

Saturday Star

A lesson to be avoided

THERE was a sense almost of *deja vu* in the signing of the Angolan peace accord in Lisbon yesterday by the leaders of Angola's MPLA government and the Unita rebels. It recalled the agreement signed by the MPLA, Unita and the FNLA at Alvor in Portugal 16 years ago, after Portugal's withdrawal from Angola.

At Alvor the three movements agreed to set up a joint interim administration pending elections for a government. The agreement quickly collapsed as the parties sought to seize power and within weeks they were engaged in a full-scale civil war that slowly destroyed Angola's rich economy, killed thousands of its people and left the country with the world's largest population of amputees.

It ended only when the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union removed one of the driving forces behind the war — Moscow's expansionist aims — and when the Angolan parties realised that neither could achieve anything by continuing the war. All that would be achieved would be the destruction of their country.

All those lives, all that agony, all that outpouring of Russian roubles on planes, tanks and guns for the MPLA army, all of it was wasted. In the end, the parties found themselves back where they had started: sitting down at a negotiating table and trying to work out arrangements for democratic elections. The ballot, in the end, turned out to be mightier than the bullet.

As peace seemingly comes at last to Angola, hope is rising elsewhere in the conflict-ridden sub-continent. The warring parties in Mozambique have reached agreement in Rome on an agenda for peace talks aimed at securing a ceasefire and elections for a democratic government. In South Africa, apartheid is tumbling and tentative negotiations for a new, non-racial dispensation are under way — but threatened by persistent violence.

It is here that the Angolan experience presents a stark lesson for South Africa. It is simply that violence never resolves problems. Only through compromise and co-operation can differing groups reach accommodation. South Africa has only to look at the destruction, deprivation and misery that prevails in Angola today to see how important it is to avoid making the same mistake.

Key cog in wheel of peace

HE is only one cog in the reconciliation machine, not the main gear wheel.

This is the self-image of Louw Alberts, newly appointed facilitator between the Government's peace summit and other groups.

"I am one possible factor and not for one moment do I want to be seen as the spindle about which reconciliation will take place."

In modesty which is evident throughout the conversation, Dr Alberts points out that many groups are trying to achieve reconciliation at grassroots level.

Discussing his role, Dr Alberts illustrates it with rugby terminology: South Africans are entitled to retain their "ethnic provincialism" but that must also allow for a "national Springbok feeling".

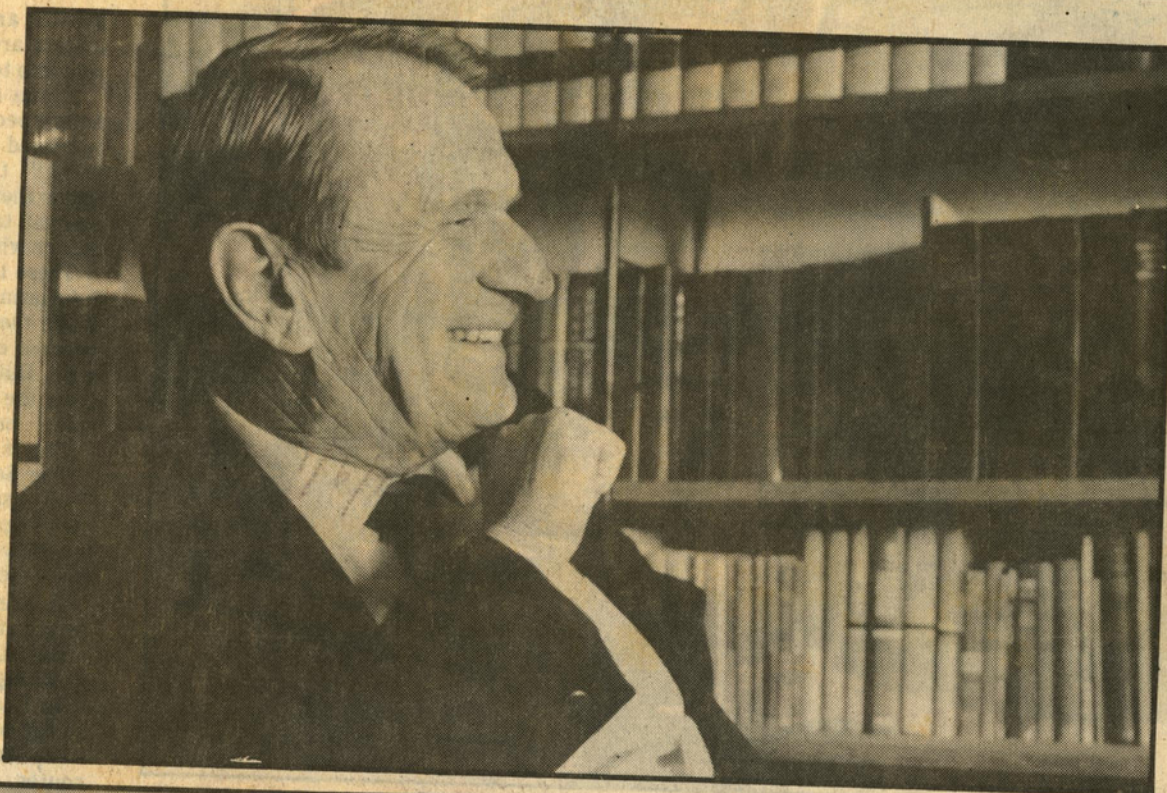
With difficulty

"You need strong provincial teams to make a Springbok team," says the man who supports Northern Transvaal "only because I live here now."

"Once you are in test match rugby you are playing for the whole of the country. Violence is everybody's enemy and this requires a test match approach."

How does he accept being sucked into politics?
With difficulty.

Dr Alberts says it is difficult for politicians to separate political from national interests and it is difficult to be objective in democratic systems. One should, however, be prepared to sacrifice one's personal viewpoints for



● Report: ESTHER WAUGH

● Picture: JON HRUSA

PEACE FACILITATOR: Dr Louw Alberts, the low-key key-man in the Government's peace summit.

the sake of group or national interests.

Dr Alberts reads extensively. Next to his chair in his study, which overlooks Pretoria, there is a stack of books he hopes to read soon. His bookshelves overflow

with books on religion and philosophy "but there are some stories too" he says, pointing to several books by Louis L'Amour half-hidden by a filing cabinet.

He has recently widened his reading to include books on group and human relationships.

Ask Dr Alberts about his academic background and he says it is all in his CV. He does not bother to mention that he has been awarded three honorary doctorates, two in the same year in different disciplines.

On the role of the church Dr Alberts agrees

it could do a fair amount.

Two areas he expanded on were the informal education sector and health, especially Aids.

The biggest contribution against Aids was on the level of moral behaviour and the church was one body better equipped than most to make a con-

tribution on this level.

Dr Alberts says he chose to study physics because it comprised the principles of nature. A knowledge of these principles was as necessary as reading Shakespeare.

"It is fascinating comparing the reading of the created world with the

16/1/20

UHudson useyinhloko yeDiakonia

UMAFRUKA

1/06/91

UMBHISHOBHI waseWeseli unyelwe yinyoni esandleni edliwa yinkatha yokuba nguSihlalo weDiakonia okuyinhlangano ehlanganise amabandla, ibe inomsebenzi wokuvundulula konke okuhlukumeza abantu, bese yenza okusemandleni ayo ukukuqondisa emnyangweni o-

faneleyo ukuba kulungiswe.

UBishop Norman Hudson, ongumholi weBandla laseWeseli eNatal esifundeni sasoGwini welama uMbhishobhi waseSheshi uBishop Philip Russel kulesi sikhundla, owake waba ngu-Archbishop waseKapa.

