

Mandela 'knew of agreement at bush summit at Skukuza'

JOHN MACLENNAN

Weekend Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — President Mandela was party to talks with King Goodwill Zwelethini before the election over the issue of royal control of KwaZulu tribal land, even though he now claims to know nothing of the deal.

It is speculated that the ANC may be using the fuss over the land agreement to provide more meaningful cabinet posts for itself in KwaZulu Natal.

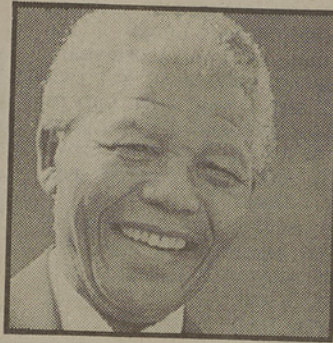
At the bush summit at Skukuza, when mediation to bring the IFP into the elections failed, Mr Mandela and his team accepted the land issue would be handled according to the monarch's wishes.

King Goodwill did not win ownership of the land through a deal with Mr De Klerk, but only holds it in trust for the Zulu people.

The Skukuza summit was attended by Mr De Klerk, Mr Mandela, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, King Goodwill and their delegations.

The ANC produced a list of concessions designed to assuage King Goodwill and isolate Chief Buthelezi. These would have enshrined the Zulu monarchy in the final constitution, but left him with only a symbolic role.

The question of tribal land did not feature in the document which the ANC offered



MANDELA: Party to talks with King Goodwill Zwelethini.

the king and this was pointedly raised by the monarch.

At a Press conference afterwards Mr Mandela conceded the document was deficient for this reason.

He also undertook to raise the matter with his national executive. He said he could not guarantee at that stage that the king's demands regarding land would be met, but predicted a fruitful outcome on the issue.

Yesterday Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom also denied knowledge of the deal and claimed he was deeply concerned about the issue and its implications.

According to aides close to Mr De Klerk, the deputy president had consulted his legal advisors on the issue before signing the legislation and was happy with their advice to go ahead.

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FW paints portrait of a solid land

TONI YOUNGHUSBAND

Weekend Argus Foreign Service

LONDON. — An audience of 2 500 rose to its feet as Deputy President De Klerk took centre stage to deliver his Nobel Laureate lecture in the magnificent gold and red Royal Albert Hall.

His message of peace and reconciliation and his absolute faith in the success of a government of national unity did much to allay the fears of expatriate South Africans who had continued to adopt a wait-and-see attitude, even after the peaceful election.

"Despite the bitterness and divisions of the past, there is a growing realisation that none of us can prosper if we do not all prosper. There is a general acceptance that, despite our many differences, the overwhelming majority of our people share important and basic common interests," said Mr De Klerk.

He believed his own people, the Afrikaners, would meet the challenges facing the new South Africa.

"And I have faith in the integrity and commitment of leaders of the calibre of President Mandela and Dr Buthelezi. I have faith in our new constitution and the principles on which it is founded. And I have faith in God Almighty, in whose hands lies the destiny of nations.

"For all these reasons I have the deepest faith in the peaceful future of South Africa and all its people," he said.

He emphasised his belief that free-market principles would persist in South Africa, accompanied by responsible economic policies.

"We need to pull in our belts and maintain strong fiscal discipline," he said.

The National Party's important role in the new government would ensure a constructive influence on economic and fiscal

■ Deputy President De Klerk confirmed his role as super salesman for South Africa when he drew thunderous applause and standing ovations in London.

decisions. In this regard it was of particular significance that Derek Keys had stayed on as minister of finance.

Mr Keys was highly regarded in overseas business circles and had been instrumental in securing new foreign investment in South Africa.

Mr De Klerk's words of assurance echoed a Press conference he gave on Thursday night after meetings with British Prime Minister John Major and Labour leaders.

At the conference he had called on the international community not to forget South Africa — as had happened with countries like Namibia — now that its problems were being solved and the election was over.

He also emphasised South Africa's importance as the key to the rest of Africa — a continent which the international community could not afford to ignore.

"A successful South Africa can be invaluable to the international community with regard to making a big breakthrough in dealing with the problems of Africa," he said.

In a moment of spontaneity, praise for Mr De Klerk came from an unlikely source — a self-proclaimed victim of the "brutal apartheid regime".

The man stood up in the hall and declared, in a voice thick with emotion: "You were God-sent to my land".

The unidentified man, now a student in Germany, said he had attended the 1961 Nobel Prize ceremony for Albert Luthuli and, due to political developments his academic career had been ruined.

"And yet I stand here today

and I never thought I would live to see South Africa achieve full parliamentary democracy. I want to congratulate you."

In his speech Mr De Klerk sought to allay fears of a right-wing backlash and dismissed the AWB as a handful of activists.

The far right, he pointed out, had lost two elections, two referendums among white voters and 100 000 of their supporters had voted for the National Party in last month's election.

On the issue of retribution for apartheid crimes, Mr De Klerk said: "All South Africans must take hands and reach out to the future.

"I am not asking anyone to forget, but all Christians know that they cannot ask for forgiveness if they cannot find it in their own hearts to forgive."

His statement was greeted with rapturous applause.

Mr De Klerk's four-day visit to London, which included a television interview with David Frost to be broadcast today in Britain, ends this evening when he flies back to South Africa.

His address was the first in a series of Nobel Laureate lectures and Mr Mandela's address is scheduled before the end of July.

Mr De Klerk adopted a relaxed and open attitude throughout his visit, chatting warmly to admirers and critics, while enthusiastically encouraging questions from the media.

Government insiders believe he will increasingly play the role of roving "super salesman" for South Africa, encouraging First World investment from communities where he is known and respected.

