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prisoners to end strike

MAFIKENG â\200\224 The 23 political prisoners in a Bophuthatswana hospital suspended their hunger strike yesterday because they felt reassured after a visit by ANC president Nelson Mandela that they would be released soon.

According to a statement from the Mafikeng Anti-Repression Forum, the prisoners, 17 of whom had not eaten for 29 days, were â\200\234overjoyedâ\200\235 by the midnight visit by Mandela, ANC deputy president Walter Sisulu and ANC secretary general Cyril Ramaphosa.

Laurence Mahila, on behalf of fellow-prisoners at Odi Hospital in Garankuwa, said they felt â\200\234united behind the ANC leadershipâ\200\235.

Inkatha

launches \_  
branch in  
Bruntville

by HEIDI GIBSON

MORE than 1000 Inkatha Freedom Party members (IFP) were bussed in from Pietermaritzburg, Howick and Estcourt to attend the launch of the partyâ\200\231s branch in Bruntville, Mooi River yesterday.

According to local IFP organiser Heavystone Zaca, â\200\234a lot of the 2 000 card-carrying membersâ\200\235 in the township did not attend because of â\200\234intimidationâ\200\235 from the African National Congress.

Zaca said residents in the new sections had been recruited earlier this year but some were afraid to be seen to hold IFP membership.

â\200\234The ANC does not want the IFP here. But we have a right to establish a branch here just as they do,â\200\235 he said.

KwaZulu Urban representative Phillip Powell said all 800 men at the hostel were IFP members.

Speaking earlier at the launch Powell said members should be proud of president Mangosuthu Buthelezi for having the â\200\234wisdom and faithâ\200\235 to stand up to the ANC.

â\200\234The ANC is always crying that the violence was started by IFP, but the IFP had always stood for peace. It has been a party

â\200\234that has been consistently right since its formation in 1975. The choice is a simple one â\200\224 between one with a policy of failure and one with a policy of success,â\200\235 he said.

Guest speaker KwaZulu Minister of Justice and IFP central committee member C.J. Mtetwa said the launching of the branch took place in â\200\234difficult timesâ\200\235 but had been planned deliberately. He said the ANC would not have a place in Parliament because it was not a political party.

The visit only took place after more than seven hours of talks and the intervention of the South African state president and minister of foreign affairs.

The group had to overcome many obstacles â\200\224 including recalcitrant Bophuthatswana policemen â\200\224 before finally meeting the hunger strikers.

The ANC leaders began talks with Deputyâ\200\231 Foreign Minister Leon Wessels at Pretoriaâ\200\231s Wonderboom airport at 4 pm in an attempt to get clearance to visit the prisoners.

During the discussions, which lasted for six hours, Mandela was in telephonic contact with President F.W. de Klerk and Foreign Minister Pik Botha.

Only after the South African Government

had contacted the homeland's leader, Lucas Mangope, did Bophuthatswana grant the ANC delegation permission to visit.

However, Bophuthatswana policemen at the clinic gates barred the way, claiming they needed to see written permission.

Wessels insisted he had instructions from De Klerk and Botha that Mangope had agreed to the visit.

Eventually, a homeland police colonel agreed to let the delegation in, only to have his order rescinded by a district commander.

Shortly before midnight the officer gave the delegation an effusive welcome and allowed them into the clinic for a visit which lasted until about 1.25 am. Sapa.

An Inkatha Freedom Party member relaxes during a break at the launch of the Bruntville branch yesterday.

Picture by CLINT ZASMAN

Monday, July 15, 1991

our readers write

Communists: deafening  
conspiracy of silence?

MUCH has been made in the  
various news media â\200\224 particu-  
larly during the last few days â\200\224  
of the preponderance of known  
communists on the NEC of the  
ANC. In fact a whopping figure  
of 37 out of 50 members who are  
communists is mentioned in  
some newspapers who were re-  
cently elected to the ANC's

- NEC.

And yet a deafening conspir-  
acy of silence is maintained re-

" garding the communist mem-

bership of none other than the  
President of the ANC â\200\224 Mr Nel-  
son Mandela whom the media  
instead are at pains to present  
as the â\200\234moderateâ\200\235. ..

