

PRESS STATEMENT BY DR MANGOSUTHU G BUTHELEZI, CHIEF MINISTER OF KWAZULU  
AND PRESIDENT OF INKATHA

17 MAY 1990 ULUNDI

I am being asked by the media to respond to various press statements being issued simultaneously by the ANC, COSATU and students at the University of Natal with regard to the violence in Natal and, specifically, the KwaZulu Police and my position as Minister of Police in KwaZulu.

This is clearly a concerted campaign mounted by the ANC and its affiliates to further unsuccessfully attempt to destabilise the KwaZulu

Government and my leadership role. However, in so doing, it must be made clear right now that it is they who are further exacerbating tensions in the region. What they are doing is playing party political games with people's lives and I will have no part of it.

It is patently obvious that all concerned with these press statements have a specific political agenda and judging by the untruthful inflammatory statements and sentiments used by the authors, clearly the cessation of the violence is not their highest priority.

I will not get involved in puerile public slanging matches with the ANC and COSATU.

My door is open to them and their leadership to sit and talk with me. I am prepared, at any time, to meet with them so that we can engage in full and frank discussions with regard to the violence and any other issues.

My highest priority is that the appalling bloodshed stops once and for

all and that, together, we can forge the kind of black unity and reconciliation which will enable all in South Africa to negotiate our future in peace. I see absolutely no reason why we cannot sit together and talk together and ultimately work together in creating a new South Africa in which we can live together in harmony.

The kind of rhetoric inherent in the press statements by the ANC, COSATU and students at the University of Natal is not the talk of people

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seeking ways to rationally solve problems as they perceive them. It is confrontationist. It is goading talk.

Nevertheless, however they choose to express themselves, in the best interests of this country it is better that we all sit down and discuss

our joint fears, our aims and our aspirations. They say they have problems with me. I have problems with them too. The forum they have chosen will not enable us to do what is crucially required: Help

suffering people.

I once again issue an invitation to the leaders of the ANC, UDF, COSATU to meet with me and the leadership of Inkatha. Our hand of friendship has always been extended and it always will be.

Finally, I am extremely alarmed at calls reported in the media threatening even more work stayaways which, in the past, have always resulted in bloodshed and the loss of property. Force is used. Innocent people are battered and intimidated. Roads are blocked off in the name of the ANC/UDF/COSATU and others to stop people going to work to earn money to feed their families. Business confidence is further shattered in a region already reeling with the consequences of the effects of violence. Businesses are lost. Jobs are lost, sometimes forever. The cycle of poverty and despair continues. What is more the recent hideous violence we saw in Pietermaritzburg in March was caused by exactly this kind of intimidatory politics.

This is not democratic political action at work.

Do those who support the ANC, UDF and COSATU really think that they will gain their objective that of smashing Inkatha and the KwaZulu Government, by doing this?

Once again, let me make myself clear. The stayaways will not be of Inkatha's making. The bloodshed will not be caused by Inkatha. The loss of jobs and incomes will not be caused by Inkatha.

I plead with the ANC, UDF, COSATU and others who share their agendas to stop whipping up tensions. Leave people alone. Let ordinary men, women and children get on with their lives in peace and with dignity.

Negotiate..../3

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CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM BY MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI, CHIEF MINISTER OF KWAZULU  
AND PRESIDENT OF INKATHA  
FOR DISCUSSION AT A MEETING WITH MR RUSSELL POLLARD,  
LEGAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR AND MRS. LINDA ROWELL  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, COLGATE-PALMOLIVE

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There will now be a new South Africa. It will be a just South Africa in which there is total equality for all before the law and the constitution. The process of eradicating apartheid has now become irreversible and there are no prospects whatsoever of any return to classical Verwoerdian apartheid or any form of apartheid or neo-apartheid. ' ,

Across the length and breadth of South Africa this sure knowledge that apartheid is doomed and that its eradication is irreversible has led to the acceptance of the need to explore ways and means of bringing about a final solution to South Africa's political and constitutional problems through the politics of negotiation.

All politics is gravitating down to the country's centre-stage political arenas where it will be decided what kind of constitution is most desirable for us and what kind of social and economic systems should best be woven around the chosen constitution.

This sure knowledge of a final victory over apartheid and the inexorable movement towards the politics of negotiation exist in a situation of deep flux and change. It would be tragic if the ebb and flow of politics and the upheavals and at times even violent upheavals which still characterise South Africa, obscure the now inevitability of the total demise of apartheid.

There is a long, long road ahead before the political victories

which are now just about within reach will become translated into practice in government which maintains stability and economic progress. There are huge backlogs to redress and there are vast inequities in the relative share of the national wealth that different population groups enjoy.

We still face the fact that the vast majority of the people in the country are Blacks and remain the have-nots, while the one-fifth white minority remain the have's. We still face the fact that it is the country's white minority who are entrenched in crucial decision-making positions in politics and in economics. We still face the fact that South Africa is white-managed, both politically and economically.

We also still face the fact that even today apartheid dominates South Africa. The Population Registration Act is still on the

Statute Books, as is the Group Areas Act and the 1936 Land Act. These Acts, together with other Acts such as the Separate Amenities Act, which are still on the Statute Books, give an appearance of gloom to outsiders. The existence of Black/White economic disparities and the existence of Black/White social disparities, together with the continued existence of apartheid's basic legislation however must be seen against historic dynamics and the movement of politics today. -

Unquestionably apartheid in South Africa cannot co-exist with " economic progress. Blacks are ever-increasingly becoming economically empowered to the extent that the total White economic dependence - on Blacks is very exploitable. Whites now know that their dependence on - Blacks in the " economic sphere must be translated into interdependence between Black and White in the political sphere.

