medicine. Sher said the institute was prepared to test such cures.

Meanwhile, John Groenewald, a spokesman for government's pro-posed new AIDS awareness campaign to be launched later this year, said the new campaign would take into account areas where the last had failed, particularly in black areas.

He said a new brochure on AIDS had been sent to homelands' health departments for approval.

☐ Sapa reports that Natal doctors are fighting an uphill battle to keep control over black AIDS patients as the disease continues to spread in the black heterosexual community at an alarming rate. "The doubling time for Aids in young blacks in this coun-try is now six months," said National AIDS Advisory Group member Professor Dennis Pudifin.

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NUM to launch massive recruitment drive in Natal

Special Correspondent

A MASSIVE recruitment drive
- which will include appraoching rank and file Inkatha
members - is likely to be undertaken by the National Union of
Mineworkers (NUM), the largest affilate of the Congress of
South African Trade Unions
(Cosatu).

This emerged at the union's sixth national congress, which was attended by 600 delegates and ended yesterday.

Although resolutions passed at the congress are only to be released today, many of those put to the congress emphasised the need for the slogan: "Every Mineworker a NUM member", to be translated into reality.

A proposal coming from NUM's northern Natal branch was that the union should 'concentrate on recruiting the workers, particularly ordinary Inkatha members' as it was vital for all mineworkers to belong to NUM 'regardless of

ethnicity'.

'It is important that people who want to identify themselves with the progressive movement can do so without withdrawing their allegiance from the Zulu nation,' said the branch.

Speaking at the opening of the congress last week, NUM president James Motlatsi appealed to NUM members to recruit other workers to join the union.

Paid-up

Paid-up NUM membership stands at 350 000 at present.

He identified three major tasks facing the NUM:

- * To unify mineworkers into an effective national union:
- * To play a leading role in strengthening the unity in Cosatu and the trade union movement, and
- * To forge unity of the working class movement and unite all other formations around the Freedom Charter.

'The lessons which we have learnt over and over from our struggles is that organisation, democracy and unity remain the pillars for effective struggle and the only defence we have,' Motlatsi said.

New life is also to be breathed into the Living Wage Campaign (LWC), which suffered a severe setback after the 1987 mineworkers' strike when mine bosses went on the offensive against the NUM.

Branches have not only proposed the revitalisation and extension of the LWC structures, but have also come up with new proposals for wage negotiations.

Wages

These include setting a national minimum wage of R600 for underground workers and R543 for surface workers; negotiating wages in money terms and not percentages and eliminating the gap between black and white workers.

The congress also called

on Cosatu to reconvene the Anti-Apartheid Conference which was banned last year and to strengthen the antiapartheid coalition with Cosatu and the UDF at its core.

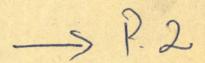
The ANC's constitutional guidelines are also to be discussed in NUM's structures after the congress.

'We need to shape our future today. What we do today will guarantee the direction tomorrow,' said Motlatsi in calling for this discussion to take place.

The NUM executive is also likely to be expanded following the call that additional vice presidents be elected.

It was also proposed that all national office bearers work full-time for the NUM.

The congress, which was opened by ANC stalwart Harry Gwala on behalf of NUM honorary life president Nelson Mandela, is likely to set the stage for Cosatu's congress, which is due to take place in July.



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LABOUR



National Union of Mineworkers leadership led by Cosatu president Elijah Barayi at their recent congress in Johannesburg. Pic: Anna Ziemenski (Afrapix)

Maphumulo the 'peacemaker'

PIETERMARITZBURG 'peace keeper' chief Mhlabunzima Maphumulo - the controversial leader who has called for a commission of inquiry into the violence in the region - has rejected KwaZulu chief minister Gatsha Buthelezi's attacks on him for doing it as 'irresponsible'.

In an interview with The New African last week, Maphumulo staunchly defended his latest attempt to secure peace in the war-tom region. Buthelezi has reportedly asked state president PW Botha to ignore Maphumulo's petition for the commission.

Maphumulo, whose seat at Maqongqo has become a haven for about 10 000 refugees of all political persuasions, said the call he made on Botha came only after several unsuccessful attempts to have Buthelezi address the situation.

'The chief minister has said he feels I should have

directed my complaints to his department,' he said.

'Last year the executive committee of the Mpumalanga regional authority together with the town council header by the mayor, Roger Sishi, approached the chief minister's private secretary, Amos Ngema, wanting an interview with the chief minister about the violence.'

'Ngema told us Buthelezi was too busy and couldn't see us.'

Maphumulo said the committee had then sent a letter to Buthelezi, but received no response.

His next attempt was to

send Inkatha central committee representative for Pietermaritzburg Ben Jele to Ulundi with a request for his participation in talks involving church and community leaders and Inkatha.

'Again we got no response. Buthelezi came to Pietermaritzburg a week or two later but only to cele-

Amidst the violence and slaughter around Pietermaritzburg a remarkable chief, Mhlabunzima Maphumulo, is running a haven for regugees. People of all political persuasions are allowed in his area but are not allowed to organise for any political group. Contrasted to him is Inkatha warlord David Ntombela, who has been involved in several court cases concerning killings in the area. William Harper and S'khumbuzo Miya report.

brate Shaka Day, and not to attend to the escalating violence.

'There was nobody who was prepared to look into the violence. The chief minister has been told about the violence and he knows about the violence.

'He says he is the only person who can go to the state president to stop the violence - then why didn't he go to him?

'The chief minister says he can't gain anything out of the violence, but he has been reported on several occasions as saying that Inkatha members have a right to defend themselves - an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.

'A responsible leader does not speak like that - once you speak like that you are telling your followers to attack their opponents.

'He doesn't have a reconciliatory tongue. He

doesn't want to reconcile the two factions.'

Maphumulo said because of Buthelezi's failure to address the issue, he had approached Botha, who he described as 'the supreme chief of all the blacks of this country'.

He said Buthelezi's response in attacking him

and asking Botha to reject his call was to be expected.

'If a judicial commission of inquiry is established, then he sees himself as a loser because he feels that his organisation is somehow involved.

'Let him come out into the open and give it his unqualified support, then we will say he has nothing to lose.'

On Buthelezi's accusations that he was working for the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa (Cotralesa), he said he had no association with the organisation.

'If the chief minister wants me to join that organisation, I am going to look for it. If it represents the chiefs then I see no reason why the chief minister should be afraid of that organisation.

'Why should he run away from an organisation that represents the people. He is also a traditional leader and I think it is right and proper for him to join that organisation.'

He said Buthelezi's claim that he was prostituting the office of chiefs was

an 'irresponsible statement'.

Buthelezi's statement that he was part of Cotralesa - which he had classed as an ANC front - placed his safety in jeopardy, Maphumulo said.

'Surely he is saying to

the government that here is a bad man. He is telling the government that they must not listen to what I say and he is intimidating the chiefs by saying Maphumulo is a bad person who has joined Cotralesa.

