

# THE NATAL WITNESSES

## 18.11.87

### Beheaded boy's killer slain — police

by YVONNE GRIMBEEK

POLICE say the man who decapitated 10-year-old Sikhumbuzo Shezi in unrest-related violence in October, has been killed.

They declined to comment further on the man's murder in Edendale.

Sikhumbuzo was decapitated on October 27 in Esigodeni by a group of men.

Police also confirmed the arrest of 144 people in connection with political violence in the townships over the last few weeks.

Seventy-three people were arrested in a crack-down which lasted from Friday until Monday night.

Three men were arrested for the murder and abduction of four men from Slangspruit on November 12. The four men, Mr Jack Kaman-dei, Mr Sunset Mzawu, Mr Bheki Mnychunu and Mr Sigele Gwamandu, were hacked to death.

One man has been arrested in connection with the abduction and murder of Mr Joseph Mhlongo in August.

Four men were arrested following the murder of prominent businessman and socialite Mr Matthew Xulu. His body was found in Henley Dam on October 30.

On Saturday, two men were arrested after two incidents of attempted murder in Edendale.

Police spokesman Captain Pieter Kitching said yesterday the arrested suspects would all appear in court soon.

The following incidents of political violence near the city were listed in the official police unrest report:

- A man was wounded and arrested when police used birdshot to disperse a group of people who had gathered illegally in Taylor's Halt.

- An Mpumuza house was damaged when it was stoned and petrol-bombed.

- A youth was abducted after the house in which he lived was petrol bombed.

Free leaders or initiative will fail, police warned

# Another 18 held on eve of peace talks

*The Natal Witness 18/11/87*

by LESLEY VAN DUFFELEN

ANOTHER 18 United Democratic Front and Cosatu members were detained yesterday — only two days before the start of crucial peace talks aimed at ending the violence in the city's townships.

A total of 38 UDF and Cosatu members have been held since Friday when two key people in the talks — UDF Natal Midlands joint secretaries Mr Martin Wittenberg and Mr Skumbuzo Ngwenya — and 13 others were arrested.

Yesterday afternoon another two key people in the peace negotiations, Mr Robbie Mkhize and Mr Kenneth Dladla were detained when police raided Cosatu House in East Street.

The police raid took place while the Chamber of Commerce, Cosatu and the UDF were discussing the first of the peace talks which were to be held tomorrow.

In a last ditch attempt to save the talks last night, the Chamber of Commerce called on the State to release the detainees in question and to act with considerable restraint at this crucial time.

It said the detention of UDF supporters on Friday and yesterday was a major obstacle to holding the first preliminary joint meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

The detentions have had a very negative effect on the peace process which had been showing clear signs of progress, said the chamber.

Mr Pierre Cronje, who was to have been involved in tomorrow's peace talks, called the police action "madness" and said he would meet with the Minister of Police "as soon as he is available".

"The only conclusion I can draw is that this is a deliberate attempt to jeopardise the peace talks," he said.

Mayor Mr Mark Cornell said he was not in a position to comment as he was unable to obtain further information from the police.

He had telephoned the police twice yesterday and on Friday last week. On all occasions the police had been polite but guarded and said any information about the detainees would have to be released by the Minister of Police.

Pietermaritzburg North NP MP Mr Danie Schutte said last night he had made inquiries and the matter was being considered in Pretoria.

Cosatu and the UDF called yesterday's detentions "the last straw" and said any peace initiative became impossible when leading members of their organisation were detained for no apparent reason.

# ENDING THE ANC MYSTIQUE NATAL WITNESS

18 / 11 / 87

based on a tacit undertaking that he will not try to mobilise mass demonstrations against the system, let alone plan violent actions. Mbeki has indeed been restrained, cautious and conciliatory in his remarks. But the ANC's *per se* armed struggle remains a major bargaining card even if, as some observers have argued, the government is stronger on the military terrain than it is in the political arena. The ANC is hardly likely to throw it away until it is in a much stronger position.

Summing up the ANC's position on armed struggle, the Commonwealth's Eminent Persons said in their report: "For the ANC to renounce violence now would be to reduce itself to a state of helplessness. There must first be sufficient indications of the South African government's readiness to negotiate the transition to non-racial sovereignty." The ANC position has not changed.

