



Westminster will hear the  
Mandela message

# Mandela

Sunday Tribune

## message

8 June 1980

### smuggled into U.K.

ANTI-APARTHEID organisers here claim to have pulled off a stunning propaganda coup by smuggling a message from jailed African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela off Robben Island.

The message, said to be two pages long, will be read publicly at the House of Commons here on Wednesday to mark his 16th year in detention.

From  
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Supporters of the Anti-Apartheid Movement and the ANC in London will also picket the South African Embassy in Trafalgar Square on Wednesday and attend the meeting in a hired hall at the Commons.

The smuggled message comes at the height of an intense campaign here to release the 61-year-old prisoner — and is bound to be seen as a slap in the face for the South African authorities.

The gesture follows hard on the blasting of petrol tanks at Sasolburg, which was also aimed at causing red Government faces.

The text of Mandela's message will be made public at a press conference in London on Tuesday and a film Portrait Nelson Mandela will be shown on Wednesday to mark the occasion.

This development in the Release Mandela campaign comes in the wake of similar efforts in South Africa to have him freed.

The campaign floundered when Minister of Police, Mr Louis le

Grange, told Parliament in April this year that Mandela would "spend the rest of his life in jail."

Anti-apartheid organisers would not say what the message contained, except that it had great importance for everybody in South Africa.

Nor would they provide any detail on how the message was allegedly smuggled from Robben Island, a top security prison where political prisoners are held.

Mandela, who was jailed for sabotage, has been visited by his banned wife Winnie and children.

These are "no touch" visits with glass panelling separating Mandela from his visitors. Conversations are conducted by telephone.

A spokesman for the Department of Prisons last night declined to comment on the claims: "We have no factual information that the message was actually smuggled out or about the contents of it, so it is impossible for us to comment," he said.



These Inkatha supporters, armed with sticks and assegais, are part of a large group who are guarding KwaZulu MP, Ewert Bhengu's garage in KwaMashu

# Violence flares in KwaMashu

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A victim of the violence in KwaMashu... Inkatha member, Doda Mabase, looks through the shattered window panes of his house

## Tribune Reporter

VIOLENCE and fear this week racked KwaMashu, Durban's vast African township, as Inkatha supporters clashed with school-boycotting children and their supporters.

An increasing list of injuries reflected sharply opposing views on the boycotting of the township's schools.

"The violence has reached epidemic proportions," said Durban attorney Aubrey Nyembezi — one of six attorneys who visited KwaMashu police this week in an attempt to stop assaults on boycotting pupils.

"There are crowds of people hunting in vigilante groups," he said. "Several children are sleeping out in the veld because they are scared they will be caught at their homes and beaten up."

Police have denied knowledge of pupils being assaulted or of attacks on houses in the townships.

KwaMashu's Inkatha chairman and KwaZulu Legislative Assembly member Ewert Bhengu, this week blamed "ANC inspired youths and adults" for attacks on the homes of Inkatha members.

He said his garage had been the target of an arson attempt last week, but the fire had failed to take hold.

"My garage is now being

guarded day and night by Inkatha members armed with sticks and assegais — I'm not taking chances any more," said Mr Bhengu.

He said Inkatha supporters in the township were providing protection for pupils and students who wanted to attend school without intimidation.

He stressed that this was not an action organised by Inkatha but the wish of parents of children in KwaMashu.

But supermarket owner, Japhta Mnguni, told reporters he was "upset that Inkatha members were beating up children and adults."

Mr Mnguni, an Inkatha member, said his house had been damaged by stone-throwing.

Earlier, his wife, Mrs Albertina Mnguni, had been assaulted at an Inkatha rally after being accused of involvement in the schools boycott.

Mr Mnguni said his family was being victimised because "I challenged Inkatha's actions."

Another Inkatha supporter, Doda Mabaso, was also the victim of an arson attempt on his house.

"This was done to my house because I was opposed to the children boycotting," he said.

KwaZulu secretary for Education, George Steyn,

said it was difficult to assess the exact extent of the boycotts this week.

"You can have 90 per cent attendance in the morning but by midday it is down to 20 percent," he said.

He had the impression that there was a lot of intimidation in KwaMashu — mainly directed at children who wished to attend classes.

He had heard of a group in the township who were getting "stuck into" intimidators who were apparently going from school to school in attempts to keep children from school.

A spokesman for the KwaMashu polyclinic said yesterday there had been an increase in violent injuries on youths, including schoolchildren, which indicated "something was going on".

He said the hospital had not attempted to find out who was responsible for the injuries.