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Peacemaker in action - Chief Maphumulo talking peace at Shongweni. Pic: Clint Zasman

If it represents thechiefs then I see no reason why the chief minister should be afraid of that organisation'

Chief Maphumulo speaking on Buthelezi's accusations that he is working for Cotralesa

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Wife prevented from attending Shembe's funeral

By Sithembiso Sangweni and Sipho Khumalo

A SMEAR pamphlet and death threats yesterday stopped a Durban civil right lawyer, Lungi Makhaye, from attending the funeral of her husband, reverend Londa Shembe.

Shembe was buried at Ekuphakameni yesterday in a funeral attended by leaders of the warring Inkatha and United Democratic Front (UDF). Inkatha president Gatsha Buthelezi and his UDF counterpart Archie Gumede attended.

Both addressed the funeral service. After their speeches they shook hands and hugged each other.

Hundreds of people, mostly wearing the white uniform of the Nazareth Baptist Church, attended the funeral, which was closely watched by the South African and KwaZulu police.

Police vans and armoured

vehicles lined the Inanda streets, whizzing up and down near where the tense funeral was held.

Shembe, former leader the Nazareth Baptist Church - also known as Shembe church - died in a hail of bullets after two gummen burst into their Inanda home in the middle of the night more than a week ago.

The death of Shembe comes only a month after they got married. Makhaye is four months pregnant.

She told The New African at her father's home at Umlazi her family felt it would be unsafe for her to attend the funeral because of the attitude of the some members of the Shembe family and some church members.

Shembe was buried at Ekuphakameni yesterday.

Makhaye and her family paid their last respects to her husband at the mortuary af-

ter getting a court order. She took action after she was informed by staff of Dove's funeral parlour that they were under strict instructions to deny her access to her husband's body.

Fear for her life stemmed from an anonymous Zulu pamphlet distributed widely in Durban and its outskirts.

The pamphlet demands that Makhaye explains to the community why Shembe was killed. It also blames the death of Shembe on the United Democratic Front and the African National Congress.

'Lungi Makhaye and comrades must not attend the funeral of our leader,' warns the pamphlet.

Makhaye dismissed the content of the pamphlet as 'rubbish'.

'I think it is just an old trick they used when Londa's father JG Shembe died in 1976 where certain people tried to confuse issues and smear innocent people.'

She said she did not see her husband's death as politically motivated.

'On Wednesday, a day before my husband was killed he told me that a member of the church had informed him that he (the member) had been approached by someone with a bribe to kill Londa. I think they were trying to stir up the old feud between my husband and his uncle.'

Makhaye described her husband as 'very conscious of the political struggle but not in the toyi-toyi sense. He had very strong views about political issues'.

He was involved with the local youth and helped to give them direction on political issues. He also attended commemoration services like those of the slain Griffiths and Victoria Mxenge. He was also a staunch supporter of the Congress of Traditional Leaders (Cotralesa).

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Mourners at the funeral of Londa Shembe carry his coffin to the grave. Pic: Pax Magwaza (Afrapix)



George Sithole

George Sithole threatens Kwazulu MP with legal action

By Ratora Rangongo GEORGE SITHOLE, an Umlazi community leader and ex-Robben Islander, has threatened to sue Kwazulu legislative assembly member Winnington Sabelo for defamation.

The threat follows statements made by Sabelo after a school committee meeting at the Mafumbuka Junior Secondary School recently.

Sithole had reported to the school committee on a students meeting where students complained about having to buy school uniforms and alleged sexual harassments of female students by teachers.

After the meeting he was allegedly insulted by Sabelo.

Sithole said he was also insulted on another occasion after he brought a consultant to the school to advise the school on its financial affairs.

He was informed by the principal, Christopher Ndabezitha, that the school owed R30 000, which had to be paid back at R10 000 annually. The consultant was brought to the school and a verbal confrontation with Sabelo took place.

Sabelo has now also threatened to sue Sithole if he did made about him.

* Meanwhile, three smear pamphlets with the same typefaces have been distributed in Durban townships. One of the pamphlets bears Sithole's name, and was written in abusive and racist language. 'Nonqawuses like George Sithole were bribed by Indians and whites to destroy black education,' said the

It also questioned the involvement of Indians and whites in the democratic movement.

Another pamphlet blames the African National Congress and the United Democratic Front for the death of Rev Londa Shembe. Sithole said the pamphlets were handed over to experts for examination.

Ongoye closed following student boycott

By Sithembiso Sangweni

All hostels at the University of Zululand were closed by the administration on Friday after students boycotted classes in an attempt to force out Fedics, a catering company responsible for food in the dining halls.

The stayaway followed a four-day food boycott by students who said Fedics food was rotten and not fit for human

consumption'.

Thousands of students were left stranded on Friday when the university closed the hostels.

Closure

A student representive council spokesperson, Adolfus Nongobela, said the closure of the hostels caused untold hardship to thousands of students who have no alternative accommodation near the campus.

Many packed their belongings and went to their homes in different parts of the country, he said.

Falled

The university's public relations officer, Carl de Villiers, told The New African the hostels were closed because students had failed to attend classes.

However, he said that the classrooms remained open and lecturers were still on duty to offer lectures.

Nongobela said: We have asked the Fedics management on several occasions to change its menu but it has, up to now, not appreciated our concern.

'The students preferred to starve or cook for themselves rather than continue to est Fedics food, he said.

Seeing that the food boycott had no effect, the students started boycotting classes on Wednesday.

De Villiers confirmed that students were dissatisfied with food served by Fedics.

He said the problem facing the university was the lack of alternative firms in the area which could cater for the vast number of students.

UDF official subjected to death threats

New African Reporter

THE CAMPAIGN of harassment against Kagiso Trust and United Democratic Front offical Yunus Mahomed continued this week when another death threat was issued against him.

Mahomed received a copy of an advert by the National Association of Democratic Lawyers (Nadel), of which he is a member, with his picture inside a noose.

His partner, Dhaya Pillay, said the picture was the one used in an advert in a daily newspaper earlier this month thanking members of the public for flowers at his funeral.

The two incidents are the latest in Mahomed's long history of being a victim of harrassment.

In a memorandum to the Natal Law Society, Nadel and international lawyers' organisations, Mahomed said he had been harassed since 1973, when he was first detained.

Four years later he was charged with possession of

unlawful literature, but was acquitted.

In November 1981 he was detained for five months under the Terrorism Act and the following year he was held after a protest at the Durban City Hall, but charges against him were withdrawn.

In 1985 he was detained under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act during the Pietermaritzburg treason trial, in which he was part of the defence team.

Last October he was re-

stricted in terms of the emergency regulations. This year he obtained a court interdict against the security police to regain computer equipment they had confiscated from him.

In March he discovered two security policemen unlawfully searching the Trust's offices at night and was allegedly abducted by them before escaping.

