

LONDON — Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi has renewed his call for international shuttle diplomacy to force the Government to change.

"I've sent letters to Foreign Ministers of all Commonwealth countries and of all non-aligned countries, appealing to them to continue some kind of diplomatic pressure on the South African Government," Chief Buthelezi said on British television yesterday.

He was speaking from Durban via satellite in an interview with the commercial Channel Four television.

"I don't think changes will take place because black and whites come to some agreement. An international input is absolutely vital," Chief Buthelezi added.

He said the failure of diplomatic missions in 1985 by the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group and by British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe did not mean that shuttle diplomacy did not work.

"I've always advocated Geoffrey Howe for some kind of shuttle diplomacy," he said.

Chief Buthelezi, who opposes foreign sanctions against South Africa and opposes a violent solution to South Africa's troubles, praised British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for her firm stance against comprehensive economic sanctions.

"Mrs Thatcher's approach to sanctions has been very realistic, very statesman-like and consonant also with the feeling of the majority of black people," he said.

INKATHA-UDF BATTLE

Asked about the fighting raging in Natal between Inkatha and the United Democratic Front (UDF), Chief Buthelezi replied: "I stand for non-violence; nevertheless I'm not going to allow my people to be pushed over by anyone using intimidation."

About 400 blacks have died since the fighting began early last year.

"That was started of course by our brothers in the ANC ... and those in the UDF who work in tandem with them and are committed to make the country ungovernable," he added. — Reuter.

Continue pressure on Govt — Buthelezi



Chief Buthelezi ... international input is vital.

ANC asks for action from Commonwealth Ministers

1/2/88

THE STAR

Call for new sanctions

The Star's Africa News Service,
London Bureau and Sapa-Reuter

Lusaka

The African National Congress is asking for fresh, hard action from the Foreign Ministers of eight Commonwealth countries, who are meeting in Lusaka today to discuss sanctions on South Africa.

A top-level ANC delegation, including Secretary-General Mr Alfred Nzo, has been lobbying delegates to the meeting.

However, the delegates to the two-day meeting of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa said they would take "no momentous decisions".

The Star's London Bureau reports that the gulf between Britain and the rest of the Commonwealth over sanctions against South Africa will be underlined by Britain's absence from today's talks in Lusaka.

This is believed to be the first time that Britain has declined to participate in an important Commonwealth conference.

The Labour Opposition calls it a boycott and plans to deplore it in questions to Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe in the House of Commons on Wednesday. There is also widespread dismay among Liberal and Social Democratic MPs and a significant minority of Conservatives.

The criticism centres on fears that Britain's absence will weaken the Commonwealth and reinforce an international impression that Britain is Pretoria's ally.

There is also regret that Britain is allowing the moral leadership of the Commonwealth to drift from London towards Ottawa, whose External Affairs Minister, Mr Joe Clark, will chair the meeting.

Britain, which rejects demands for tougher sanctions, is not a member of the committee, which was set up at the meeting of Commonwealth leaders in Vancouver last year. It is charged with keeping international attention on South Africa.

'Rubbishing'

The Lusaka delegates have accused Britain of "rubbishing the whole exercise".

The eight nations are Canada, Australia, India, Nigeria, Guyana, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The talks are the first of a series of five before the Commonwealth summit next year in Malaysia.

The eight Foreign Ministers did not agree on the agenda until the last minute. Their job is to put the nuts and bolts on the machinery established in Vancouver aimed at ending apartheid.

It was the Vancouver call for "wider, tighter, more intensified application" of sanctions to which British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher objected.

Besides considering tighter sanctions on South Africa, the meeting will also look at ways of encouraging the opponents of apartheid within South Africa.

Canadian officials said the Ministers would discuss ways of increasing legal assistance and scholarships for the victims of apartheid, and support for South Africa's black trade unions.

Mr Peter Temple-Morris, vice-chairman of the Conservative Party's foreign affairs committee, said: "The party would be divided down the middle if they really had to make up their minds" (on sanctions).

PFP WILL 'LOOK FOR ALLIES'

By Brian Stuart

BOTH the Progressive Federal Party and the New Republic Party have reaffirmed their intention of seeking cooperation or alliances with other opposition groups committed to "democratic values".