UBishop Russel ubeseqede i-

minyaka emithathu esikhundleni sakhe sokuba nguSihlalo weDiakonia, kanti noma eseshiya lesi sikhundla sakhe ukhethelwe esinye sokuba nguSikhwama wayo lenhlangano iDiakonia.

Abanye abakhethelwe ukumela amabandla ehlukeneyo

nezinhlangano esigungwini se-Diakonia kube yilaba:

Archbishop Denis Hurley, weBandla lamaKhatholika; Mfundisi Sam Khumalo wePresbyterian Church of Africa; Prof. Walter Loening we-Evangelical Lutheran Church; Nkk Thelma Ngidi we-United Congregational Church; Mfundisi Freddy Mayekiso we-African Methodist Episcopal Church, Mnuz Rob Goldman waseSheshi, Mfundisi Goodman Khuzwayo waseBelyden-dekring noNkk Anita Kromberg weSociety of Friends abasanda kujoyina kwiDiakonia.

UMhlelazi uBishop Hudson lona wazalelwa eVryburg eFuleyistata, wafunda ePretoria Boys' High School naseRhodes University, wacotshelwa ubupriste ngo 1955, kanti uneziqu zobudokotela kwezenkolo azithola eSouthern Methodist University eDallas, eTexas kwelaseMelika. Wakhethelwa ububhishobhi ngo 1989

Uzobekwa ngokomthetho njengoSihlalo weDiakonia ngo-June 2 ngeSonto eSt Faith's Anglican Church, Carlisle Street, eThekwini. Kulenkonzongamabandla amalunga.

11/6/91

Lethal weapons

At Charlestown on May 9, dozens of machine-tooled assegais were discovered on a bus en route to the Transvaal, lending credence to ANC fears that such weapons are being manufactured in Natal for the sole purpose of arming combatants in the Reef faction fighting—the alleged “hidden hand” that keeps stoking the fires of unrest.

Police discount the possibility that the weapons are being mass-produced in a factory, but no amount of scepticism can disguise the fact that a professional manufacturer is at work. He need not be a large-scale operator. A workshop equipped with lathes would be capable of turning out a daily quota of these weapons. Its location, if it exists, would presumably be in north-eastern Natal or KwaZulu, though it is still not clear whether the motive of the manufacturer is commercial or political.

What is undeniable is that the product of the illegal industry is a lethal instrument. Each spear is 1,2 metres in length and has a 15 cm steel tip. While a hand-made ornamental assegai has some claim to be cultural, there can be no excuses for the carrying of this sort of weapon which is so clearly designed to shed blood. If the Government is serious about ending the unrest, it must ban the carrying of manufactured spears in all areas and under all circumstances.

16/10/11

I-ANC ichaza kabanzi ngamahostela

I-**AFRICAN** National Congress (ANC) ithi umkhosi wokuqedwa kwamahostela ayiwuhlabei ukuqeda izinhlangano zepolitiki kulezizindawo kodwa ikhathalele inhlalakahle yemiphakathi yakhona.

Umbiko okhishwe nguMnuz S'busiso Ndebele unobhala wesifunda eziseningizimu yeNatal se-ANC uthi makaqedwe amahostela ngoba akhelwa ukwehlukanisa abasebenzi abamnyama nemindeni yabo, bahlaliswe ndawonye ngokobulili njengeziboshwa, ebehlisa isithunzi.

"I-ANC ithi abahlala emahostela abanathuba lokuhlala

ndawonye njengemindeni. Uba ba akakwazi ukumema umama wakwakhe nabantwana bamvakashele ngelanga afisa ngalo. Ngalendlela yokuhlala ngabani ngi endlini abakwazi ukuba nezimfihlo," kusho yena.

Ithi lamahostela kawanazidingo zokuphila ezifanele. "Kawanazikole zabadala, kawanamibhede efanele abantu, kwamaningi kusasetshenziswa izitofu zikaphalafini ongabanga izifo, noyingozi.

"Okukhulu wukuthi lamahostela adala uqhekeko kube sengathi abahlala emalokishini bangcono kunabahlala ku-

wo," kuchaza yena.

Uthe kungakho nje uKho ngolose uthi makenziwe imizi, ezonikeza abahlala kuwo manje indawo kuqala.

Embuthanweni obuseGoli ngeSonto iNgonyama yamabandla onke uKing Goodwill Zwelithini uthe ngalesisinyathelo i-ANC ihlose ukuhlakaza abasemahostela. Ithe ukuqedwa kwamahostela kuzophoqa abahlala kuwo ukuyohlala emijondolo.

INgonyama ithe makalungiswe amahositela kodwa abantu abayizinkulungwane bangemu-

kwa ukuphela kophahla abanalo. Kulombuthano iNgonyama ikhale ngokubhecwa kwamaZulu ngodlame yathi lokhu kwehlisa nayo isithunzi.

Isikhuluma ngezikhali zendabuko iNgonyama ithe akukona ukuphathwa kwazo okuholela ekubulaweni kwabantu kodwa ngama-AK47.

Ithe umkhosi wokuvalwa kwezikhali zendabuko uchukuluza uZulu nobudoda bayo uqobo.

Ingonyama ikhale nangokungahambeli kwe-ANC oLundi ibe izihambela ezinye izabelo.

16/1/11

Kuliwa eyokubuyisana kwe-ANC eLamontville

UMAFRIKA 1/06/91
KUBUKEKA sengathi ngemizamo yesigungu sesifunda se-African National Congress (ANC) seyihubela eduze eyobumbano lwabe-ANC eLamontville abese behlukene amaqembu amabili.

NgeSonto eledlule emhlanganweni obuseSontweni lamaRoma usihlalo wesifunda uMnuz Jacob Zuma uphumelele ukuhlanganisa abeqembu elaziwa ngeMsizi Dube Support Committee (Mdsc) nabegatsha le-ANC elokishini.

Usihlalo wegatsha uMnuz Mzo Mbhele utshele UMAFRIKA ukuthi uqhekeko alukaze lube khona, ngaphandle nje kombango owasuka ngezinto zabantu ababili (personal matters), ezingahlangene nomzabalazo.

UNkk Penny Hlophe oyisekela lomgcini mafa weMdsc uthe naye akazi ukuthi uqhekeko lwaqala nini. Uthe babona nje sekunokungasebenzisani nabesigungu segatsha.

Lokhu uthi kubonakale kusukela ngo 1985 bengavumelani ngokwenziwa komkhosi kaMnuz Msizi Dube, owabulawa

ezigamekweni zokuqala zodlame eLamont.

Izinxushunxushu zaleligatsha ngasekuqaleni konyaka zibangele ukuba omame balapha banqatshelwe ukubamba iqhaza okhethweni lwe-ANC Women's League lesifunda.

UMnuz Mbhele uthe umphakathi uvumelene ngo'elethu' ukuba igatsha elikhona liqhubeke nokusebenza. Kusekwe nokubunjwa kwekomiti elizobhekela ukwandiswa kokuxhumana kwalamaqembu. Ikomiti lizobunjwa ngabantu ababili iqembu ngalinye, ababili besigungu sesifunda, ababili abaphuma ekudingisweni noma ejele kanye nababili bomphakathi nje.

UNkk Hlophe uthe banelisekile ngesinqumo salomhlangano wathi banethemba lokuthi uzolandelwa wubumbano lwempela.

Lomhlangano ubulandela kweminye eminingana esike yabanjwa kuzanywa ukuthi umphakathi kube yiwo oshoyo ngofuna kwenzeke ngaleligatsha.

reading of the written word (Bible). It is by the same author."

After obtaining a doctorate in physics from the University of the Free State, Dr Alberts lectured at several universities and did post-doctoral research at the Universities of Amster-

dam and Sheffield.

After leaving academia in 1971, Dr Alberts moved further afield into science administration with the Atomic Energy Board, Mintek, and as the director-general of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs.