The Natal Indian Congress, of which he is a member, held an executive meeting to discuss the issue and condemn 'the terrorism to which Mr Mahomed is being subjected.'

'The perpetrators of these deeds are warned that their activities have incurred the anger not only of the Indian community, but of the entire democratic movement.'

The spokesperson said the NIC would attempt to meet the Minister of Law and Order to discuss the matter and would visit foreign embassies and the European Economic Community (EEC), which funds Kagiso.

'Warlord' David Ntombela speaks

Question: What you have done for the community that made them realise your importance and vote for you in the Kwazulu elections?

Ntombela: The community have the right to choose whom they like. They know what I have done for them.

Question: But, what you have done for your community?

Ntombela: I stand against schools' boycotts perpetrated by the UDF hooligans who don't want to go to school. I have set a good example in KwaMncane, where I am an induna - no school is closed there. In 1986 Pietermaritzburg as a whole was known as an area which supported the slogan 'liberation first and education later'. I stood against that from its beginning.

Question: How did you prevent it from spreading to your area?

Ntombela: I called meetings and explained my view which says 'education DAVID NTOMBELA, a well-known Inkatha stalwart and an induna of kwaMncane next to Elandskop outside Pietermaritzburg, was recently elected a member of the KwaZulu legislative assembly.

He is better known as a feared Inkatha 'warlord' following allegations by community members that he was involved in the killing of a number of 'amaqabane' (youths supporting the United Democratic Front) in the strife-torn Pietermaritzburg region.

He was twice court interdicted, and charged for the murder of Zandile Mkize, a 10-year-old girl, and her mother Maqhilika (45). Charges were later withdrawn pending the outcome of an inquest. It is not yet known whether the attorney-general will prosecute.

S'KHUMBUZO MIYA interviewed Ntombela.

first'. Hooligans came to disturb students at kwaMncane High Schoolit is the pupils themselves who beat and chased them out of the school. Three were caught and handed to the police.

Question: What you have done for your community?

Ntombela: I have implemented the importance of agriculture and as a result most of the people in my area have vegetable

gardens. KwaMncane is the only place with electricity in the whole Elandskop area.

Question: I have read a lot about you in newspapers. What is your comment on those articles?

Ntombela: Newspapers have smeared me as a killer. The same thing was done by 'amaqabane' in pamplets. They do not approach me directly, but get wrong information from my enemies. I am against killing. I don't have even a single killing

court charge.

Question: I heard you have forced people to join Inkatha. Is it true?

Ntombela: In my area people are free to join any organisation they like. I am against forced recruitment and I don't force people to attend my meetings but it is the people who flock to them.

Question: Are there any Azapo or UDF members in your area?

Ntombela: No, my people trust Inkatha. No one has been killed for his/her non-Inkatha beliefs.

Question: What, do you think, can end this bloodshed between your organisation and UDF sympathisers in Pietermaritzburg?

Ntombela: I am saying it again, all organisations must have leaders. If the UDF can have important leaders to negotiate with us, peace will come, because I believe what the Zulus say: imihlambi yezinkomo engenabelusi iyotheleka eweni (herds of cattle without shepherds will fall over



"Warlord" David Ntombela leaves the Supreme Court after an interdict was brought against him. Pic: Cedric Nunn

the cliff).

Last year we tried our best to commit ourselves with the Inkatha/Cosatu peace accord and we held meetings explaining it to our members, but Cosatu did not hold one.

What surprises me is that I am like this, but I don't

know UDF leaders. Our leader, uMntwana (Buthelezi), is known.

Question: What led to all this bloodshed?

Ntombela: Youths are inspired by a minority to perpetuate violence, but they later find themselves dying alone.

Peace talks stalemate

By William Harper

AS the killing continues unabated in Natal's war-torn townships - with more than 150 people killed in the Pietermaritzburg region alone since the beginning of the year - attempts to end the bloody conflict have been set back by at least another three months.

On Thursday Inkatha president Gatsha Buthelezi questioned the need for a high-level peace conference, initiated by archbishop Denis Hurley, which was hoped would get the warring sides together after numerous abortive attempts to secure peace.

He said the intiative would have to be discussed at the Inkatha central committee meeting on April 29 and then at its general conference in June.

Hurley, bishop Michael Nuttall, prof Pieter Booysen, bishop Stanley Magoba and Tongaat-Hulett chairperson Chris Saunders have all agreed to serve on a committee of convenors for the conference.

Buthelezi said the church had no impressive track record in ending the violence and added that the parties concerned needed to get together as the leaders of warring factions and talk to the people involved in the violence first. 'We can then have any number of high-profile consecration meetings with bishops and clergy after that,' he said.

Buthelezi's comments came days after Inkatha leader and Vulindlela (Edendale) MP Velaphi Ndlovu publicly criticised the intiative and the convenors.

Ndlovu - who took part in earlier talks as a represenative of Inkatha - questioned Hurley's authority in presenting Inkatha a list of convenors.

He asked whether the convenors represented the United Democratic Front (UDF), the Congress of South Africa Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the African National Congress (ANC).

Ndlovu also questioned whether Inkatha should accept Hurley's 'dictatorship' in presenting the list.

Despite Inkatha's objections to the intiative, Cosatu has expressed its support for it and the convenors.

In a statement this week Cosatu president Elijah Barayi said: 'Cosatu and the UDF affiliates wish to state our full support for the proposed peace conference to end violence in Natal.

'We fully support and encourage those who wish to convene the conference.

'Our organisations have

been aware of the urgent need for peace and have reached agreement on the necessity of all organisations, including Inkatha, to be part of a peace conference.'

Barayi said this process of consultation had been difficult because of the restrictions on the UDF and called on all organisations to support the initiative to ensure its success.

He said he had sent a memorandum to the convenors and to Buthelezi which addressed points raised by the Inkatha leaders.

'It is our sincere hope that this will pave the way to a successful conference,' he said.

However, in responding to this memorandum, Buthelezi said on Thursday that Cosatu and the UDF were on record as saying they would not talk to Inkatha.

He further called on Cosatu to withdraw a recent dossier it had prepared alleging collusion between the SAP and Inkatha, although Cosatu leaders have said that the dossier was aimed at the SAP and not Inkatha.

* On Friday Buthelezi made public a letter from reverend Atholl Jennings, an intermediary in trying to set up the conference, which THE MEN AFRICAN

showed that the original initiative for the conference had come from Cosatu and had the full support of the UDF and the ANC.

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Natal political killings increase

POLITICAL killings in Pietermaritzburg are increasing despite state claims that the situation is under control.

According to research conducted by the Centre for Adult Education at the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg, 168 people were killed in the Natal midlands between the beginning of the year and the end of March.

In December last year 87 people were killed - the greatest number of deaths over a single month since the height of the war which ravaged the townships at the end of 1987.

Between March 31 and Wednesday April 13 - a period of not even two weeks - nine people were killed and 32 injured in violence throughout the region, most of it in the Pietermaritzburg/Howick area.