Further talks aimed at healing the fractures in Left-wing opposition to the National Party Government are expected within the next few weeks.

Mr Ken Andrew, chairman of the PFP Federal Council, told The Citizen yesterday there had been numerous contacts with Dr Denis Worrall, who heads the Independent Movement, and Mr Wynand Malan, leader of the National Democratic

Movement, as well as with other groups.

"The PFP believes the fragmentation of democratic opposition is bad for South Africa.

"The 40th year of Nationalist rule is an appropriate time for enlightened opponents of the government to find each other.

"This party will look for allies and will continue its vision to bring together those who belong together.

"There are people outside the PFP who share

our commitment to the rule of law, the freedom of the individual and the democratic ideal. If we can possibly do so, we intend wiping away artificial barriers and outdated differences."

He said yesterday's meeting of the PFP Federal Executive showed "absolute acceptance" of the vital role the PFP had to play in South Africa in presenting democratic alternatives to the NP.

"There is a very strong feeling from this meeting that the PFP has an im-

portant message for South Africa and it is vital that we propagate that message and show what South Africa could be if democratic measures were implemented."

The PFP would soon launch a nationwide campaign to bring to the attention of South Africans that the country was "a worse place than it would have been if there had been no Nationalist Government for the past 40 years.

TO PAGE 2

PFP seeks allies

FROM PAGE 1

"Our country could have been, and can still become, a happier and more successful place if PFP policies and principles triumphed. The Federal Executive pledged to redouble its efforts to bring this about," said Mr Andrew.

The Federal Executive had identified all potential organisations and individuals with whom the PFP would negotiate towards cooperation.

The Federal Council of the Republic Party also met at the weekend to consider its position, but left a final decision to a full congress of the party, which is likely to be held in March or April.

The NRP meeting agreed in principle to an outline of the basic policy of the proposed new party to be formed next month by Dr Worrall's Indepen-

dent Movement, but did not agree to support it at this stage.

It decided that party formations and provincial head committees should meet to discuss "the role of the NRP in present circumstances", prior to the congress.

Mr Pat Rogers, chairman of the NRP Federal Council, said Dr Worrall's new party would have been formed by then, and the NRP would be in a better position to decide on becoming part of a new opposition grouping.

Mr Ralph Hardingham said he would continue to take his seat in Parliament under the NRP banner.

"Parliament will be in session and there will be developments among opposition groups. Other parties are also having problems," he said.

THE CITIZEN - 1 FEBR. 1988

7 more violent deaths near city

Witness Reporter

POLICE have reported that seven more people died in unrest-related incidents in townships around the city at the weekend.

The Natal Witness also received several reports from residents in Edendale yesterday of large-scale intimidation by one of the rival groups involved in the violence.

Police declined to comment last night and said that any incidents would be listed in today's unrest report.

Under the emergency regulations The Natal Witness is unable to publish details.

According to the weekend's official unrest report released in Pretoria yesterday, a 25-year-old man was attacked by a large group and stabbed to death in Mpumuza on Friday.

Police found three bodies in Sweetwaters on Saturday. According to the police the men were aged 20, 25 and 38. The bodies were found separately.

In Vulisaka, near Taylor's Halt, a man was killed when three men threw petrol bombs at a policeman's house. The policeman returned fire and killed one of his attackers.

The body of a woman with knife and shotgun wounds was found in Taylor's Halt, and in Imbali police found the body of a 26-year-old man with several stab wounds.

The latest deaths bring the death toll in unrest-related incidents to 87 since the start of the year.

In other incidents of political violence, a woman sustained serious burns after a petrol bomb was thrown at a house in Ashdown, and in Mdlala arsonists caused extensive damage to two homes.

In another incident in Imbali a woman was injured when a group stoned a house.

Police also reported that one man was killed and another seriously injured in Mpumalanga, near Hammarsdale, when two unknown gunmen fired a number of shots at passengers in a minibus.

Foreign ministers to meet in Lusaka

ANC pushes for tougher sanctions

The STAR 1 FEB 1988

The Star's Africa News Service
and Sapa-Reuter

Lusaka

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However, the delegates to the two-day meeting of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa said they would take "no momentous decisions".

The meeting will be chaired by Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark, an outspoken opponent of South Africa.