He accepted the position with the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs "because of its apolitical nature".

"It is the most apolitical department. Minerals are not white, brown or black," he says.

Active

Since his retirement in 1987, Dr Alberts has been active in science and industrial affairs and Christian activities.

He is also the chairman of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

His involvement with the Rustenburg church group began at the end of 1989 when the State President asked him to convene a conference of church leaders.

He was the co-chairman with the Rev Frank Chikane of the Rustenburg summit where the Ned Geref Church confessed the sins of apartheid.

Dr Alberts says he was a "sitting duck" to convene such a conference because he was not an official church leader, and has inter-denominational experience as well as management experience.

He emphasises he was a neutral chairman at the Rustenburg summit and did not agree with all the viewpoints expressed by church leaders.

He does, however, back the broad principles agreed to by the summit — that apartheid is wrong and the principles on which a new constitution ought to be based.

Dr Alberts says apartheid is no longer tenable because we are so integrated in the economy that it becomes artificial in other spheres.

Sinners

"I am not denouncing the past leadership as sinners. If one accepts the system is wrong and it is perpetuated tomorrow, then it is a sin."

Dr Alberts acknowledges that the church has a role to play in educating its members on change but says the church is a conservative institution and it takes slowly to change.

Where's the joy as apartheid's pillars crack?

STAR 1/6/91

IT'S nice to see an old joke have its day, after years of faithful service. Back in the mists of time, when Nelson Mandela was still the world's most famous prisoner and his wife was still the unsullied mater of the nation, we used to quip that the only time Winnie would visit Tuynhuys would be when she was measuring up the curtains.

This week she did indeed take tea in Tuynhuys, and had ample time (5½ hours, to be exact) to cast a practised eye over the interior decorating of the *pied a terre* she might still come to occupy, Mr Justice Stegmann notwithstanding.

Sit-in avoided

An encouraging aspect of the meeting between the ANC Women's League and the President, at least according to senior Government chaps, was that Mr de Klerk's solicitousness and patience in dealing with the women's carefully-presented demands was such that they at the last minute called off an earlier plan to stage an embarrassing sit-in in his office.

The older women in the delegation, I am told, prevailed upon the more militant youngsters to leave at the appointed time and via the appointed exit.

(There is a downside to all of this for FW, of course. From now on,

Undercurrent Affairs

SHAUN JOHNSON



anyone who gets less than five hours with him at a time is going to feel slighted. I know I won't be letting him get away with those 90-second pleasantries any more. Still, it was nice to see the return of the cuddly conciliator.)

Would, though, that FW could have transmitted this generosity of spirit to the rest of his National Party.

To me the single most extraordinary and distasteful thing about watching the legislative demolition of the "pillars of apartheid", is the total absence of joy surrounding the occasion.

The repealing taking place in Parliament is a taciturn, mealy-mouthed and mean-spirited affair.

The Government cannot (with some honourable exceptions, like Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Leon Wessels) bring itself to say it

is happy to have the opportunity of righting a wrong it has itself perpetrated for more than 40 years.

At most, it speaks of its universally despised policies having turned out to be "unworkable", or as "failed experiments".

In this case unbridled arrogance, rather than love, means never having to say you're sorry.

It is thus not surprising that neither the Labour Party nor the Democratic Party (never mind the ANC) can bring *themselves* to throw their hats in the air and shout "hallelujah, and thank you for your courage".

The jaw-jutting posture of what is today an unbearably smug Nationalist Party is just too offensive.

It seems a tremendous pity. What could be an opportunity for an unprecedented surge of across-the-board optimism and reconciliation is being frittered away.

And if there is bad blood between the relatively like-minded sectors of the Parliamentary system — at least they agree on the basic ideals for the "new South Africa" — the latest mood swing of the Conservative Party is downright frightening.

From Wednesday onwards, the CP implemented a clear decision

to flaunt one of the fundamental rules of Parliament: that no member may call another member a traitor, or accuse them of treason.

One by one, with calculated venom, CP speakers did just that. Dries Bruwer (Lydenburg), Cehill Pienaar (Heilbron) and Dries Oosthuizen (Smithfield) were the first group to conclude their speeches on the repeal of the Land Act with direct accusations of treason.

Mr Pienaar said the CP would "deal" in due course with the traitors of the Afrikaner nation.

"I regard you (Nats) as traitors," said Casper Uys (CP Barberton) later. "Blood is going to be spilled."

Hatred

To this Louis Stofberg (CP Sasolburg) added with naked hatred: "You are the ugliest traitors in South Africa's history."

More CP MPs followed, each of them in turn being "named" by the Speaker — a form of censure not invoked for more than two decades, and one which results in a five-day suspension from Parliament.

Dr Andries Treurnicht, the CP leader, could go the same way on Monday, making it likely that the entire CP caucus will contrive to have itself ejected in the week.

It has been an unedifying spectacle. What we need is more tea-taking, not blood-talk.

STAR 1/6/91

Gun-toting pupils take over schools

IT'S high noon for education authorities in Soweto as a number of classrooms start to resemble scenes from the Wild West. Gun-toting pupil "cowboys" are taking over and turning some schoolyards into battle-grounds.

At other schools, classrooms have become saloons as pupils openly drink beer and gamble.

Armed with weapons instead of school books, they huddle in corners placing bets in a card game called Lucky Number or roll dice in the sunshine.

In other classrooms, pupils play soccer.

Amid the chaos, an air of gloom has descended over the black education system, stirring fears that this year's matric results will be worse than last year's.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) said in its annual report that at least 240 teachers, principals and inspectors have had their property damaged or stolen by pupils.

Job Schoeman, DET spokesman, warned that, if parents and organisations were not actively involved in helping to re-instill discipline, education would collapse entirely.

Professor A N Boyce, retired lecturer and author of a well-known history text book, said the trend was a reflection of the violent society in which pupils were embedded.

He dismissed any chances of

Children in Soweto drinking, gambling

ABBIE MAKOE

a rapid solution to the problem and warned, unless politicians left pupils alone, there would be trouble. "Pupils are being stirred up."

At Thutolore, in Meadowlands, Saturday Star witnessed pupils openly disobeying the headmaster who had instructed them to return to classes.

Although gates were locked as a deterrent to late-comers, pupils nevertheless surfaced. They yelled at the gate-keeper, an old man, to re-open the gate.

Dagga

Later a teacher at the same school commented: "We are still far better off than many schools."

At Sekano-Ntoane, in Rockville, pupils moved in and out of the premises at random. Teachers interviewed revealed this was the norm.

Women teachers complained that small boys smoked dagga and threatened teachers when reprimanded.

Pupils, the teachers said, often walked out of classes dur-

ing lessons — without asking permission.

At 11 am at Lobone High, in Mofolo, many pupils were found basking in the sun.

The principal, except for complaining of boys smoking "too much", said his school was better than those "where pupils converted laboratories into she-beens".

And while preparations for the half-yearly examinations should be complete, pupils at Meadowlands high school have not been taught since May 15, Saturday Star discovered.

Strangely, the indefinite class boycott and chalk-down was embarked on mutually by teachers, parents and pupils, sources said.

According to sources, trouble started when the DET allegedly refused to include the school among those to be renovated.

During a visit to the school, pupils were found gambling amid delapidated structures. Some boys played football inside a classroom, girls played cards while many matriculants enjoyed a game of dice.

Teachers blamed the DET for the situation.

They pointed at broken windows, doors, classrooms without chalkboards and broken desks.

The DET director for the Johannesburg region, Richard Motau, blamed a cabal within the staff for the suspension of teaching at the school.

Several meetings between the DET, the staff, representatives of parents and pupils had ended in a stalemate.

ANC stands by leader accused of being 'spy'

STAFF REPORTERS

AS the furore surrounding allegations that African National Congress Youth League leader Peter Mokaba worked for the security police gathered momentum this week, the ANC said it stands by him.