According to the research, this brings to almost 1 300 the number of people killed in the midlands since January 1987.

Countless thousands have been left homeless and millions of rands in property destroyed.

John Aitchison, head of the centre, said there had been a continual rise in the level of violence in the region.

'What is happening is that the polarising effect on the groupings is actually being deeply ingrained,' Aitchison said.

This, he said, was leading to a situation where killings were leading to revenge killings and these to even more revenge killings.

Aitchison said the comments by state president PW Botha last month that the violence was declining made in response to a call by bishop Michael Nuttall for a commission of inquiry - showed Botha to be 'misled'.

'When 50 people are being killed a month for political reasons you cannot describe the situation as calm,' he said.

UPDATE ON KILLINGS IN THE NATAL MIDLANDS:

April 1 to April 10: 9

March: 50

Feb: 59 Jan: 59

Dec: 87

1988 total: 691 1987 total: 397



The Pietermaritzburg violence continues - Ashdown youth buried their leader last month. Pic: Clint Zasman

Cotralesa mobilises chiefs

By Sipho Khumalo

THE Congress of South African Traditional Leaders (Cotralesa) says it has organised a 'substantial number' of chiefs in Natal and the response to the organisation was 'amazing', a senior official of the organisation-said.

Cotralesa, whose aim is to 'locate traditional leaders in the mass democratic movement', started organising in Natal late last year at the request of Natal chiefs during the height of violence in the region.

The chief minister of KwaZulu, Gatsha Buthelezi, recently warned against the party politicisation of traditional leaders, saying it held 'severe threats' for all members of the legislative assembly.

About Cotralesa he said: 'They do not intend mobilising traditional leaders for any other reason than to clobber me.'

Cotralesa was set up by the national executive of the ANC in 1986, he said.

However, these charges were dismissed by Siphiwe Thusi, a member of Cotralesa's four-member secretariate, who said the democratic movement had always been viewed as a threat by Buthelezi.

'We are just organising traditional leaders and we believe that is a legitimate move. Buthelezi always attacks democratic structures like the UDF and Cosatu whom he calls an ANC front.'

Born out of the resistance against the KwaNdebele independence in 1986, Cotralesa has spread to Venda, Gazankulu, Lebowa, KwaNgwane, Transkei, Ciskei Bophuthatswana and lately to Natal.

Thusi, who is organising in Natal, told The New African last week that Cotralesa was getting a good reception in the province.

Many chiefs in the region feel isolated from the people and are being used by the 'system' to enforce obnoxious legislation like forced removals.

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'We are organising chiefs, headmen and indunas with the aim of bringing them closer to the people and the mass democratic movement. Cotralesa has set up a working committee in Natal. 'The response is amazing and chiefs are excited to have an organisation to locate them in the struggle,' said Thusi.

'Everybody is free to do what they want to do in my area'

CHIEF Mhlabunzima Maphumulo is an impressive man.

He carries himself with an air of outspoken but down-to-earth self-confidence which both complements and belies his shrewd mind.

When he speaks, you listen, because of the solidity and level-headedness for which he has become both renowned and notorious.

He is casual and serious at the same time, a trendily-dressed modern man who takes his traditional role as the 'umbrella' of his people more seriously than anything else.

Recruitment

In banning all recruitment drives by political organisations in his seat of Maqonqo, he has trodden on a multitude of political toes.

However, he claims a massive popular following from the 30 000 people living in is region - 10 000 of them refugees with a wide variety of political beliefs.

'I need no protection,' said the 39-year-old leader who has become known for his stubborn refusal to allow his area to become a killing ground.

'I move around by

myself. I travel to Sobantu, Edendale, Ashdown and Imbali freely. I am one of those chiefs who do not have boundaries - others can't go to areas outside their own.

'So many people have phoned me, have met me in the streets, and they are saying to me 'keep it up, we are backing you 100 percent'. These are people of all political affiliations who see me stopping the violence.'

Neutrality

Maphumulo says neutrality is the key to keeping peace. He has been a chief since since 1973.

'I told my people that if you are UDF or Azapo or Inkatha or ANC or PAC, don't go out and force other people to join.

Violence

'Nobody is allowed to go at night and knock at other people's houses and tell them to join - the very thing that started the violence.

'Everybody is free to do what they want in my area. If this were applied elsewhere, surely we were not going to have the problems we are having now.

'If the chiefs did not

take sides we would not have this problem.

'If a leader is taking sides, he is unlikely to control the situation because he is siding with one and when you side with one you can't give the other a fair hearing.'

The homeland governments, he said, intimidated chiefs into a position where they could no longer be neutral.

Voted

He complained that Inkatha, despite the ban on recruitment, had attempted to recruit in his area recently but a meeting of 10 000 of his constituents had voted to keep the recruiters out.

'While things remain like this there will be no recruitment - when things have cooled down we will allow Azapo, Inkatha, the UDF or whoever to recruit.'

Maphumulo's views and his adherence to them have brought him in conflict with Inkatha leadership since the 1970s.

In 1978 the KwaZulu government suspended his chieftainship, but he took the matter to the Supreme Court and was reinstated.

In October 1983 he was assaulted during the open-

of the new KwaZulu legislative assembly (KLA).

He then stopped participating in the KLA, but resumed his seat after Roger Sishi, the mayor of Mpumalanga, interceded between him and Buthelezi...

Community

Then last year he resigned his seat after being granted a bursary to study community development and adult education in England in October.

'The homeland governments are going to be a thing of the past in a year or twothey have realised that the people of South Africa want one parliament. They (the homeland structures) are a waste of time and money and are dividing the people.'

'I hope that when I come back things will have changed. We are all looking forward to Cape Town (parliament).'

'I told my people that if you are UDF or Azapo or Inkatha or ANC or PAC, don't go out and force other people to join.'

Buthelezi's 'response'

IN an attempt to obtain Buthelezi's response to Maphumulo's allegations, The New African twice faxed a summary of them to his office in Ulundi.

Both times we received faxed letters from his lawyer, Jenny Friedman.

The second fax read:
'Our client objects to your discourteous and impertinent manner, as reflected in your aforementioned letter.

'The matters raised by you have already been dealt with on numerous occasions.'

'When Chief Maphumulo's petition was handed to the State President, on approximately 7th March, 1989, Chief Maphumulo incorrectly stated in his petition that he is Chairman of the Regional Authority of the Mpumalanga District, when he was well aware that this was no longer the case.'

'In view of the fact that Chief Maphumulo intentionally made an allegation in his petition to the State President, which he knew was not accurate, our client refuses to take the matter further, and furthermore, our client declines to enter into a media debate with Chief Maphumulo.'

Buthelezi also reserved

Buthelezi also reserved his right to sue this newspaPage 6 17 April 1989

THE CITIZEN COMMENT

Why De Klerk

THE election is only going to be in September, but the parties are already beginning to shape up for the poll.

From the National Party point of view, it is going to be the F W de Klerk election.