Britain, which rejects demands for tougher sanctions, is not a member of the committee, which was set up at the meeting of Commonwealth leaders in Vancouver last year. It is charged with keeping international attention on South Africa.

The Lusaka delegates have accused Britain of "rubbishing the whole exercise".

The eight nations are: Canada, Australia, India, Nigeria, Guyana, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The talks are the first of a series of five before the Commonwealth summit next year in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia.

Frontline trio

The eight foreign ministers did not agree on the agenda until the last minute. Their job is to put the nuts and bolts on the machinery established in Vancouver, and aimed at ending apartheid.

The Frontline trio — Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe — are expected to press for greater sanctions.

It was the Vancouver call for "wider, tighter, more intensified application" of sanctions that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher objected to.

Besides considering tighter sanctions on South Africa, the meeting will also look at ways of encouraging the opponents of apartheid within South Africa.

Canadian officials said the ministers would discuss ways of increasing legal assistance and scholarships for the victims of apartheid, and support for South Africa's black trade unions.

Six more killed in capital unrest

Natal Mercury 1/2/88
**Pietermaritzburg
Bureau**

SIX more people have died in unrest in townships around Pietermaritzburg.

According to the latest unrest report issued by the S A P, the bodies of three black men were found at Sweetwaters, all with stab wounds. The men were aged 20, 28 and 35. The bodies were found separately.

At Taylor's Halt police discovered the body of a black woman with a bullet as well as stab wounds in the face, and at Imbali the body of a 26-year-old black man was found by police. He had suffered several stab wounds.

In the same area, police report, a black woman was injured when a group stoned a private home.

The sixth death occurred during an incident at Vulisaka, also at Taylor's Halt, when three black men hurled petrol bombs at the home of a policeman. He fired a shot at his attackers and one of them was fatally wounded.

At Ashdown, also in the Pietermaritzburg police district, a black woman suffered serious burns after a petrol bomb was thrown at a home, and at Mdlala arsonists caused extensive damage to two houses.

Meanwhile, at KwaNdengezi, Durban, a black man was arrested after an incident in which a private vehicle was stoned and damaged.

At Clermont, near Pinetown, two black women were injured and a house was badly damaged when it was stoned by a mob.

At KTC, Cape Town, arsonists destroyed a church and set fire to numerous other dwellings.

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A piece of Zululand in the Transvaal

The king of the Zulu nation — Zwelithini Goodwill kaBhekuzulu — receives a royal welcome when he arrives in the heart of the Magaliesberg to open a newly built kraal on Saturday. The authentic Zulu homestead is set to attract thousands of visitors each year.

It was a day to remember as the monarch's power-packed dancers kicked up the dust in frenzied motion to the throb of beating drums.

● Picture by Herbert Mabuza.

Lecturer says SA has a vast untapped fortune:

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Tourism could easily overtake gold as South Africa's top money spinner if blacks were accorded human rights and dignity, says the country's only black lecturer in tourism.

Rather than spending millions of rands selling the beauty of South Africa to foreigners, the Tourism Board should strive towards ridding tourism of the "cancer of apartheid", said Mr Jeeva Chetty, a lecturer at the ML Sultan Technikon in Durban.

"Of what use is a pair of skis to a crippled man?" he asked. "Only a well-educated community with inquiring minds and well-established ideals will represent a socio-politically evolved tourist base which is a prerequisite for the industry's success."

Mr Chetty said the growth of tourism was being stifled by reduced incomes, unrest, fear and insecurity. Decades of economic setbacks, poor education, poor living standards and the soul-destroying Group Areas Act had dealt a fatal blow to any meaningful participation by blacks in tourism.

"Where's the point in the Tourism Board embarking on a 'Come to South Africa' drive overseas when back home blacks are being prosecuted for sitting on benches in whites-only parks and swimming from whites-only beaches."

Mr Chetty estimated that a mere 10 percent increase in tourism by blacks would result in a turnover of R500 million for the industry.

"But the big question is how to achieve the 10 percent increase as long

Blacks could give tourism mighty boost

The Star 11/2/88

as black tourism is a victim of politics.

"Laws have to change now to lay the foundation for a multiracial South Africa, and attitudes have to change so that black people are welcomed to tourist spots."