After the emergency was renewed in June the UDF's Natal president, Archie Gumede, mooted the possibility of participation by the UDF in existing political institutions as a way of mounting pressure on the government and of breaking the logjam. He was promptly repudiated by the UDF. There is no evidence that the ANC will react differently to a similar proposal from its ranks. If the government further raises the cost of hosting ANC guerrillas for neighbouring states, then these states may try to coax the ANC into opting for a political solution. Short of that possibility, however, the ANC is unlikely to forgo its guerrilla war, although it may tread warily in the immediate future for fear of jeopardising the release of Mandela and his comrades.

• With acknowledgment to *The Weekly Mail*.

## South Africa

by Pa

## Ending the ANC mystique

Natal Witness 18/11/87.

THE freeing after nearly a quarter of a century of the veteran African National Congress prisoner, Govan Mbeki, has put the release of his world renowned comrade, Nelson Mandela, firmly back on the agenda. The question now is not as much whether but when the charismatic Mandela will be freed.

Only one factor can delay the emergence from jail of Mandela in the next few months: an upsurge in the now quiescent revolt in South Africa's black townships, triggered by the return to political life of Mbeki. So far, however, there is every evidence that Mbeki (77), and the black leaders shepherding him into life outside prison, will not do anything to jeopardise the freedom of Mandela and the five ANC prisoners who were jailed for life with him at the Rivonia trial of 1964.

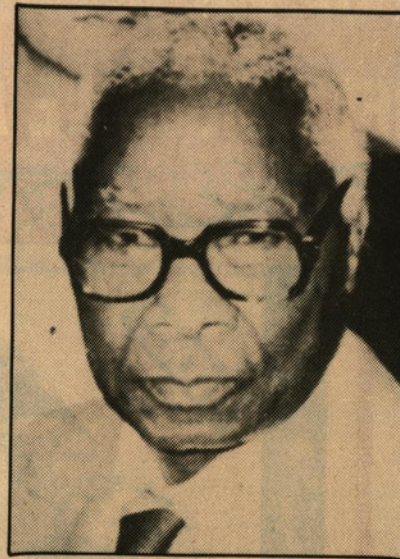
President P.W. Botha has chided the Press for speculating on when the next wave of political prisoners will follow Mbeki, charging that premature conjecture is irresponsible. But his own cabinet ministers have confirmed, with a proviso or two, that the release of Mbeki is both a trial run for the release of further political prisoners and the first move in a wider game plan.

The first and immediate aim is to re-initiate the stalled move to establish a national council. Devised as a forum where leaders of all races can draft a new constitution for all South Africans, the council has so far failed to win endorsement from a single creditable black leader. Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the 1.5-million strong Zulu-based Inkatha, has set the liberation of Mandela and the leader of the rival Pan Africanist Congress, Zeph Mothoepeng, as a pre-condition for his participation. Anxious to persuade Buthelezi to serve

on the council, the government has started to move toward fulfilling his condition. But it is doing so cautiously, testing the reaction of South Africa's black and white communities to the release of lesser known prisoners before freeing Mandela.

The government has a second, associated motive: to "demythologise" the ANC and its leaders. The ANC has been outlawed since 1960. Many of its major leaders, including the original "high command" of its underground army, Umkhonto weSizwe, have been in jail or exile since 1964. The rest have been in exile. Over the years, however, the public has not forgotten either the ANC or its imprisoned leaders. Instead, the ANC leadership has grown in stature and become shrouded in a status-enhancing mystique. The government now wants to reverse the process. In a revealing choice of phrase, the pro-government *Beeld*, said in an editorial on Mbeki's release: "The Mbeki myth has suddenly become a human who, like all citizens, must be law-abiding and thus peaceful."

De-mystification infers two developments: the re-emergence of the incarcerated ANC leaders into public life where they can make mistakes and, as a logical corollary, the unbanning of the ANC. The ban on the ANC seems to have been partially lifted, in practice if not in a strict legal sense, in Mbeki's case. He has made no bones about his commitment to the ANC and to its "revolutionary ally", the South African Communist Party. But he has not been prevented from speaking on their behalf, although the restriction prohibiting the Press from publishing his remarks is still in force. When Mbeki is joined by his colleagues — Walter Sisulu (75), a former secretary general of



Govan Mbeki

the ANC, is tipped as the next ANC man to be freed — the *de facto* lifting of the ban will become more apparent.

But although the ban may be revoked, *de facto* or *de jure*, the state of emergency is likely to be left intact. That will place the ANC in the same position as the legal, though severely harassed, United Democratic Front. The two opposition forces share a broadly common ideological approach. The national state of emergency, declared in June 1986 and renewed a year later, was imposed to contain an attempt by the ANC to fan the township revolt of 1984-1986 into a full-scale people's war or popular insurrection. Thus one government objective in the present situation, is to wean the ANC of

its long-standing commitment to "armed struggle". Conversely, it hopes to lure the ANC, or sections of it, into participation in approved structures, including the national council.