As the new National Party leader, his more relaxed style gives promise of hope for the future, and to most voters he will be their kind of leader, strong, pragmatic, committed to quicker reform, and totally confident of himself and his policies.

Would you prefer Dr Andries Treurnicht, the Conservative Party leader, with his back to apartheid philosophy, dour, unyielding, dogmatic, the apartheidist personified?

Or would you prefer the troika of the new Democratic Party?

The representative of the country's money power, Dr Zach de Beer, described by a Prog newspaper as one of the "Anglo elite" —how could you trust him with the country's future when he could not even see to it that the PFP's interests were safeguarded in the new DP?

Dr Denis Worrall, ex-Sap, ex-Prog and ex-Nat, who quit his post as ambassador in London to provide the country with a new vision, but has given it nothing new, who couldn't get on with co-Independent Movement leader, Mr Wynand Malan, or get his own Independent Party safely off the ground?

Or Mr Wynand Malan, ex-Nat, who cares more about what the ANC and the UDF think than about winning White votes, whose chief preoccupation seems to be when next to play footsie footsie with the ANC?

Perhaps before the election is held the DP may have chosen one of the troika as the sole leader, but what difference would that make to a party that a Prog newspaper calls an "explosive anti-Nat mix"? ("DP members," it says, "are unsure whether this strange mixture of political elements will combine into a new compound or simply explode").

Party leaders, of course, don't win elections on their own — policy is the deciding factor but they do give voters a perception of what to expect if they were to win, of what kind of country we would have under their leadership, and of their own strength and inner convictions.

Adapting the question, "Would you buy a second hand car from him?" voters face the question, "Would you put your faith in him? Would you entrust your country to him?".

Although we have no doubt about the political honesty of the leaders of all three parties, we know that we ourselves would put our future in the hands of Mr De Klerk.

Each speech he has made as party leader has raised new hopes and new expectations, so that when he says, as he did last week, the climate for meaningful negotiation has im-

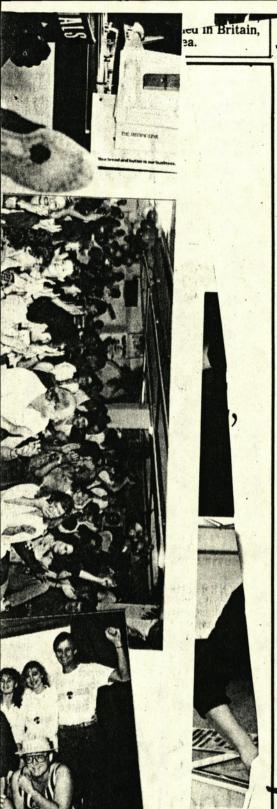
proved, the tempo has quickened, and he does not doubt there will be a breakthrough, we not only want to believe that what he says is correct but feel he is going to see that it is. When he says, "our country demands of us an about-turn from the present climate of tension and obduracy", or when he says he commits himself to seek "a South Africa free from domination and oppression in whatever form," we feel that it is not just rhetoric, but that these are the sincere views and objectives of a new leader who has faith in his country and his ability to direct it.

People will want to support the party of which he is leader because they believe he is the man to lead the country, because they want to give him the chance to put his policies into practice, and because they know that the reforms of his predecessor as party leader will be in good hands and will be speeded up.

By contrast, Dr Treurnicht will appeal only to those who want to go back to the days of apartheid when, as Boksburg and Carletonville have shown, the cost even of petty apartheid is that businesses in a town can be ruined.

As for the Democratic Party, whoever leads the party — troika or single leader — it is such a conglomeration of conflicting interests that its image is bound to be a poor one.

Of the leaders, then, the one who is bound to inspire the most confidence is going to be Mr De Klerk, the right leader of the party and country for the times in which we live.



A LARGE number of books, academic articles and other studies have been published in recent years about Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Inkatha. Most of them are highly partisan, either supporting or opposing the Chief Minister of KwaZulu and his strategies.

The underlying bias of most of these analyses has resulted in them being not very satisfactory, often revealing more about the authors' orientation than anything else.

One of the latest of these studies — "Buthelezi, The Biography," by Jack Shepherd Smith — is also the least satisfactory. It is bad enough that the book is little more than a praise song of Buthelezi, but it is also riddled with odd claims and statements, apart from the occasional inaccuracy.

shepherd Smith sets out to argue that Buthelezi is "one of the most remarkable men SA has ever produced" and that "he has advanced the black cause as no other leader has ever managed to".

Overboard

That goal in itself is fair enough, as the author obviously believes this is the case. But he goes overboard in trying to prove his case.

For instance, on page 81, he writes: "Today he (Buthelezi) has emerged in the undisputed number two position in South African politics, second only to the State President but head and shoulders above everyone else."

This extraordinary statement has, since the book was written, been disproved in fact by the elevation of F W de Klerk as the heir apparent to P W Botha's throne. But, that aside, "undisputed number two position?" With that wave of the wand, Nelson Mandela, Andries Treurnicht, Barend du Plessis, Thabo Mbeki, Cyril Ramaphosa and others are dismissed from contention.

Shepherd Smith says Buthelezi has got "under the skin of two powerful

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SENE SAGUE

Praise song for Chief Buthelezi

BUTHELEZI, THE BIOGRAPHY, by Jack Shepherd Smith (Hans Strydom Publishers) HOLY

leaders, B J Vorster and P W Botha, in a way that no one managed to before or since". Certainly, Buthelezi has got under the skin of both Vorster and Botha, but whether he had no more so than De Transpired to the part of t done more so than Dr Treurnicht, Dr Ferdi Hartzenberg, Archbishop Des-mond Tutu, Dr Allan Boesak and others is questionable.

The author also seems determined to show Buthelezi and the Zulus are better than the leaders of the Ciskei and Transkei homelands and the Xhosas. For instance, on page 179: "Dr Koornhof was to find out that the Zulus weren't tame Transkeians or compliant Ciskeians". Really.

compliant Ciskeians". Really.

This obsession leads to inaccuracies. Shepherd Smith says: "The people of Transkei and what is now called Ciskei were the same nation in the same way that Zulus living in KwaZulu and Zulus living in KwaZulu and Zulus living in KwaMashu, or even Durban, are the same nation. They are all Xhosas." Apart from the interesting concept of "nation," the people in those homelands aren't all Xhosas: there are sizeable Sotho-speaking communities in both Transkei and Ciskei, and a significant Zulu-speaking minority a significant Zulu-speaking minority in Transkei.

Shepherd Smith also says the black affairs department has been called "Native Affairs, Bantu Affairs, Administration and Develop-ment and other equally euphemistic names like Plural Relations and, fi-



☐ BUTHELEZI . . . SA's No two?

nally, Separate Development". However, it has never been called "Administration and Development" or "Separate Development," and is labelled today as "Co-operation and Development"

Such inaccuracies detract from what should have been an important book. Worse still, the book does less than credit to Chief Buthelezi.