In a statement, the ANC said it regarded "comrade Peter Mokaba as a fully-fledged member of the ANC, in good standing". It also said it "did not doubt the bona-fides of Peter Mokaba".

However, the movement has still not denied the allegations that Mr Mokaba worked for the security police or that he confessed to being a security police agent after being interrogated in Lusaka in August 1989.

Director of the ANC's intelligence and security department, Joe Nhlanhla, this week denied he had spoken to any journalists regarding the allegations. He rejected the implication that his department was involved in the issue.

The ANC claimed it had investigated reports in the Weekly Mail, The Guardian and the Saturday Star that high-ranking ANC officials had spoken to the media, and said the reports did not reflect the official viewpoints of the movement.

However, the Weekly Mail stands by its report that it had approached top national executive committee officials who had confirmed the story before it was published.

And the Saturday Star can say that senior intelligence sources and top ranking officials have either confirmed the Peter Mokaba spy allegations "off the record" to journalists close to the ANC or informed other ANC members who in turn leaked the information to the media.

Mr Mokaba this week continued to deny the allegations outright. This week he went on the air, saying he had never been interrogated in Lusaka and knew nothing of an ANC investigation into his alleged activities as a security police agent.

He also declared "political war" on journalists and newspapers which had printed the spy allegations.

But according to ANC sources, a seven-month investigation into Mr Mokaba's credibility as a political activist began after suspicion about the circumstances of his various arrests and the apparent inability of the State to jail him.

He had also become a suspect when he was a senior commander in the Northern Transvaal political divisions developed in the area between 1985 to 1988. Courier networks were blown by police in this area and indications were that the organisation had been infiltrated at a high level.

Strydom does not qualify for amnesty, say most

STAR 1/6/91

TODAY'S TOPIC



Speak
Out!

ON
SATURDAY

MOST callers to **Speak Out** last night were appalled at the thought of Barend Strydom being reclassified as a political prisoner and possibly being released under the amnesty presently being granted to political prisoners.

They felt that Strydom did not kill for political reasons but because of his personal hatred of blacks. Other callers, however, who felt that he should be reclassified, said that "what was good for the goose should be good for the gander".

Sylvia Gould, Illovo: If Barend Strydom's crimes can be considered political crimes, then it allows anyone who hates an ethnic group and who commits acts of violence against them to plead that their acts were poli-

The Government is considering reclassifying mass killer Barend Strydom as a political prisoner. His eight death sentences two years ago for randomly shooting blacks were later commuted to life imprisonment. If the bid succeeds Strydom could be freed under the amnesty presently being granted to political prisoners. Readers were asked whether they thought he should be reclassified.

tically motivated.

Mrs Smith, Rosettenville: The Government is giving all the blacks a second chance so he should also be given another chance.

Russell Sadowsky, Hillbrow: The whole exercise is just becoming a sick trade-off of bloody murderers by ghouls masquerading as honest brokers.

Franco Matowane,

Parys: Whites have never been oppressed. So Strydom is not a freedom fighter and therefore he cannot be a political prisoner.

Piet Dykas, Illovo: Strydom should not be released as he is just a killer.

Barney Segal, Yeoville: No matter what one's political aspirations are, there is no place in society for cold-blooded

killers. They should be made to pay the supreme penalty, never mind being set free.

J W Chambers, Benoni: Has Strydom ever shown any remorse or regret for his horrendous crimes? Must we endure the possibility of him being returned to society, possibly still addicted to some pathological hatred that encouraged his criminal action in the first place?

Y Vercueil, Alberton: Barend Strydom should be released because what is good for the goose is good for the gander. If the blacks can be reclassified as political prisoners so can Strydom.

Meshack Matowane, Parys: It is mind-boggling to even think of reclassifying Barend Strydom. The statement is

not worth the paper it is written on.

Paula Dubarry, Berea: Barend Strydom should be released immediately. The only reason he is still in custody is because De Klerk and company would do anything not to upset Mandela and company.

Sello John Mapo-hoshe, Balfour: Strydom simply killed black people at random. He was not fighting for freedom. He simply is a murderer and should not be treated as a political offender.

Lo Krijger, Linbro Park: Barend Strydom should be hanged for what he did.

Campbell Anderson, Boksburg: The release of Barend Strydom will be similar to opening Pandora's box. Everybody will then have some sort

of political reason for the murders they commit.

Eileen Davies, Sandton: Reclassifying Barend Strydom is another Nat ploy to protect their own.

Rami Barnes, Sandhurst: The day on which Strydom will be released from jail will be the day no morally conscious person will want to be identified with South Africa.

Ray Coleman, Percepsia: The young Barend Strydom belonged to a group of people who brainwashed him into believing that blacks were not people. In the same way MK killers were brainwashed into believing that whites could be killed with impunity. What is the difference?

Eric Aysen, Belgravia: Barend Strydom has stated that if given the

readers

guilty of murder they must remain in prison.

Larry Woolfson, Orange Grove: I think it is time the Government and

the ANC formulated a clear, concise definition of what a political prisoner is. Otherwise common criminals will be let off under the guise of being political prisoners.

Derek Weinberg, Bramley: On the front page of Thursday night's Star was an article concerning a 22-year-old police constable who was sentenced to 27 years' jail for killing a young ANC supporter. Strydom shot nine blacks dead and they want to let him out. Perhaps because he is white.

Mr van der Walt, Benoni: I'm against anyone taking a life being released, irrespective of their political views. This includes the ANC and AWB. I think he should serve the rest of his days in prison.

Swazi King puts old school pals on stamp

STAR 1/6/91
AFRICA
NEWS SERVICE

where the then Crown Prince was sent soon after the death of his 83-year-old father, King Sobhuza II, in 1982.

Swaziland's heir apparent, then known as Makhosetive, spent three years at the school. His mates called him "Mak".

A few months after his coronation in 1986, these two friends arrived unannounced in Mbabane during a holiday and decided to call on "Mak". The stamp is a result of a casual picture.

MBABANE — Two former British public schoolboys share pride of place with Swaziland's young King Mswati on a new issue of stamps here, and locals are entirely bemused.

The casually dressed youths appear on the one Lilangeni stamp, pictured on a sofa next to the Swazi monarch. The stamp bears the legend: "His Majesty visited by schoolmates, 1986."

That, apparently, is how it happened. The two boys were friends of King Mswati at the Sherbourne public school in Dorset

chance, he would kill again. He should be locked up and the key thrown away.

Frans Ngcobo, Orlando West: Strydom should be released as he was politically brainwashed by his family. All political prisoners should be released.

Tim Groom, Windsor: Strydom shouldn't be released as he's displayed profound psychopathic tendencies as a result of his peculiar socialisation. He should be moved to a maximum security psychiatric hospital.

Mr Brokensha, Bloemfontein: No, never. White or black, ANC, NP or CP, if found

Gandhi's ^{STAR}murderer ^{11/6/91} 'knew his ^Jweak spot'

JAWED NAQVI

VISHAKAPATNAM — Rajiv Gandhi's soft spot for women as he electioneered was exploited by his female assassin to breach a security cordon, a police official said yesterday.

"There is no doubt in our minds that Mr Gandhi's softness towards women was carefully studied by his assassins," said Police Commissioner Mahendra Kumawat.

Hundreds of women penetrated the former prime minister's security cordon at Mr Gandhi's urging, he said.

Mr Gandhi addressed his last public meeting in Vishakapatnam in southern Tamil Nadu state on May 21 to rally support for Uma Gajpati Raju, a woman candidate of his Congress Party, before his date with death in Sriperumbudur later that night.

In Sriperumbudur he was due to address a crowd for Margatham Chandrashekar, another woman candidate.

Mr Gandhi (46) was blown up after a woman elbowed her way to the front of a line of well-wishers.