Stoffel van der Merwe, the man Botha has entrusted with a mandate to give impetus to internal negotiations with black leaders, has argued that there is no justification for the ANC's guerrilla war today. Whatever reasons the ANC may have had originally for its decision to revert to guerrilla war, these no longer hold. Van der Merwe argued in parliament. His speech might be construed as a bid to persuade the ANC to abandon its hope of winning power through revolutionary war. Another, concomitant government aim might be to split the ANC into external and internal wings, a variant of Botha's earlier attempt to separate ANC nationalists from communists.

The unfolding situation will, of course, present the ANC with difficult decisions. To function as a semi-legal movement in the minuscule areas of political freedom left by the emergency restrictions is hardly an attractive proposition. At the time of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons peace mission to South Africa in 1986, the ANC was prepared to suspend its guerrilla campaign while negotiating with Botha — on condition that troops and police were removed from the townships. Botha, however, is not offering to negotiate with the ANC now, still less to withdraw security forces from the townships. His lieutenants are merely hinting that he may be prepared to allow released ANC leaders a degree of freedom.

Botha has not extracted a formal renunciation of violence from Mbeki. But the ANC leader's release is clearly

87 11 20 17:12  
AH: INKOSI BUTHELEZI

INKATHA  
INSTITUTE LIBRARY  
P.O. BOX 2415  
DURBAN  
4000

The Natal Mercury, Wednesday, November 18, 1987, 3

# ANC editorial can be quoted, says Govt

Mercury  
Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG—The Government yesterday gave permission to quote an excerpt from the banned African National Congress mouthpiece Sechaba to back President Botha's refusal — repeated at the Transvaal Congress of the NP — to speak to the ANC.

Permission was granted by Justice Minister Koble Coetsee in terms of Section 56 (1) (c) of the Internal Security Act. He gave permission for legal possession of an editorial 'On Negotiations' in the October issue

of Sechaba.

In the editorial the ANC reaffirms its commitment to the armed struggle and to its alliance with the S A Communist Party.

Commenting on the editorial, Deputy Minister of Information Stoffel van der Merwe said yesterday there was 'no justification for the ANC policy of violence' and that 'the ANC's original reasons for its armed struggle have disappeared'.

He said the ball was in the ANC's court 'as the Government has already committed itself to peaceful development'.

'It is clear that dialogue with the ANC will serve no aim,' Mr van der Merwe said.

He said the ANC viewed dialogue as a means to 'make

way for Umkhonto we Sizwe, the military flank of the ANC, so that the struggle will be an easy one'.

The editorial noted that the ANC was being pushed in two directions 'which are in essence one direction namely anti-communism and renouncing armed struggle'.

'We are not prepared to move in any of the two,' the editorial said.

It noted that the 1984 uprising had lent the ANC prestige. It said the 'media overkill' surrounding the Dakar talks may have given the impression the ANC would be prepared to abandon the armed struggle.

'Nothing is further from the truth. The truth of the matter is that the whole question of "talks" and "talks about

talks" started unfolding in 1985 two years ago when we met businessmen. Since then we have met many and diverse forces. We are very selective on who we meet. We can't meet the AWE, Sebe, Matanzima or even Gatscha Buthelesi.

'We decide who to meet and so far we have met white businessmen and black businessmen represented by Nafcor, the democratic forces, and Afrikaner intellectuals.'

It said talks were the result of the 1984 uprising, increasing mass militancy, division within the 'white block' and reformist trends.

The editorial categorically rejected such 'soft options' as an alternative to its armed struggle, and as a betrayal of

the now established tradition of armed struggle.

'What is called "dialogue" with the racist Botha regime is turning out to be suggested monologue from the racists. We have our monologue and this revolves around such questions as armed struggle, one person one vote, the release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners, the legalisation of the ANC and the return of exiles.

'If there is to be an Indaba between the ANC and the Boers there can only be one item on the agenda, how to dismantle apartheid and transfer power to the people.

## Crack

'We are not interested in the so-called "hurtful" aspects of apartheid which by implication mean that Botha is about to "reform" apartheid. Apartheid must be abolished,' it said.

It said talks with white business and Afrikaner intellectuals should be seen as 'widening the crack on the white wall', and detaching them from 'the most reactionary clique, the Botha regime'.

'Let us make the way for Umkhonto we Sizwe a relatively easy one and these talks serve to do just that,' it concludes.