The various studies of both Buthe-

lezi and Inkatha emphasise that they are significant actors on the South African scene who cannot be ignored by anyone. The most important issue of dispute in these studies is whether they are, basically, agents of change or agents of broad government strat-egies. However, Shepherd Smith does not seriously attempt to answer the questions.

For instance, apart from quoting from a review of another recent book "An Appetite for Power, Buthelezi's Inkatha and the Politics of 'Loyal Resistance'," by Gerhard Mare and Georgina Hamilton (Ravan), he simply ignores the issues and criticisms raised by them. One wonders if he

even read their book.

They argue: "At a time when organisations striving for a democratic SA struggle to overcome the racial and ethnic divisions that have served apartheid SA so well, Inkatha continues to exploit these differences and mobilise under ethnic calls."

Reinforced

Despite Buthelezi's protestations to the contrary, the Shepherd Smith book tends to reinforce claims that Inkatha is, essentially, a Zulu movement.

The Mare/Hamilton study is somewhat academic and is often heavy going, but it is a serious and important contribution to the debate about Buthelezi and Inkatha. And it

deserves serious analysis.
Instead, Shepherd Smith uses large extracts of Buthelezi's speeches and statements, separated by often questionable text, including extensive and somewhat boring details

about Buthelezi's overseas trips.

To this extent, it will be fairly useful for reference purposes, but it does not contribute much to a greater understanding and analysis of the Buthelezi strategies. Indeed, the de-finitive study of Buthelezi remains to be written.

BARRY STREEK



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ter can say. It he moment of its basic asroved by the a constructive decline of the ident Botha's

Seye on SA

THE DEFENCE OF WHITE POWER - South African foreign policy under pressure, by Robert Scott Jaster (Macmillan)

Jaster tends to get his facts right, but his judgments are subtly — sometimes seriously — swayed by an Americo-centric view of the world, amount-ing almost to ideology. The disclosure in the Ren-amo diaries of Louis Nel's surreptious missions to Mozambique he interprets in the light of American experience with Iran and the Contras, but there is more to it than strained comparisons.

For example, he foresees (because he cannot envisage flexibility in Pretoria) that the Angolan issue will become "a more serious issue in SA's domestic politics in the years immediately ahead".

Unlucky timing? Not entirely. His view is based in part on the fact that an Afrikaans newspaper called Angola "SA's Vietnam"; a comment which, presumably, evokes in his mind echoes of the Washington Post in 1969.

Similarly, he sees the co-operation among SA's neighbours to restore the railway line through Mozambique as an indication of the increasing isolation of SA — just at the point when Pik Botha is building a new set of bridges to Maputo. Unlucky timing again? Hardly. On the following page he thinks Zimbabwe and Mozambique may actually become more receptive to South African economic overtures.

It's no wonder the CIA fell on hard times. KFO

THE BLURB on this slim volume describes the author as a consultant with the Ford Foundation, a former visiting fellow and research associate at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in Lagran, a former fellow of Harvard's Center for International Affairs, and much else.

It fails to mention that he was, and for all we know may still be, an employee of the American Central Intelligence Agency, formerly assigned to the South African desk, and that his writings on SA have at times in the past served the policy requirements of his country's secret service.

Whether this book does so, only Jaster can say. It is in any event a book out of date at the moment of its publication, which comes just as its basic assumptions about SA are being disproved by the Namibian settlement, the revival of a constructive relationship with Mozambique, the decline of the securocrats and the fading of President Botha's militaristic dominance.

US eye on SA out of focus

THE DEFENCE OF WHITE POWER — South
African foreign policy under pressure,
by Robert Scott Jaster (Macmillan)

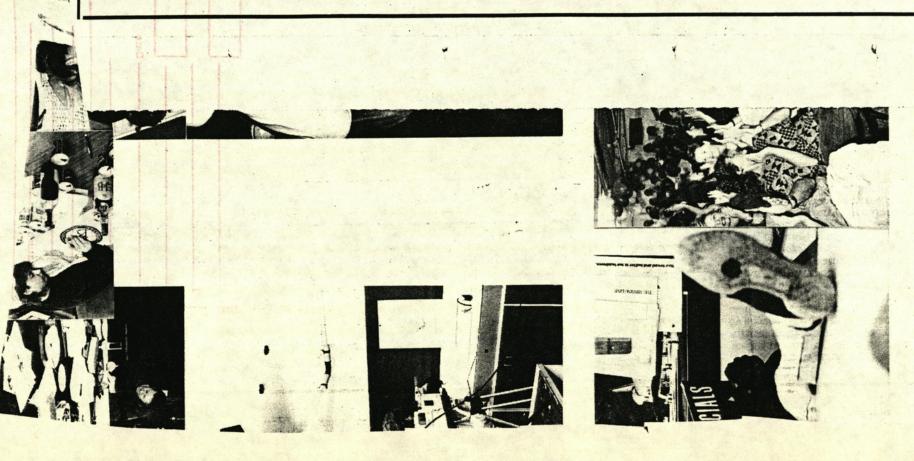
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It's no wonder the CIA fell on hard times. KFO



Finance.

Lesotho looks to \$2 billion dam for an economic uplift

Raising \$1 billion in foreign loans would be enough of a headache for any developing country in today's difficult markets.

For Lesotho, so poor that it depends almost entirely on concessional aid, it is a major challenge.

Yet, the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) is preparing to raise credits of up to this amount as part of the finance for its ambitious development scheme under which it will eventually supply water at a rate of 70 cubic metres a second to the Vaal triangle.

Much of the money will come from the World Bank and official export credit agencies, but there will also be a large dose of commercial bank finance.

Raising it has been complicated by the involvement of South Africa as backer of the scheme and its sole foreign customer.

The scheme involves the construction of a 180 metre-high dam at Katse on the Malibamatso river, the largest such dam built anywhere in the world for more than two decades.

Series of tunnels

When it is completed in 1996 at an estimated cost of \$2 billion, water from the Senqu river system, which at present flows south-east out of Lesotho towards the Atlantic, will be diverted north in a series of tunnels down through the mountains into the Orange River.

The project has been under consideration for 30 years, but only now has it begun to take shape.



In the hope of a slice of the action, contractors from such far away places as Turkey and Taiwan are lining up with their SAand European competitors to register for bids by the cut-off date in May.

All have been told that financing arrangements will be crucial to the award of the work. For Standard Chartered Merchant Bank, retained by LHDA as financial advisers to the scheme, there is a particular challenge: it has to persuade potential lenders to stump up long-term funds for a project whose sole customer

will be South Africa.

To skirt the problem, it has devised a complex financing structure under which the World Bank will rank on an equal footing with other offshore lenders.

Essentially, there will be four separate sources of funds for the project.

The World Bank itself has offered \$50 million, but hopes are it will eventually lend up to \$100 million.

On present estimates, export credit agencies should put up some \$275 million, with additional funds coming from national aid donors. South Korea and Tai-

wan are to be asked to consider aid finance.