Only when black people felt relaxed, happy, secure, and did not fear assault or embarrassment at tourist sites would they go to hotels instead of to homelands for rest and relaxation.

"Blacks are by nature great travelers, but their mobility has been limited by laws which have had a lasting effect."

Mr Chetty, who has travelled widely, said tourism was a complex industry and it was the people that formed the greatest asset.

"Hardly any purpose was served in portraying South Africa as a multicultural region when, in fact, it was not quite so in real terms."

Mr Spencer Thomas, executive director of the Tourism Board, said the organisation was fully aware of the

major importance of "multiracial tourism".

"Tourism for all races is now a fact of life, and the board will encourage the provision of adequate facilities so that all South Africans can enjoy what their country has to offer."

"As far back as 1986, the board took a stand on this issue and committed itself to the promotion of tourism for all races."

Senior black officials were appointed at the board's Pretoria head office and the Johannesburg regional office. There were coloured and Indian promotional officers in Cape Town and Durban.

"As a further step in servicing the needs of all communities, the board held a conference in 1987 to investigate the black tourism market."

"Educational and orientation tours have also been arranged for black trendsetters and leaders in tourism. This has resulted in a growing awareness of what facilities are available to people of all races," said Mr Thomas.

8 more killed in Natal violence

The STAR
By Craig Kotze *1/2/88*

Another eight people were killed in fighting in Maritzburg townships at the weekend, police reported, while unrest continued in Cape Town's KTC squatter camp — which last week left two dead, hundreds of shacks razed and thousands homeless.

At Sweetwaters police found three bodies with stab wounds. All were men, aged 20, 35, 28.

A policeman shot and killed a suspected arsonist in Vulisaka near Taylor's Halt when three men hurled a petrol bomb at his house. Also in Taylors Halt, police found the body of a woman with a bullet wound and stab marks on her face.

The body of a 26-year-old man was found in Imbali — he had been stabbed to death. A 26-year-old man was hit on the head and killed when unidentified gunmen fired shots at a minibus in Mpumalanga.

A mob stabbed a 25-year-old man to death in Mpumuza.

In KTC, the latest police unrest report said arsonists destroyed a church. No injuries were reported.



PFP leader Mr Eglin . . . sees party as a custodian of democracy.

Eglin spells out new PFP strategies

Political Staff

The Progressive Federal Party's most immediate task is to give greater cohesion and thrust to those groups in Parliament who share its values of a democratic, non-racial South Africa, according to its leader, Mr Colin Eglin.

It is a strategy aimed at including individuals and groups in all three Houses of Parliament while the party maintains its contacts outside Parliament.

In an extensive interview this week Mr Eglin spoke against the background of unease in the party since its election setback last year.

Q: There is a certain amount of unease in the PFP about its future role. To what do you attribute this?

"I think is in perfectly understandable that, following its election setback, the strong running that is being made by

the Conservative Party, and the tight control the Government has over the distribution of information on key issues, there should be a degree of frustration among members of the PFP who would like to be living in a very different South Africa.

"To deal with this the party set about analysing the election results and reassessing its strategy in the light of its findings.

"This led to the acceptance of the party's 'mission statement' at the end of August but such statements, while they play a vital role in positioning the direction and setting out the key markers for political tactics still have to be fleshed out by programmes of action.

"Having stated its objectives the party is now in the second phase of considering a programme of action within the framework of the mission

statement."

Q: Do you sense any unease about your leadership or that of any other leaders in the party?

"To the extent that there is impatience and frustration once again it is understandable that some of it must direct itself among other things to the leadership in specific and general terms.

"What I am anxious to to is to harness this frustration and impatience and to turn it into creative thinking, debating and decision-making.

"The groundwork of the past few months will very soon develop into decisions and actions in the political scene.

"Again I do not believe that what is seen as some unease flows from any fundamental ideological differences."

Q: It has been said in some PFP circles that activity in the party virtually dried up after

the election shock. Has something been done about this?

"There was a drop-off of general activity after the election. This was a consequence of a response to a tough four months long election campaign and disappointment at its results.

"Added to this the party, from May to August, examined the election results were analysed and a new strategy planned.