The woman, as yet unidentified, apparently triggered plastic explosives strapped around her waist as she bent down to touch his feet, a traditional sign of respect.

Commissioner Kumawat said that handling security when large numbers of women were present had its problems.

Beckoning

"It is not possible for an ordinary policeman to frisk a lady. Besides, women generally are not as big a security risk as men can be. So we found that at a critical time our defences were down," he said.

Although a few policewomen were at the scene of the assassination, local newspaper reports said he pushed one out of the way to allow his assassin to approach him.

A videotape of his meeting in Vishakapatnam shows him beckoning to women to come closer to the platform.

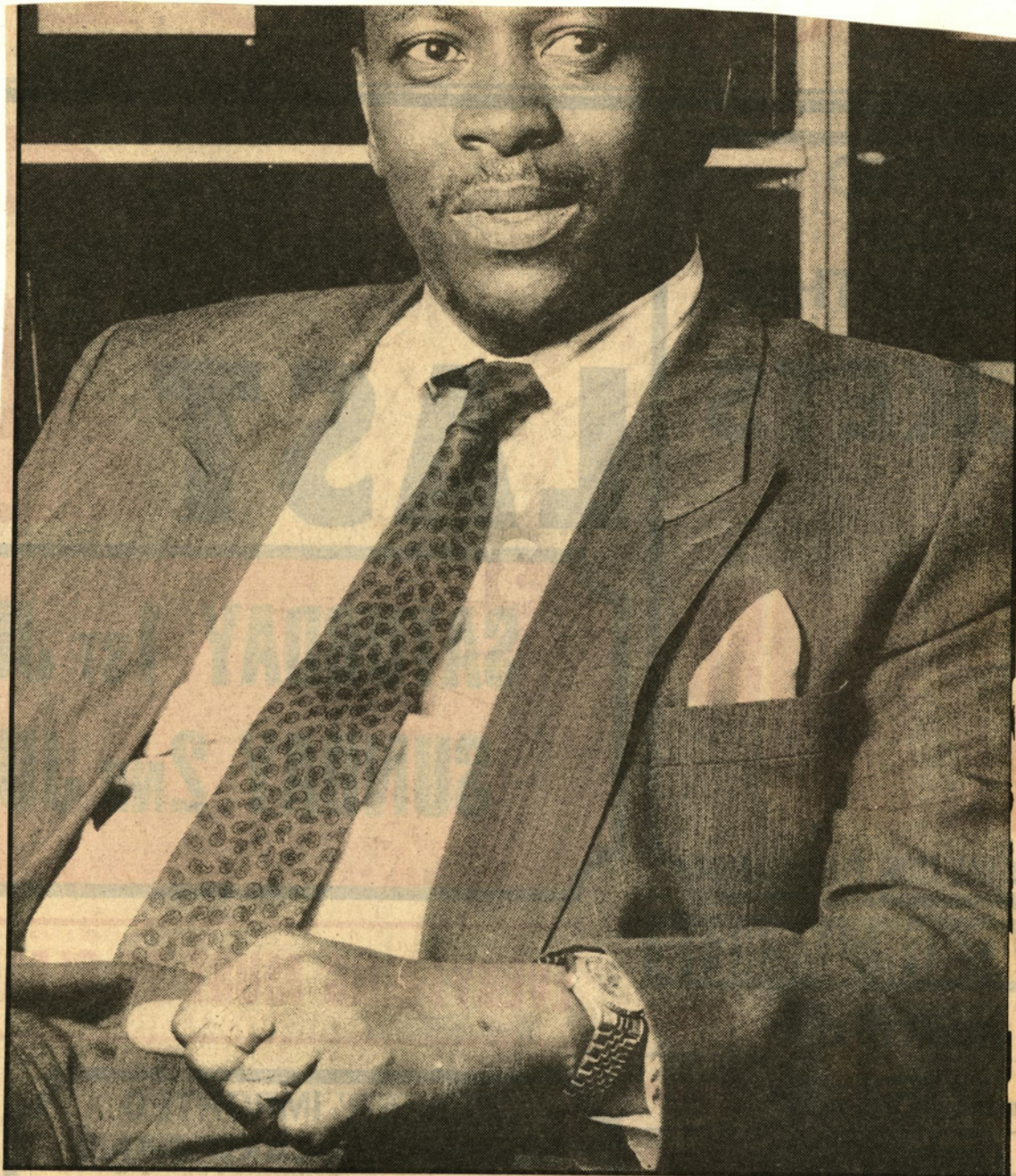
"As a result we went through a nightmare protecting him from the milling crowd," Commissioner Kumawat said.

He said hundreds of women crossed into the security enclosure at Mr Gandhi's urging.

"But he looked thrilled with the response he got and he kept flinging handkerchiefs printed with his party emblem to the cheering women," the commissioner said.

On recent campaign trips Mr Gandhi had begun to dodge his security personnel to mingle with supporters.

"We saw in Bombay and several other places how dangerously close he allowed people, particularly women, to come to him. Mr Gandhi's style must also have been watched by his enemies," Commissioner Kumawat said. — Sapa-Reuter.



FAR FROM OVER: Tom Boya is threatening to take legal action against two policemen who he said abused their power when they allegedly assaulted and wrongfully arrested him in January.

Elated Boya prepares for Round 2

FORMER Daveyton mayor Tom Boya is threatening to take legal action against two policemen who he alleged assaulted and arrested him in January.

Mr Boya (40), who was this week acquitted in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court of assaulting the policemen and resisting arrest, vowed to rid the police force of elements who abused their power.

He said he was preparing to lay charges of assault, of wrongful arrest and of crimen injuria against the policemen for allegedly swearing and cursing at him at the time of his arrest.

Elated that "justice has been done", he said it was now time for the people he alleged had committed the wrongful acts under the guise of the law to

STAR
1/6/91

ABBEY MAKOE

"dance to the music of the court"

"This matter is far from over," Mr Boya said, adding he regarded his acquittal as the end of Round One.

The former mayor also hoped that the policemen would face disciplinary action within the police force.

During his trial, Mr Boya denied that he assaulted the police, as they alleged. He maintained throughout that he "chewed the policeman's finger" because his life was in danger.

He told Saturday Star: "They had guns and I had my teeth. I was forced to use them for a different purpose."

The words that still haunt Mr Boya were the policeman's question during his assault:

"Have you had enough?", and being called a "kaffir" and "Black Sam".

He wanted police to receive counselling. "They often start by not identifying themselves. Instead, such as in my case, the next thing I remember was a powerful fist on my face. They were like vigilantes."

He summed up his ordeal. "At first I thought I was dreaming of a Western movie I once saw. Finally I realised I was a black South African at the mercy of white racists."

Police spokesman Colonel Johan Mostert said no internal investigation would be held into the conduct of the two policemen. He said Mr Boya, like all citizens, had the right to seek legal action against the police if he felt strongly that he had a case. The courts would decide.

F W's broadcasting task force may come up with something radical

STAR 1/6/91

The report of the Task Group on Broadcasting in Southern Africa appointed by the President in May 1991 will probably come up for discussion in Parliament next week (on June 6), during the budget debate on broadcasting.

It will certainly be available by the end of July, debated fully in January 1992 and new legislation will probably be tabled later in 1992.

What is probably going to surprise most critics of the Task Group is the democratic nature of the recommendations it is expected to make.

This is not as unexpected as may seem since it takes its style and content from the reform process set in motion after February 2 last year.

In another of the strange anomalies characteristic of F W de Klerk's style of doing things, the very undemocratically constituted Task Group is hopefully going to come up with some fairly democratic suggestions.

In fact, the problem is going to be whether the Cabinet is going to accept or reject the report if it is too radical.