The balance will be met with offshore commercial bank finance and loans in rands raised through SA banks with a Pretoria government guarantee.

How these two last components will be split depends on who wins the final contract.

The water supply scheme is a labourintensive project which will carry a large amount of local costs.

Lesotho's currency, the loti, is fully backed by the rand, with which it stands on a par. Especially if most of the suppliers are South African, it would make sense for the bulk of the financing to be in rands.

Yet, LHDA is determined to raise a large portion of the local costs in off-shore currencies, not least because even so-called local costs will place an indirect burden on the rand-area balance of payments. Machinery has to be bought by local suppliers and fuel has to be imported to run it.

Under a treaty signed between SA and Lesotho in 1986, South Africa has assumed responsibility for the costs, including debt-service in any currency of that part of the project relating to water transfer.

Lesotho will bear responsibility for an associated hydroelectric power scheme to be financed mostly with aid money and will end its almost total dependency on South Africa for power supplies.

For lenders, this means that the risk carries a basic South African flavour, even though it is actually the LHDA that is raising the money.

To distance the financing from both the economic and political problems connected with SA loans, a trust fund is to be established in the UK.

This fund will receive debt-service payments from South Africa and channel them on a pari passu basis to all lenders. One result will be to free lenders

of any direct commercial relationship with South Africa.

The US government, normally very strict in this regard, has indicated it is

a structure that will allow the project to be considered for both Eximbank credits and aid. All creditors will be treated equally by the fund.

South Africa, which already has a treaty obligation to make debt-service payments available, will automatically fall foul of both export credit agency lenders and the World Bank if it falls into arrears.

Despite SA's debt problem, it has always serviced export credit agency debt on time. Although it is not itself a borrower from the World Bank, it is a member of that organisation and is unlikely to want to incur the opprobrium a default would bring.

The signs are that this structure has proved adequate to generate some real interest from commercial banks whose participation is vital.

Preferred banks

LHDA has been able to appoint a number of preferred banks to study the project: Banque Nationale de Paris and Banque Indosuez in France, Dresdner Bank in Germany and Hill Samuel in the UK.

Soon it will nominate a bank to advise a strong contingent of Italian bidders, although this will not be an Italian institution.

There will always be some who regard the whole scheme as a back-door way of allowing South Africa to regain access to world capital markets.

But the project's promoters say that it will bring significant benefits to Lesotho, too.

Water is one of its few resources. It will be able, for the first time, to turn it into cash in the form of a regular flow of a more than \$60 million equivalent a year in royalty payments from South Africa.

Then there is the additional economic growth such a large project will generate.

Finally, it will no longer be hostage to the whims of SA's Electricity Supply Commission for its power supplies. — Financial Times.

Maggie: virago with allure

This is the first of a crop of books to mark Mrs Thatcher's 10th anniversary in power. I doubt if it will be bettered.

As a political biography it is superb; Hugo Young has used the privileged insight and information of the political columnist to fashion a remarkable portrait of the most partisan, embattled prime' minister of modern times, one who has transformed our lives, but failed to capture our hearts.

He will be accused of being obsessed by Thatcher's personality, at the expense of the deeper currents carrying her revolution forward. But he is right to be. Without Thatcher there would have been no Thatcherite revolution. It would have crumbled away at the first sign of trouble.

Satisfying sketches

Not that the author neglects the major and minor characters in the drama; there are satisfying sketches of the self-immolating Keith Joseph. the world-weary James Prior, the lugubrious Francis Pym. Geoffrey Howe is aptly called "the inexorable tortoise of late twentieth-century Conservatism"; Willie Whitelaw. "the chief instrument for the neutering of her enemies". (I don't remember, though, John Nott for his "intellectual brilliance and complex mind". Who now remembers him at all?)

But the focus throughout is on Thatcher herself. To Young she is the warrior queen, a Boadicea in her courage, and Elizabeth I in her shrewdness and parsimony. She is the practical heroine. To have created a convincing story on the basis of such a stereotype is Young's greatest achievement. It has nothing to do with being a Thatcherite;

One of us: a Biography of Margaret Thatcher by Hugo Young (Macmillan) Reviewed by Robert Skidelsky, whose book Thatcherism came out in January.



everything with understanding how certain things came to pass.

What cannot be denied Thatcher is the scale of her deeds. She vanquished the Argentinians. She smashed the power of Arthur Scargill. She slew the dragon of the GLC. She scythed her way through the civil service like a "whirling dervish". She out-argued the grandees of the EC, helped, as Roy Jenkins remarked, by being "almost totally

impervious to how much she offends other people." Inflation is the one enemy she has failed fully to master. She has been called a lucky politician because she won so often; to which she could well reply, like the goose in EB White's Charlotte's Web, "Luck has nothing to do with this; it was good management and

But she has also received something which, historically, may rank higher than all these. She put British capitalism, for the first time, on a

popular basis. The mechanism was a massive redistribution of property, not from the rich to the poor, but from the state to private individuals. There are a million-and-a-half extra houseowners; there are now as many private shareholders as trade unionists. She used a socialist mechanism to kill off old-fashioned socialism. And while we may feel the time was ripe for this development, she actually got the job done. If the state-owned economies of Eastern Europe come to be largely

privatised, as I expect, she will deserve some of the credit for blazing the trail.

The doer of these deeds described herself to Young as a "normal, ordinary person". Ordinary she is not; uninteresting she may be. She works very hard; she is clever, in a ferociously forensic way, but her mind is not speculative or reflective; it is filled with certainties, not complex-

ities. shows no humour, at least in public.

She lacks the gift of tongues. She exemplifies the domestic virtues. Intellectuals cannot emphathise with her commonplaces. They dislike, much of what power she has done.



course. Arthur Scargill: his smashed.

but dislike her personality more. Even her intellectual and artistic endeavours - "compared with Callaghan a personification of the higher sensibilities" writes Young - make it easier for them to condescend to her.

If Thatcher represented normality, it was the normality of the suburban housewife, so much at odds with fashionable feminism. Young is especially sharp on the "gender factor" in Thatcher's appeal - or lack of it. She is always immaculately dressed and made-up - something which provokes peculiar horror in university women. Lady Warnock found her "packaged together in a way that's not entirely vulgar, just low".

She caused mayhem in political clubland: upper-class men simply don't know how to handle a bossy. argumentative woman who makes personal remarks: "Nigel, get your hair cut". (Her propensity to run against her cabinets was not least of the privileges she claimed for her own sex.)

But, as Young notes, "there was another side to the virago, her capacity to allure". The "sexual chemistry" she established, not just with some politicians and administrators but with World leaders such s Ron-

ald Reagan, was a potential political asset. And there are certain men in her circle who would not, one thinks, have become so prominent under a male prime minister.