"In addition the party was affected in the post-election period by some defections. There obviously was a 'valley period' but the round of party congresses later on pointed to the party having pulled itself together."

Q: How do you now see the PFP's future role?

"The party must be in tune with the dynamics of what is happening around it.

"I still see the party's key role as the custodian of non-racial, liberal, democratic values.

"Secondly, the party has a role to promote the process of negotiation as an alternative to conflict.

"Its third aim is to increase the effectiveness of anti-apartheid opposition in South Africa. This cannot be done by the PFP on its own. The party has to be involved in findings way of bringing about a greater cohesion of efforts among various groups and parties who share its goal of a democratic and apartheid-free South Africa."

Q: There has recently been a lot of talk about the plight of liberalism in South Africa. How do you see this?

"Liberal values such as equal opportunities, individual freedom and the rule of law have always been under pressure in conflict situations.

"These values are not respected by authoritarian regimes and they are not respected by revolutionaries."

The Star

THE STAR

The shady links of the political Right

BY DRAMATISING the long-suspected link between the Conservative Party and the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging, the National Party is hoping to provoke far-right divisions and rivalries. The purpose is to bolster resistance in the HNP against its supporters drifting into CP ranks, and to improve NP chances of recapturing at forthcoming by-elections the platteland seats of Standerton and Schweizer-Reneke, lost to the CP in the general election last May. It is a long shot that probably won't work.

Far from being echoed in Afrikaner rightist circles, the alarm such revelations may cause among more enlightened white voters and in the outside world is likely to be matched by segregationist pride and the quickening of pulses beating in time to the revivalist music of apartheid.

The CP-AWB link damages the right wing in conservative circles not a jot. But the Right's very strength and the higher profile it is enjoying will deeply damage internal race relations and heighten in-

ternational perceptions of South Africa as a country incapable of escaping peacefully from its racist past.

Dr Treurnicht, far from being rattled by NP attempts to embarrass him over the AWB membership of some of his Conservative MPs, correctly proclaims: "The AWB is a threat to the NP, not to us."

What the right wing is doing is moving towards solidarity of its political and pseudo-cultural organisations. It is the way other political groupings operate also, on the left or right, aiming to multiply their impact through a proliferation of linked organisations cultivating public support at different levels. The Nationalists themselves have used the technique through co-ordinating party, church and "cultural" bodies such as the Broederbond and the Rapportryers.

The NP is unlikely to win ground by highlighting far-right machinations. But the result of their campaign must be to alert the country to the ominous threat the far right poses to any peaceful resolution of the country's problems.

Govt might have erred in scrapping provincial councils

By Martin Challenor

THE STAR

Constitutional development and planning was more a matter of ad hoc experimentation than long-term planning, the South African Institute of Race Relations says in its quarterly review of the last three months of 1987.

The quarter's most important development was the launch of the joint executive authority (JEA) for Natal and kwaZulu.

"It was the first governmental body set up on the initiative of others — kwaZulu and the defunct Natal Provincial Council — rather than simply imposed by the central Government. It thus represents a first step away from unilateral constitution-making."

Whether or not the Government has "turned over a new leaf" in this area will be seen from its response to the kwaZulu/Natal Indaba proposals, the review says.

The Government is talking about establishing JEAs elsewhere, and setting up provincial-level multiracial legislative bodies.

"There are signs of a rethink about the wisdom of abolishing the elected provincial councils."

"There is now talk of reintroducing elected bodies at this level that will pass legislation by concurrent majority. Elected representatives of each population group will have to approve Bills before they become law. This means each group would have a veto."

CREATED POLITICAL VACUUM

"There is speculation that Government planners believe scrapping the provincial councils was a mistake in that it created a political vacuum in second-tier government," the review says.

"The new provincial system has been in operation for only 18 months. That changes to it might already be under consideration suggests a lack of careful thinking and consultation on the Government's part before it scrapped the previous system."

Moving to "own affairs", the review says that although the Government feels this system is working and claims that public appreciation is increasing, "the own affairs structure is causing problems in a number of fields, notably education and health. There appears to be a growing awareness, even in Government circles, that it is wasteful."

The review says the second most important development during the quarter was President Botha's acceptance of the principle of open residential areas. This showed that the Government had accepted the extensive erosion of the Group Areas Act as a *fait accompli* in various places.