In a series of meetings and briefings with members of the Task Group and people close to it, it has become clear that the Task Group had decided to undertake the job of "democratising and reforming broadcasting in South Africa and doing the best for all the people of South Africa." In other words providing "access" to the airwaves to the widest spectrum of opinion.

There can be no doubt that the broadcasting situation in South Africa has become intolerable over the years.

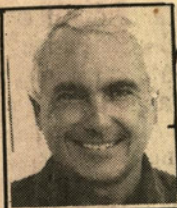
There is no comprehensive policy at government level, all legislation is undertaken on an ad hoc basis. The Broadcasting Act only relates to the SABC and its affairs.

The absence of a regulatory body means that the Cabinet takes all decisions, which in practice means that no fewer than four Ministers might be involved in a decision: Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications, Foreign Affairs and Development Aid.

There is therefore a need to depoliticise broadcasting regulations, to find a way of accommodating all the new broadcasters knocking at the door as well as the ones broadcasting from outside South Africa. It has been revealed that the

On the Box

JOHN VAN ZYL



terms of reference of the Task Group were to investigate the possibility of establishing a regulatory Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA).

There must be complete unanimity across the political spectrum from Waterberg to Soweto on that issue. Yet, even if the Task Group comes out unequivocally in its recommendation it merely unlocks a Pandora's box of problems and issues unless it is extremely subtle in its planning.

The Task Group is operating on its own and is not part of a wider plan that addresses cultural issues in general, like the establishment of a National Endowment Council for the Arts. Such a council could advise on broadcasting, filmmaking, theatre, writing, dance and fine art, while being as fully representative as possible.

Nor is it part of a wide-ranging educational policy planning structure that sees radio and television as playing a crucial role in addressing the educational crisis.

That is why even the most seemingly democratic suggestions of the Task Group will have to be contextualised and discussed in a public forum before a coherent broadcasting policy can be developed.

What is cause for concern is the widely reported speech by Louis Raubenheimer which he gave at a HSRC seminar. I have not seen the copy of "Interkom" in which this was reproduced but I wonder if it also contains the papers read by Ruth Tomaselli, Willie Currie, Pieter Fourie and myself that were all highly critical of Raubenheimer's remarks.

Broadcasting corporations that have a messianic mission, that declare that they are against violence, are for negotiations, want to emphasise the cultural diversity of South Africa's peoples — all of which they define in their own terms — are to be regarded with great suspicion.

How will an IBA deal with attitudes like this? Will an IBA be able to censure John Bishop for his treatment of Frank Chikane on "Agenda"?

ANC stands to lose by stalling on talks

STAR 1/6/91

I clearly understand the ANC's rationale in insisting that the Government must seriously address the problem of violence and take all the other relevant steps to normalise the political situation.

What I regard as a dangerous strategy, however, is the ANC's view that the most effective way of pressurising the Government to do something about these issues, is to suspend talks about talks that would lead to constitutional negotiations.

I invite the ANC to consider the following thoughts:

Firstly, the ANC alleges among other things, that the Government is using violence to weaken and destabilise it so that when constitutional negotiations begin, the Government and its allies will be in a far stronger position.

This may be so but for me, the logical reaction of the ANC under such circumstances should have been to deny the Government all the time it needs to weaken it.

It is these negotiations and nothing else that will hasten the political empowerment of the ANC and lead to its participation in the legislative and executive process.

Secondly, it seems the ANC might be misreading or exaggerating the Government's eagerness to reach a constitutional settlement. If indeed the Government is eager to negotiate its political abdication that situation might soon change.

With the Government aiming to complete its anti-apartheid legislative programme this session, one could expect sanctions to be lifted by most countries and world pressure on the Government to abate.

Once this happens, the Government might not feel the urgent necessity to go to the negotiation table.

Moreover, with sanctions and

Through My Eyes

OSCAR DHLOMO



apartheid gone, the economy beginning to pick up and President de Klerk's support base growing at the rate it is growing now, the Conservative Party threat would recede and National Party would be in a position to win a whites-only election with ease.

The ANC would remain politically excluded and without any opportunity to negotiate its political inclusion with a confident National Party, that would no longer be in a great hurry to negotiate itself out of power.

Thirdly, the ANC is also risking a danger of being totally excluded from negotiations.

We all rightly believe that negotiations without the ANC would be like Hamlet without the prince. But we should not rule out a scenario in which sanctions and apartheid are removed, and the Government consequently gains more respect, sympathy and support from the world community.

The Government could then argue (and perhaps be believed by the international community) that the decks had been cleared for negotiations to begin, and that those parties that still refused to come to the table would automatically exclude themselves.

This scenario is commonly described as the "Muzorewa option", but people forget that Muzorewa's government failed because it did not win international recognition as a result of the effective lobbying of the Zanu and Zapu leadership in exile, and also because it failed to end the war of liberation.

Our case could be different.

Winnie and
successful

Maggie are
poles apart

CHRIS Gibbons can't be serious when he suggests that there is "common ground" between Winnie and Maggie (Saturday Star, May 18).

Most people will know that had Mrs Thatcher been suspected, never mind being found guilty, of being involved with matters unbecoming the status of a public figure, she would have been dumped not only by the Tories but also by the people who she represented in Parliament.

She would have been ostracised for sure.

There is no common ground between the two. Maggie was the leader of one of the world's most civilised states where democracy (not intimidation) is the rule of the day, where thuggery, murder and violence are frowned on. Where people of all shades of opinion are allowed to express their views without fear of victimisation.

Maggie also hails from a land where trade unions are allowed to exist — and after a 12-month strike only one person was harmed.

Finally Maggie must be rated as the most successful woman that the world has produced during the present century — and as far as I am concerned it is not impossible that she may be recalled to the leadership of the Conservative Party to once again take on the Labour Party — and beat them.

There is as much common ground between Maggie and Winnie as there is between the Lakes of Cumberland and the Deserts of Ethiopia — in fact there is no common ground.

No Mr Gibbons I would prefer to believe that "there are NO distinctive" similarities between Maggie and Winnie!

Alan C Brown
Bloemfontein.

Millions back charismatic rebel

LISBON — Jonas Savimbi is a flamboyant guerilla leader whose Unita movement has fought for control of Angola since independence in 1975.

Dr Savimbi began his bid to rule Angola more than two decades ago when he fought against the Portuguese, the colonial masters of the country.

After their departure, the Swiss-educated Savimbi waged a bush war with aid from Pretoria and more recently from Washington, against the Soviet-backed administration in Luanda.

Pledge

Now, the stocky and ebullient leader says he will move his headquarters from the southern Angolan bush back into Luanda in June, to prepare for multi-party elections in 1992 — the key pledge of the peace agreement initialled on May 1.

His pro-Western, social

democratic movement — the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) — controls most of south-eastern Angola and has extended its hold on the north-eastern zone bordering Zaire.

Unita's war with the government crippled Angola's oil-based economy and appeared to be intractable.

But peace talks in Portugal since April 1990, watched closely by Soviet and US officials whose governments backed Mr dos Santos and Dr Savimbi respectively, have nudged the Angolan government into dropping its commitment to one-party Marxism and promising a market economy.

Many commentators say Dr Savimbi's willingness — until at least 1984 — to accept aid from black Africa's number one enemy, South Africa, was a fatal mistake. Covert funding from Washington, which reached about R175 million in



QUOTES CLAUSEWITZ:
Dr Jonas Savimbi

1990, also fuelled controversy.

At one stage in 1975 it seemed Dr Savimbi would become the next president of Angola. During a civil war between various nationalist movements that accompanied the Portuguese withdrawal, his troops came close to controlling the country.

Unita and its allies, the National Front for the Liberation of Angola

(FNLA), trapped soldiers of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) in a pincer movement and were only kilometres away from Luanda, the MPLA's last stronghold.