In documents in N.M.â\200\231s own

" handwriting â\200\224 and presented

at the â\200\234Rivoniaâ\200\235 trial â\200\224 Man-  
dela said â\200\224 quote: â\200\234in our own  
country the struggles of the op-  
pressed people are guided by  
the SACP and inspired by its

~ policies. We Communist Party

members are the most ad-  
vanced revolutionaries in mod-  
ern history and v.re the contem-

. porary fighting and driving

force in changing the society

" and the world .. ." and "to sacri-

fice one's personal interest and even one's life without the slightest hesitation to the cause of The Party, is the highest manifestation of communist ethics."

Nothing ambiguous about these statements, and to the best of my knowledge N.M. has never renounced or repudiated this statement of allegiances. If he has we the public would like to know where and/or when he did so.

Where is the interviewer in print; on radio; or TV with the guts to confront N.M. with the facts and demand an unequivocal reply?... Yes or No.

(Mrs) TERESA MILLIN

Dorpspruit

Saki Macozoma, ANC Informa-

tion Officer, Johannesburg, replies:

TERESA Millin's letter is another manifestation of a long-surviving white South African excuse to deny black people in particular, and anyone who believes in a non-racial democracy in general, their democratic right to hold political beliefs and to exercise the democratic right through which such views can be translated into state policies. It is ridiculous to expect the President of the ANC, Dr Nelson Mandela, should be making confessions to the Teresa Millin of this country. If the amount of ink that has flown on the question of membership or not, of ANC Executive Members of the SACP, had flown in the promotion of a just political settlement in South Africa, we could be sure of achieving that objective.

What is even more worrying is that there seems to be amnesia when it comes to the existence of the Broederbond and its sinister control of South African society. If public figures must make confessions surely those who are currently in power need to make

their confessions first.

The evidence that Mrs Millin claims is in her possession and was adduced in the Rivonia trial is phoney. After all I could also claim that I know or have evidence that Mrs Millin is a witch. She could neither prove nor disprove that. Speaking during the Kivonia trial Mandela said:

â\200\234At the outset, I want to say that the suggestion made by the state in its opening that the struggle in South Africa is under the influence of foreigners or communists is wholly incorrect. I have done what I did, both as an individual and as a leader of my

people, because of my experience in South Africa and my own proudly-felt African background ...â\200\235 (Carter Karis, Page 771).

Clearly Mrs Millin is speaking of evidence in the treason trial which was disproved.

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AN WITNESS

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O e = :  
PRETORIA â\200\224 A massive bomb blast  
early yesterday: caused damage esti-  
mated at R800 000 to a school intended to  
be used by ANC children. :  
Police ~spokesman ~ Lieutenant Jan

â\200\234 Crous said this figure was supplied by  
contractors who had just finished reno-  
vating the abandoned Hillview - High  
School in Pretoria for use by 700 children  
of African National Congress cadres, due

L backin South Africa this month.

Right-wing sources warned last week

situated â\200\234inside the borders of the Boer

. 'Volkstaatâ\200\235, to be used by black children,

"and that it would become â\200\234a target. of  
\* Boerresistanceâ\200\235. !

~Crous said no one had claifned\_re-  
sponsibility for the blast. Â¥

right-wing fringe group was responsible.  
PWV regional spokesman Ronnie Ma-  
moepa also blamed the Government for

right-wing action. â\200\234The problem of the -

â\200\230Serious  
â\200\230damage  
pUt a\_t Y

they would not allow.the empty school, '

R800 000

g SN

D NG said it believed a'lunatic iâ\200\231

ight wirg is the

produces this type of people.

\_Tonder said the Government could be

. -glad the school was not completely flat-

. -tened.

The blast caused serious structural

problem of the Govern--  
ment; which has, through its propaganda, ' .-

coosigs@ < 55 Croussaidiy) - Al  
Boerestaat Party leader Robert van  
" "Captain Craig Kotze said the police will  
~- hunt those terrorists responsible for the

A  
dari- to a section of the school, with  
" brick walls blown out and glass shards  
.+ from rows of smashed windows scattered  
" across a playground on to tennis courts 40  
. metres away. . .

Crous said the type of explosive device  
used had not been determined, but it was  
estimated to have contained about 25 kg  
of explosive.

-, The nightwatchmen did not see any-  
thing, but said they had heard a whis-  
. tling - sound - immediately before the  
blast; No one was injured. =  
Large sections of the school are still  
usable, but it is now unclear whether the  
Government and ANC will still use the

\*school to house the children.. \*

A terrorism case has been opened;

"Law and Order Ministry spokesman

blast relentlessly, as we have done in the  
past. Sapa. - g