"It is clear the NP is divided on the Group Areas Act."

UNFAVOURABLE REACTION

The third key development during the period was the release of Mr Govan Mbeki. One reason for the restrictions imposed on him "was evidently the unfavourable reaction to his release from rank-and-file whites", the review says.

"The Mbeki affair is puzzling. If the Government ever thought he would simply disappear from the political scene, or that its own conciliatory gesture would evoke a similar conciliatory attitude from the ANC or the UDF, it was naive."

The restrictions on Mr Mbeki do not rule out the possibility that other political prisoners will be released, the review says.

Highlights during the past quarter were:

- The launching of the joint executive authority for kwaZulu and Natal.
- Mr Mbeki's release from Robben Island.
- The Labour Party blocked proposals for joint parliamentary debates.
- The first two new African title deeds were registered.

- The Government accepted the principle of open residential areas.
- More Durban beaches were desegregated.
- Lebowa reiterated its rejection of independence.
- Harrismith became the first Indian group area in the Free State.
- Botshabelo was incorporated into QwaQwa and Ekangala into kwaNdebele.
- The review identifies these areas to watch for between January and March:
 - Whether a national council is established.
 - The release of more political prisoners.
 - Government's formal response to the Indaba.
 - Whether RSCs are established in Natal.
 - The outcome of Government investigations into sub-dividing the Cape and Transvaal and establishing four more JEAs.
 - Changes to school-sport policy to facilitate mixed sport.
 - Removal of the colour bar from the Mining Rights Act.
 - The outcome of protests against the Government's proposed new health policy.
 - Changes to the Reservation of Separate Amenities Act and the Group Areas Act.
 - Changes to the Land Bank Act to allow loans to homeland blacks.
 - Proclamation of more Indian group areas in the Free State.
 - Whether it is made easier for TBVC citizens to work in white-designated areas.
 - Results of Transvaal by-elections on March 2.

after Cabinet arrested

Mangope is overthrown in Bop coup

Staff Reporters and Sapa

President Lucas Mangope of Bophuthatswana has been deposed in a military coup.

Radio Bophuthatswana announced today that the military had overthrown the President and handed power to the independent homeland's People's Progressive Party, led by Mr Rocky Malebane-Metsing.

President Mangope and some members of the Bophuthatswana Cabinet were taken into custody in the bloodless coup at 1 am, according to informed sources.

A major in the army is said to have led the coup, but his name has not yet been disclosed. The complete takeover is said to have been completed by 3.30 am.

At about 4.30 am 50 uniformed members of the army barged into the Radio Bophuthatswana offices and issued a statement.

A military statement broadcast on Radio Bophuthatswana called on the public not to panic and to stay at home.

Police, soldiers, teachers and medical staff were instructed to report for duty, however.

Spying charges

The statement pointed to accused KGB agent Mr Shabtai Kalmanovitz, described as being a close associate of President Mangope, as being a central figure in the decision to seize power.

Once Bophuthatswana's trade representative in Israel, the Bophuthatswana government had spent R1.5 million to "bail him out" on spying charges, the military claimed.

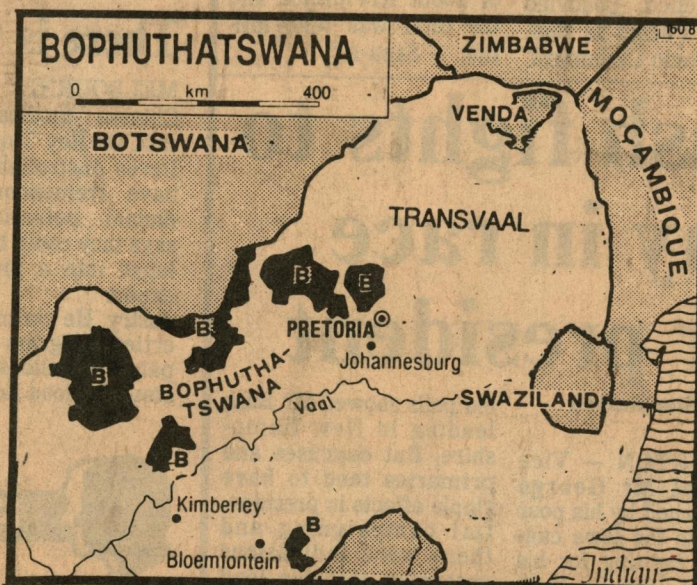
Bophuthatswana opposition leader Mr Malebane-Metsing was asked to assume the presidency of the independent homeland today.