But the tide turned as the MPLA, backed then by an estimated 12 000 to 18 000 Cuban troops, swept through the country and won wide recognition as the government of independent Angola.

Dr Savimbi, who describes his movement's political philosophy as social democratic, has acknowledged accepting aid from Pretoria, although as a black man he says he was always opposed to apartheid.

Mr Dos Santos has to date always ruled out any question of sharing power with Dr Savimbi.

Dr Savimbi, who lives with his wife Vinona in Jamba, his "provisional capital" of thatched houses in the bush, projects a colourful image, routinely toting

pearl-handled revolvers at periodic news conferences in Jamba.

His persuasive charisma contrasts sharply with Mr dos Santos's shy reserve, and has made him a cult figure to his troops.

The son of a railway station master, Jonas Malheiro Savimbi was born in the central Angolan town of Munhango on August 3, 1934. He studied medicine in Lisbon and political science in Lausanne, Switzerland.

He formed Unita in 1961, which he says was born as an army of "12 people with knives".

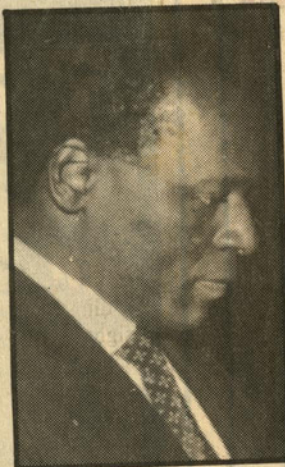
By the time war with Portugal had ended he boasted 5 000 guerillas and — by his ethnic links with the Ovimbundu, Angola's largest tribe — the support of 40 percent of Angola's 6 million people.
— Sapa-Reuter.

Technocrat president has quiet skills to offer

LISBON — Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who signed a ceasefire accord yesterday with rebels, is a Soviet-trained oil engineer seeking peace after 16 years of civil war.

He was appointed president in 1979 as an uncontroversial replacement for his charismatic predecessor Agostinho Neto, having been thrown into politics while a teenager in the final years of Portuguese colonial rule.

Now he and his former foe, flamboyant Unita rebel leader Jonas Savimbi, say they can offer peace to a country which has been in the grip of tribal, slave, colonial, independence, regional conflicts for hundreds of years, and a Cold War for decades.



SOVIET-TRAINED:
President dos Santos

Mr Dos Santos (49), a tall and impassive man whose modesty has won him praise from his ruling MPLA-Workers' Party, seems an unlikely architect of this difficult peace.

But the technocrat president, who has worked hard to bring stability to a nation for years on the brink of economic and political collapse, has always confounded expectations.

With no real power base in the ruling party, the Marxist Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), he was never thought to be any threat to the traditional party bosses of the Luanda administration.

But he has quietly steered the MPLA away from Marxism and set in motion a move to a market economy and democracy demanded by Dr Savimbi's Unita.

Improving

Mr Dos Santos has presided over the end of a bitter regional conflict which put South African troops into the south of Angola in the 1970s and 1980s. The once tense relations with Pretoria are now improving.

He has also relinquished the support of 50 000 Cuban troops who buttressed his own 150 000-strong army in its fight against Unita.

The phased pullout, linked with a South African withdrawal from An-

gola and neighbouring Namibia, was completed ahead of schedule.

Jose Eduardo dos Santos was born on August 28, 1942, in a working-class family in Luanda. His father was a mason and his mother a housemaid.

He entered politics at 19, just before the MPLA launched its armed struggle against Portuguese colonial rule in February 1961.

Fleeing north to Zaire together with hundreds of thousands of Angolans to escape Portuguese repression, he later became vice-president of the MPLA's youth movement in Leopoldville, now known as Kinshasa. He was also appointed the party's first representative in Brazzaville in neighbouring Congo.

In 1962, he joined the MPLA guerillas in the field but his first experience of the bush war was brief. He left for Moscow the following year for further studies on a Soviet scholarship.

Expert

In June 1969, he obtained a degree in petroleum engineering, but stayed on in the Soviet Union to train as a military telecommunications expert until 1970.

It was then that he returned to Angola to act as a radio operator with the MPLA until the Portuguese revolution in April 1974 put an end to the guerilla war.

He holds the rank of major in the Angolan army and although he is now commander-in-chief of the armed forces, he made his name as a technician rather than as a guerilla leader (although a recent official biography describes him as "a prominent fighter").

One of his first acts after being named president was to launch a drive against official corruption and inefficiency.

Mr Dos Santos married his second wife, Ana Paula de Lemos, in May 1991. He has six children.

— Sapa-Reuter.

Slamming police furthers aims of SACP

Saturday Star 1 June 1991

Chris Watkins

THE undertone of your editorial comment ("Police and priorities", Saturday, May 11) is clear. You are suggesting that gambling is such a trivial matter that it should be ignored by the police. My opinion is that all laws should be enforced, especially the gambling laws.

It is a fact that many gambling houses are run and visited by the unscrupulous, the sleazy, the tax dodgers and even criminals. Drugs are often found on such premises which are known to be often visited by prostitutes.

It would appear to me that your newspaper is of the opinion that these unholy and degrading activities are okay. It is my opinion that such activities corrupt man's thoughts and introduces him to crime.

To try and say that the police should have been deployed elsewhere to fight only the serious

Letters to the Editor



crime and ignore the "minor" crimes, is ludicrous. Hardened criminals also start their "careers" with the "minor" types of crime, like gambling.

I believe that the sole intention of your editorial was to run the police down. Your newspaper and the daily Star and Sunday Star apparently make it your duty to publish as many anti-police articles as possible. This is worrying since you seem to be playing right into the hands of the SACP.

The most dedicated foes of law and order remain the communists who have devised a specialised programme aimed at eliminating police and security forces. Lenin gave detailed

Address your letters to Saturday Star, PO Box 1014, Johannesburg 2000.

Instructions about this.

Communist literature often speaks about "launching a campaign of mob action against the police" and to "smear and discredit the police and security forces by means of the spoken and written word".

And L. Beira writes in his book "Psychopolitics": "Defamation is the best and foremost weapon of psychopolitics (mind capturing) in the broad field. Continual and constant degradation of the national leaders, national institutions, national practices and police must be carried out ... In order to be conquered, a nation must be degraded ... by constant and continual defamation."

Morningside

● The "undertone" the writer detects is entirely of his own imagination. Nowhere did the editorial state, or imply, that the places he describes "are okay". Nor does the Saturday Star, or the daily Star and Sunday Star, deliberately set out to undermine the police.

What we do seek to do is to monitor the performance of the police and point out where it falls short. This, after all, is our job. Our editorial was concerned with police priorities.

We felt strongly that when there is such a shortage of resources in the police force, so many policemen can be diverted to bust a gambling joint while people are being robbed and murdered in their homes.

Holiday is marked by coffin-burning (1)

Saturday Star 1 June 1991

A COFFIN adorned with the faces of three South African prime ministers and President de Klerk was burnt near Parliament by about 600 ANC supporters participating in an anti-Republic Day march.

The march in central Cape Town was led by ANC executive members Walter Sisulu, his wife Albertina and general-secretary of the SA Communist Party, Joe Slovo.

Addressing the crowd when the marchers returned to the Grand Parade, Mr Slovo said yesterday was the 30th anniversary of "a disgraceful, criminal republic".

"(President) de Klerk goes around the world telling his friends... apartheid is dead. We all know that is a lie. The people who govern the country now are the same as those who governed it in 1961."

"While we have won many victories of great importance, we are still living under apartheid," he said.

Mr Slovo held up the coffin, which was draped in an imitation national flag, while toyi-toying ANC supporters lit it.

A note with the words "bury the racist republic" was attached to the coffin alongside photographs of President de Klerk, Dr Hendrik Verwoerd, P W Botha and B J Vorster.