There is across the length and breadth of the country sufficient White support for the attempt by the South African Government now . to normalise South Africa as a modern, Western-type industrial democracy resting on a free enterprise system. There is sufficient White support for the politics of change to make possible a final Black/White joint endeavour to eliminate apartheid. This is vitally important because if we are going to have a balanced multi-Party democracy, we must have a final multi-racial onslaught against apartheid.

The whole of institutionalised South Africa is constantly preceding political moves for change and even preceding the bold moves that Mr. F.W. de Klerk as State President has been making and has promised to continue to make.

South Africa's educational institutions are developing the energy to break out of apartheid straitjackets. There is no university in South Africa in which the doyens of academia still plead for an apartheid South Africa. All opinion-makers in education, whether it be at university level or at college level or at school level, are now pushing for reform in education.

.The country's religious institutions have already broken out of the straitjackets of apartheid and are demanding radical reform. Across the length and breadth of the country churches and temples are focal points for new thinking. South Africa is being prepared for the transition which has now commenced by these churches and temples.

Nowhere, however, has there been more evidence of institutionalised support for the politics of radical change than there has been in the country's economic institutions. Fiscal policy itself at the level of the State is now being shaped to accommodate the realities of the need for the elimination of apartheid in all its forms. All organised mining, banking, commerce and industry demand the eradication of apartheid and the movement towards an open democracy.

It is in the work-place or the market-place that Black and White most mix and it is the large employers of South Africa who have long since embarked upon programmes of adaptation and change in preparation for survival in a new non-racial South Africa who have been amongst the most important catalysts for change.

I find it incomprehensible that given today's circumstances, there is still talk about the need for disinvestment to bring pressure to bear on the South African Government to abandon apartheid. Apartheid is doomed; it is finished. There is a great deal of - mepping up to do; there are a great many structural changes to make. There are difficulties to face, but apartheid is doomed.

The evidence around me of remaining- apartheid I see as challenges which can best be met by a multi-racial attack on it. I say again and again that political victories are only stage one victories and beyond them there lies the need for victories over poverty, ignorance and disease. Unless political victories lead to victories over poverty, ignorance and disease, no changes brought about by politics will last very long.

Spreading mass poverty has proven to be the mortal enemy of democracy across the length and breadth of the Third World. I find it particularly exciting that there are now real prospects of Black and White joining together to eliminate remaining apartheid. A final multi-racial attack on apartheid which is there in South Africa will begin creating the circumstances in which a Black/White national will could emerge in which democracy which replaces apartheid will be able to survive.

South Africa must develop a national Black/White will to eradicate apartheid so there will be a national will to maintain democracy after apartheid. More importantly, however, the final Black/White assault against remaining apartheid and a Black/White defence of democracy afterwards, will create the national will to put first things first and to use political gain for economic advancement.

If we in South Africa repeat that process which has so tragically marred the development of places such as Mocambique and Angola, what happened in these countries would appear as child's play. We just dare not end up producing the kind of political victories against racism in South Africa which will leave the country deeply divided.

I place tremendous emphasis on the need for political developments and political victories over apartheid which will leave South Africa economically better off. For me politics is the wielding of power for the sake of the people. There can be no Party political victory over apartheid which on its own can ensure that victory will be victory made meaningful for the people in terms of increased standards of living. Politics must work with South Africa's economic institutions and very particularly, politics must work with the major investors in South Africa to produce a balanced approach to social, economic and political problems.

Colgate-Palmolive has been a major employer in South Africa for many, many years. It has been part of the mix of forces which finally led to Mr. F.W. de Klerk's 2nd February bold moves forward. If big business had not done what big business has done for so long, the imperatives for him to have announced the beginning of the end of apartheid would not have been there. Mr. F.W. de Klerk has - thrown himself and his Government out at the mercy of progress being achieved towards a non-racial, multi-Party democracy being achieved. '

He would not have done so if he did not have the support of big business. - It is big business which has underwritten his moves for change and it is big business which will be needed to underwrite future steps that he as President- of- South Africa will have to take. :

Colgate-Palmolive with its track record and its entrenched position in the South African economy must remain in South Africa to continue to be a vital player in the politics of change. ~ I make the point that not only do Black South Africans want Colgate-Palmolive to remain on in the country but that they will encourage Colgate-Palmolive taking a greater ground-floor stake in what must inevitably be the development of South Africa as an economic powerhouse for the development of the whole of Southern Africa and even Central Africa beyond.

There will one day be a great Southern African economic sphere of influence which will have enormous benefits for the rest of Africa. The mineral backbone from Zambia through Zimbabwe and Botswana and down through South Africa to the Cape Province and South Africa's technically developed transportation systems and communication systems must be brought together to tie all the States of Southern Africa together in common interest. Disinvestment now is disengagement from a very exciting future.

Colgate-Palmolive should remain on in South Africa because Blacks want them to remain on, because the final eradication of apartheid will benefit from its remaining on and because remaining on will produce real dividends easily commensurate with whatever difficulties have to be faced now.

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