Secretary of the Progressive People's Party, Mr M S Dlamini, told The Star that Mr Malebane-Metsing was collected from his office by members of the armed forces at about 8 am and told he was to be taken to the Parliament offices to take the oath of office.

"Everything seems to be under control at the moment," said Mr Dlamini.

Mr Victor Sefora, leader of the Seosengwe Party, said the military had given as its reasons for the coup the alleged misuse of government funds by President Mangope.

"But the reasons given are just the tip of the iceberg," said Mr Sefora.



The question mark in the wake of Strauss's visit

THE STAR

01/02/88

The Bavarian Prime Minister may have been testing the political waters for Chancellor Helmut Kohl, suggests Frederick Cleary, The Star's Foreign Editor.

Dr Strauss used to drop into Rhodesia during UDI days, say nice things about Mr Ian Smith and have a dutiful Mr P K van der Byl in tow making equally right noises; not that it helped in the end for the Salisbury administration.

When Britain finally moved in and bundled out the cosy Muzorewa/Smith coalition in favour of Mr Robert Mugabe by way of the much-criticised Lancaster House agreement, Dr Strauss could only mutter sympathy from the sidelines.

Yet, to dismiss the latter's visit lightly could be a mistake. Dr Kohl himself went to Mozambique in December and all indications are that Bonn is now beginning to flex its diplomatic muscles in Africa.

It could be that West Germany, having finally shaken off the complex of Hitlerism, is seriously considering using its position as Europe's wealthiest and most influential nation to help resolve the almost intractable political difficulties in which southern African is entrapped.

Apart from increased political status to be gained from any successful diplomatic forays, the Germans fully appreciate the business opportunities that could follow.

The door is wide open for foreign intervention. Despite the unflagging efforts of the ubiquitous Dr Crocker, the Reagan Administration has failed. On the contrary, sectional interests in Congress forced its ageing President to legitimise and spearhead a damaging sanctions campaign against South Africa after the banking community took fright at the township turmoil here two years ago and pressed the panic button.

The French are confining themselves to their areas of expertise,

North and West Africa, while Mrs Thatcher is hesitating over whether to commit Britain directly back into the fray after Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe's pusillanimous efforts a couple of years ago.

So, mindful of his country's historical past in the region — particularly in Namibia — Chancellor Kohl, seeing that South Africa is not about to degenerate into another Lebanon and Pretoria is still very much in charge, might be using the unique good offices of Dr Strauss to test the political waters; to see if it is worth his while to move in, first with aid (which he has already promised to Mozambique) and then in the diplomatic area.

Always positive, Dr Strauss ended his safari by calling for two conferences, one involving the regional powers and the other between South Africa and the world's major industrial nations. "The endless arguments should stop," he said bluntly.



Strauss . . . farewell news conference at Jan Smuts.

Pretoria was quick to welcome this "pragmatic" approach, all of which lends to a conclusion that there may be much more activity going on behind the scenes than one is led to believe. For instance, did Dr Strauss take a message to Tynhuys from Mr Gorbachev regarding Russian future policy in Angola? Moscow has denied any such letter, but it would, anyhow.

Aware that a liberal Democrat similar to Mr Jimmy Carter could be sitting in the White House in a year's time, President Botha will be examining every option in an effort to find a powerful friend to help bring peace and progress to this part of Africa, and in Dr Strauss and the interests he represents he may have found the catalyst — hence the almost smothering goodwill afforded the charismatic visitor.

Bonn's reaction to Dr Strauss's report may be significant.

Just why did Dr Franz Josef Strauss visit southern Africa at this time? Was he just an old friend renewing friendships or was there an underlying reason yet to be disclosed?

He stormed through the political minefields of southern Africa with all the directness and confidence of a Panzer commander. For 10 days this 72-year-old seasoned politician and statesman spoke his mind with characteristic plebian directness and was afforded the full royal treatment by a gushing South African Government.