Above all, Thatcher never hid her belief that women are better than men at getting things done. She brought to government "the tendency of the indefatigable woman to suppose that nothing would be done right, unless she personally saw to it". "The cocks may crow, but it's the hen that lays the egg," I heard her proclaim at a private dinner party in 1987. Men are the talkers, the dreamers; women are the doers. Despised by feminists, she has rewritten the history of the sex war.

How will she rate? Ten years after she came to power, Young is no more willing than most to commit himself. Her relationship with



Chancellor Lawson: "Nigel, get your hair cut".

the British has always been equivocal: never has a populist prime minister been so unpopular, an admired leader so little loved. (De Gaulle, an 11year ruler, is the nearest modern equivalent). There is no question of the future of Thatcherism.

Economists debate whether there has been an "economic miracle". Certainly most people are much better off than they were 10 years ago. But will it last?

Then there is the fact that the British have remained obdurately anti-Thatcherite in their values. This nation resents being put on its mettle — except in wartime. But Thatcher cannot rule in any other way. 'She is too restless to settle down. Her revolution has to go on. "So much still to be done," one can hear her say as she applies her vac-

uum-cleaner to her still unfinished spring-cleaning. She, one feels will not tire. The question is: will the British tire of her? — London Sunday Times

If this book is not immediately available, it can be ordered through a bookstore.

Government studies 'fiscal federalism'

By Trevor Walker

CAPE TOWN — The South African government is involved in a special study of a "fiscal federalism", the Director General of Finance, Dr Chris Stals, told a seminar held by the University of Stellenbosch Business School in Bellville on Friday.

Dr Stals told the seminar concerning economic prospects for the country over the next year: "The devolution of political power inherently requires a devolution of financial management and decentralisation of the financial decision-making process.

"Without some kind of objective financial control system the public sector can easily overspend, with a

consequent overtaxing of the economy.'

Dr Stals said once the total cake had been divided on the basis of rational norms and standards and executive decisions on needs and priorities had been taken, it could only be disruptive and counter-productive to try to add still more to expenditure programmes.

"In real terms, government expenditure must increase at a lower rate than total expenditure in the

rest of the economy.'

Professor Attie de Vries of the University of Stellenbosch said: "It would appear as if the South African business cycle is near, if not already at a peak. There are, as yet, no signs of any sharp decline in the level of economic activities."

"Mixed signals are emanating from the economy, some indicating that the slowdown has already started, while in other sectors everything points to a continuation of a higer level of activity." added Louis Geldenhuys, economist at stockbrokers George Huysamer.

"I think that cyclical forces and policy actions taken by the government thus far, are insufficient to cool the economy rapidly enough to generate a higher

savings surplus and stablise the rand.

"These are the two prerequisites in my opinion to ensure a balance of payments situation that can be handled, and reduce the upward pressure on interest rates. I am convinced that further restrictive steps will be forthcoming, because it will be dictated by the balance of payments situation.

"In the meantime, upward pressure on interest rates will remain, but because of forced action in due course, I think that the prime overdraft rates may

not exceed 20 percent in this cycle. Any material easing of rates will however, not be before late this year."

Mr Geldenhuys said not only had a relatively high rate of inflation been accommodated but he said he was afraid the official view, as expressed in the March Quarterly Bulletin by the Reserve Bank that "consumer prices will quicken further in ensuing months before probably moderating again later in 1989", might only be half true.

"Inflation is a slow, but sure process and I believe that we have a mix of circumstances at present that will unfortunately ensure that inflation will at best remain in the 16 to 16,5 range for most of 1990 as well."

Rudolf Gouws, chief economist of Rand Merchant Bank, said the world economic outlook held little joy for the gold price. Factors in the outlook for the gold price and other commodity prices showed that the overall position remained relatively poor.

Mine employees claim irregular retrenchments

By Sally Sealey

Five workers at East Rand Proprietary Mines (ERPM), claim they were retrenched while still on leave. However, a spokesman for ERPM says the workers in most cases were given ample warning of the impending retrenchments.

The workers say:

Workers, Mr Elias Ntholi, nursing assistant (four years' service), Mr Cecil Ndzube, audiometrist (9 years' service), Mr Isaac Sam-Sam, senior record clerk (12 years' service), Ms Beauty Thenjwayo, nursing assistant (four years' service), and Mr Dickson Mhlahlo, senior record clerk (10 years' service), say:

We were retrenched while on leave and without any notification. Our retrenchment benefits and long service pay were not adequate.

The workers say they were highly taxed and given false IRP5 certificates written in ink. One person was paid R3 645,90 and was taxed R1 480,30.

There are people who were

retrenched before their contracts were up. They are from places as far away as Mozambique, Transkei, Malawi and Lesotho. Those who were staying in the mine hostels, many of whom were still seeking their benefits, were chased out and were attacked by police dogs.

The workers cited a case of an elderly man who started working at ERPM in 1955 and, up until now, he has been paid only R748.

The workers also complained about ERPM's pension policy. They said workers who had been employed by the company for 10 years or more but had not reached the age of 55 were not entitled to a pension.

Management says:

The General Manager of ERPM, Mr D E J Jordaan, says:

Due to various unforseen circumstances it became necessary for the company to reduce its workforce by retrenching a number of employees.

All possible alternatives were carefully considered and the company succeeded through the employment of alternatives to reduce the number significantly.

Although the workforce was reduced by approximately 5 300, only about 470 were actually retrenched.

Regarding the specific complaints raised by employees: Mr Ntholi returned from leave on February 28. He was informed of the situation and given 30 days notice. However, Mr Ntholi elected to voluntarily resign from the service of the company on March 8. The company paid him a month's wages in lieu of notice plus his retrenchment benefits.

Mr Cecil Ndzube returned from leave on March 13. He was subsequently retrenched on March 15 but was paid a month's wages in lieu of notice. Mr Ndzube received all his retrenchment benefits due to him.

Mr Isaac Sam-Sam returned from leave on February 16 and was informed of his situation. He was retrenched on March 15 after 30 days' notice and paid full retrenchemnt benefits.

Mrs Beauty Thenjwayo was, according to our records, not on leave when the retrenchment programme was announced. She was therefore given 30 days' notice and was paid full retrenchment benefits.

Mr Dickson Mhlahlo returned from leave on February 23 and was informed of his situation. Mr Mhlahlo was subsequently retrenched on March 8, after two weeks' notice with full retrenchemnt benefits. Because he was not given the full 30 days notice, the company decided to pay Mr Mhlahlo an extra 30 days' wages in lieu of notice. To date this money has not been claimed by Mr Mhlahlo.

The company strongly denies the charge that false IRP5 forms written in ink without tax numbers were issued.

The allegation that employees have been forced out of the hostels is also denied. In fact, in certain instances, affected employees are still residing in hostels.

Concerning the unidentified employee's payment of R740, we are unable to investigate due to lack of information.

According to the Rules of the 1970 Provident Fund, monthly paid employees reach retirement at the age of 63 regardless of length of service.

The company is anxious to give its retrenched employees all the assistance it can.