ANC caught napping by transfer of tribal territories

JEAN LE MAY

Weekend Argus Reporter

THE African National Congress was caught napping by the transfer of all tribal land in KwaZulu-Natal to a trust controlled by King Goodwill Zwelithini.

The transfer has given real power to the Zulu king.

It fleshes out the formal but meaningless recognition of his status written into the new constitution after a last-minute agreement between Mr De Klerk's outgoing government,

the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party.

The move has effectively stymied the ANC's hopes of having all the land in KwaZulu-Natal available for "redistribution".

However, Stan Armstrong, secretary-general in the department of KwaZulu-Natal Natal Premier Frank Mdlalose, said yesterday that the ANC was "confusing the issue".

About 500 000 ha which was to have been consolidated into KwaZulu in 1989 was not in-

cluded in the tribal land transferred to the king, he told Weekend Argus.

"All that happened was land that belonged to the tribal authorities was transferred in trust to the king," he said. "The ANC is confusing the issue."

A major crisis developed at the weekend, with allegations that Mr De Klerk had made a secret deal aimed at bringing the Inkatha Freedom Party into the elections.

However the ANC, confident that it would win the election in KwaZulu-Natal, completely

ignored the implications of the Ingonyama Trust Act passed in open session by the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly on April 20, a week before the elections, and promulgated in the KwaZulu Gazette.

The Act provided for title in about 250 tribal areas to be held in trust by the king.

On the same day, the Inkatha Freedom Party agreed to take part in the elections following an agreement between the ANC, the IFP and Mr De Klerk's government to recognise and protect the con-

stitutional status of the Zulu king.

As president, Mr De Klerk signed the Act on April 25, giving it legal status.

The following day, parliament met in Cape Town to legislate the constitutional recognition of the king into the new constitution.

In effect, the ANC was outmanoeuvred.

Mr Armstrong told Weekend Argus that the issue of tribal land had been discussed last year in sessions of the Kwa-

Zulu Legislative Assembly.

"Title to the land has always been held by one government or another since the Zulu conquest," he said.

"It was transferred to the KwaZulu government about three years ago. Soon afterwards the South African government passed the Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Act.

"The intention behind this Act was that title in communally held tribal land should be transferred to individuals or to specific clans or tribes.

"But before that could be done it had to be properly surveyed. Up to now boundaries have been very informal — that was the reason for so much so-called faction fighting, when one group moved on to land which another group claimed.

"Surveying takes time and is very expensive. We had about 250 tribal areas to survey as well as a great many scattered smaller areas where somebody had built a school or a church. Most of the schools in KwaZulu were built by the tribes.

"It would have taken years. So we decided in March that the best thing to do was to transfer all the land in trust to the king.

"This was discussed in open sessions in the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly and the Ingonyama Trust Act (ingonyama means king) was passed on April 20."

Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday that the king held the land in trust for the people and could not dispose of it.

"The Ingonyama Trust Act in no manner affects the powers of the state, whether national or provincial.

"It has no mechanism to allow KwaZulu to retain control of the land even when KwaZulu is disbanded."

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FW stands by decision to cede land to Zulus

TONI YOUNGHUSBAND

Weekend Argus
Foreign Service

LONDON. — Deputy President De Klerk has stood by his pre-election decision to cede control of a third of KwaZulu-Natal land to King Goodwill Zwelithini.

Senior ministers and Mr Mandela claim they knew nothing of the deal.

Addressing an audience of about 2 500 at the Royal Albert Hall here, Mr De Klerk said it was "nonsense" to suggest there was "a secret deal".

"There was legislation passed by the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly. I specially had it checked whether they were acting within their competence when they created the trust.

"The land in question is tribal land. It is not new land. It is

land already occupied and administered by the Zulu leadership for the Zulus.

"They did that within their competence and I was duty-bound to sign that legislation."

Mr Mandela said he was not aware of the deal which ceded control of nearly a third of the land in KwaZulu-Natal to the king just before the elections.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom has also denied knowledge of the deal and admitted he was deeply concerned about the issue and its implications.

According to aides close to Mr De Klerk, the deputy president consulted his legal advisors on the issue before signing the legislation and was happy with their advice to go ahead.

Mr De Klerk said that after Press reports of the deal broke on Friday, he had personally telephoned Mr Mandela to dis-



Deputy President FW de Klerk speaking at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

cuss the issue with him.

He said Mr Mandela was expected to make a statement on Monday.

"The ANC might not like it but it was within the KwaZulu government's power to do so," he said.

When he took centre stage on Friday night, Mr De Klerk still seemed to be fighting an election campaign, promoting his

own party with his eye firmly on South Africa's next elections.

Asked about his vision for the next five years, he said he had no doubt that the National Party possessed the greatest growth potential in South Africa.

By contrast, the ANC was the party which had, and was going to, lose the most.

"The ANC — and I don't want to do ANC-bashing — is really still going through a process of becoming a political party. It has been a liberation movement.

"At the moment, under the same umbrella, they house conflicting ideologies. They have hardline communists and they have free enterprise believers.

"So the ANC, I think, faces a period of internal reformation and I really expect that the whole South African political

scene in the next five years will undergo some fundamental realignment and the field is open.

"The National Party, because we believe in the values for which we stand, will be working very hard to convince the silent majority to put their money where their mouths are and to support us," he said.

And he made no secret of his admiration for his past supporters, including the controversial anti-sanctions backing he received from former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher.

"I would particularly like to highlight the supportive role which Lady Thatcher has played. From her, I received nothing but support and encouragement.

"I admire her and appreciate her friendship for South Africa," Mr De Klerk said.