He had two meetings with President Botha and consultations with several ministers. He was allowed maximum exposure on SABC radio and television and had access to a wide spectrum of national interests and opinions. He also conferred with President Chissano of Mozambique and President Mangope of Bophuthatswana, Unita leader Dr Jonas Savimbi and the transitional government in Windhoek.

On the side he did not forget his business obligations, donning his hat as chairman of Airbus Industrie, the highly successful European consortium, and arranging for South African Airways to buy two Airbus A 320s.

His good friend Foreign Minister Pik Botha was in constant attendance. They go back a long way, having shared many a meal, hunted together and, over the last decade, ruminated over the travails of this troubled continent.

Regular visitor

One cannot help wonder if the corpulent, affable Prime Minister of Bavaria and arch-conservative member of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's administration was more than simply having a look around. Rather, he might have been on a temperature-testing diplomatic mission for the West German leader.

He has been a regular visitor to the sub-continent over the past two decades, yet never before had he been afforded such attention. One could be forgiven for believing he actually was his country's Foreign Minister.

Certainly, no such favouritism would have been afforded to the official holder of that office, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, a liberal and sworn foe of Pretoria who hobnobs with the ANC and other Pretoria detractors — even if he wanted to come, which is highly unlikely.

It would be easy to dismiss Dr Strauss's waltz through the sub-continent as an exercise in semantics and a pandering to his vanity by Chancellor Kohl, who, appreciating his ageing colleague's international popularity and unique standing in southern Africa lent his authority to the trip without any commitments.

F
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Violence in Pietermaritzburg: the Inkatha story

Dear Sir,

Your South Africa correspondent, Tony Allen-Mills, reports at great length on the violence in Pietermaritzburg. In his article "Clashes between old and new inflame Zulu wars" (26 January), he made various assertions about which I would like the opportunity to reply.

Mr Allen-Mills quite correctly notes that the conflict is "complex", but in his general analysis of the situation, he has, in many ways, misrepresented both myself and the organisation I lead, Inkatha.

I take great exception to the description of me as having chosen to "co-operate with Pretoria". I have always despised the white-supremacist policies of successive National Party governments, and will continue to do everything in my power to see South Africa peacefully emerge as a united, non-racial democracy.

I loathe apartheid, and it is precisely because of my hatred of everything that it stands for that I chose to remain in this country and, on the initial advice of the then ANC leadership, to use my traditional and elected leadership

positions in KwaZulu to mobilise people to fight the racist designs of the government from within. This was before the ANC adopted its pro-violence stance (without consulting black South Africa) to which it now demands allegiance.

Mr Allen-Mills postulates that "exiled revolutionaries like Oliver Tambo of the African National Congress ... confront Pretoria", and that now a situation has emerged in which "sell-outs" like myself and Inkatha's 1.5 million members are at "loggerheads" and competing for "activist loyalties" in the townships. This is totally puerile and hackneyed polemic.

The appalling bloodshed in Pietermaritzburg (which I would do anything to quell) is not of my or Inkatha's making. We, alone, cannot do anything to control it.

To claim, as Mr Allen-Mills does, that Inkatha and I are "colliding head-on with those [diverse forces] of youth, rebellion, liberation, democracy and the UDF" is to imply that our aims and aspirations are not worthy of support. This is biased pro-ANC/UDF propaganda, which I totally reject.

The "cold-blooded savagery" in Pietermaritzburg, to which Mr Allen-Mills refers, is all too real. It is inextricably linked to the effects of the curse of apartheid, and to socio-economic and criminal determinants. The tragedy of Pietermaritzburg is that what is happening is a lesson for all of South Africa (white and black), but few beyond the boundaries of the area are really taking much notice. The events there are a salient and daily reminder of what may be in store for us all, if the government persists in ramming its racism down our throats.

Anarchy is equally evil and ugly and the only solution is for the politics of negotiation and compromise to triumph. There are forces on both sides who are determined to resist this. For them, it is a winner-take-all fight to the death — no matter the cost. It is this crucial issue that Mr Allen-Mills has, for some reason, failed to adequately articulate.

Yours sincerely,
MANGOSUTHU G. BUTHELEZI
Chief Minister of KwaZulu
President of Inkatha
Ulundi, South Africa
28 January