ANC supporters also carried an effigy of President de Klerk. His arms

LENORE OLIVER, DALE KNEEN
and SAPA

were crossed and there was an orange, white and blue scarf around his neck.

Police watched the marchers who were carrying placards saying "Freedom is the best food" and "We demand a constituent assembly".

Mrs Sisulu told the crowd they had been given an "unwanted, racist holiday" but what was desired was freedom for political prisoners and unconditional indemnity for exiles.

Nosiviwe Mapisa, one of the ANC Women's League members who met President de Klerk this week, said: "We do not want to become involved in debate on the technicalities and legalities on who ought to be indemnified."

Impis

"He (President de Klerk) must prove he is a man of integrity and allow mass strike action. Women must be ready to engage in action," she said.

Condemning the Government's decision not to ban all traditional weapons, Mr Slovo said: "Imagine what would happen if 1 000 Inkatha impis armed with spears and guns attacked people living in Constantia and Camps Bay. The reason why I am saying this is that whatever may have changed, black

TO PAGE 2

Coffin

FROM PAGE 1

lives are still treated as cheap. The police do not act if blacks are killed in their thousands, but they would if only five or 10 whites were killed."

Conservative Party leader Dr Andries Treurnicht said in Pretoria yesterday the Government's reform measures constituted an ultimatum to Afrikaners to "disappear in non-racialism or to get up and fight".

He told a Republic Day gathering of 700 people at Wonderboom: "We have made our choice."

"If whites were worth their salt they would not allow themselves to be reduced to a minority of squatters under an ANC government, Dr Treurnicht added.

"Land ownership and the right to self-government were non-negotiable. There are a number of Rip van Winkles who are applauding a unitary state which will lead to black domination and hundreds of thousands of Afrikaners would have to wake up to prevent this."

"The Government would commit treason if it turned white land to common property," Dr Treurnicht said.

The meeting was organised by the Afrikaner Kulturbond.

In Durban yesterday, an ANC Youth League official said the ANC would not allow President de Klerk or Inkatha leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthe to lead South Africa on the path of change.

Addressing the ANCYL's first regional

conference for the Southern Natal region, the youth league's assistant secretary for Information and Publicity, Mpho Leghoro, said the ANC, SACP and Cosatu would "dictate change in South Africa".

The planned Republic Day defiance campaign yesterday, called by militant students and teachers, appears to have fallen flat.

Early this week, the Congress of South African Students and the South African Democratic Teachers' Union vowed to defy the holiday by turning up for classes in great numbers. But, according to sources in the townships on the Reef, pupils and teachers failed to turn up. Only a few pupils and teachers were reported to have arrived at classes.

Cosas early this week held protest marches countrywide to back its demands for adequate education facilities at black schools. The organisation said the marches would culminate in a defiance campaign of the Republic Day holiday.

In Bloemfontein yesterday police barred about 1 000 ANC supporters from marching to the Appeal Court to stage an anti-Republic Day protest. Police said the march had not been given permission.

Dr Alan Boesak and Umkhonto we Sizwe chief Chris Hani negotiated with police for several hours after which the marchers were allowed to proceed to the nearby Heidedal Stadium.

Mr Hani and Dr Boesak addressed the protesters at the stadium and the gathering dispersed peacefully.

LAST Friday evening Steve Martin, Chevy Chase and Martin Short had most of the residents of Pinville glued to their TV sets.

The sound of gunfire from "Three Amigos" and the laughter of those watching punctuated the heavy night air.

But other, more sinister noises soon made themselves heard.

Residents were rudely brought back to reality by the sound of another kind of gunfire, accompanied by the noise of windows breaking and people screaming.

A crowd of a different kind of "amigos", estimated to be about 400-strong and armed with firearms, pangas and an assortment of other weapons, pounced on residents, killing

Blood flows as 400 'amigos' run amok

nine and injuring several others. There are claims that they looted and raped as well.

Alice Ikaneng was already in bed. Her brother Jeffroy and a friend, known only as "Jemo", were watching the movie.

She heard a heavy vehicle, which she said sounded like a bus, coming to a halt outside. Then another sound: the dreaded AK-47 rifle being fired a few metres from the Ikaneng household.

"I had just told my brother about the gunfire when windows of our house began breaking. My brother and his friend tried to barricade the door with

a sofa, but men from outside merely kicked the door down.

"I took my son in my arms and ran to the bedroom. I then resigned myself to whatever fate awaited me. A few seconds later, armed men pushed their way into the bedroom and demanded to know where my husband was. In fright, I told them that he lived at the hostel," Mrs Ikaneng said.

Whistles

She lied, but that lie probably saved her life.

Mrs Ikaneng said, while the men, who spoke in Zulu, were interrogating her, shots were

JOVIAL RANTAO

fired. Then there followed the sound of whistles being blown. It was a sign that the men were in danger. They quickly fled.

After they had left, she found her brother and his friend lying in a pool of blood.

Terrified, she ran to ask for help from Mr Louis Mashaba (58), a Mozambican who lived in a backyard shack nearby. But he too had been shot and hacked to death.

An ambulance was called and Mr Ikaneng was taken to the Baragwanath Hospital with

two bullets in his body.

Now Mrs Ikaneng is too frightened to spend a night in the house alone.

Another victim was Mrs Emily Mosia. Every time she closes her eyes she is haunted by the vision of her terrified husband, bleeding profusely from five bullet wounds, pleading with his attackers to spare Emily's life.

Cigarette

Mrs Mosia and her husband Louis were also watching TV when they were attacked. She heard voices outside; peering

through the curtain she saw armed men. They later forced their way into her house.

Her husband hid under the bed. But the smell of a cigarette he had been smoking earlier, led the men to believe that there was a man in the house.

During their search they found him. He was hauled out and five bullets were pumped into his body.

"The worst is that they grabbed my four-month-old baby from the bed and threw her on to the floor, injuring her arm. I wanted to take her to hospital but could not because the men had taken all the

Police deny failing to arrest a 'warlord'

Saturday Star 1 June '91
STAFF REPORTER

POLICE have denied that they failed to arrest an Inkatha warlord, believed by kwa-Masiza Hostel residents to have been one of the men responsible for the deaths of 13 people at the Gobizitwana Berhall last week.

Police spokesman Major Reg Crowe said officers traced, stopped and searched the vehicle believed to have been involved in the shooting.

"The police found nothing to permit us to detain the man for further questioning. We call on anyone who can make a positive identification on the Berhall case to come forward," Major Crowe said.

The person who gave the information regarding the "warlord" made a statement to police admitting that he had heard from someone else that the vehicle had been seen in the vicinity of the hall.

Saturday Star 1 June 1991 (2)

money we had," a grieving Mrs Mosia said.

Who were these mysterious attackers? Residents told Saturday Star that men from the nearby Nancefield Hostel, with the help of other members of the Inkatha Freedom Party who had been bused to Soweto for a rally held last Sunday, were responsible. But there has been no proof of this so far.

Residents said the attack was a follow-up to another outrage which had occurred during the day. Men, allegedly from the hostel, had apparently shot and injured two pupils who were waiting for a taxi at a bus stop.

The men were driven off by members of the Soweto Traffic Department, who shot back at them.

Saturday Star 1 June 1991

Maggie 'may play SA role'

LONDON — Margaret Thatcher may head a conference on South Africa's constitutional future, a newspaper columnist claimed yesterday.

According to the Evening Standard's Londoners's Diary, Mrs Thatcher had been asked to play the role after her trip to South Africa this month, during which she described herself as an "honest broker".

MIKE SILUMA

The paper quoted a spokesman for Mrs Thatcher's office as saying: "She is giving it serious consideration."

According to the columnist, the idea had been welcomed by both Inkatha and the ANC, as well as by Democratic Party leader Zach de Beer.