

Govt set to meet ANC demands

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SOUTH AFRICA

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CAPE TOWN, Thursday: The South African Government is edging towards meeting the remaining demands set out by anti-apartheid groups as necessary pre-conditions to negotiations with the black majority.

It has decided in principle to remove the almost 800 soldiers still stationed in black townships and even the hawkish security establishment is ready to grant a general amnesty to exiled African National Congress guerillas.

However, police still favour the principle of detention without trial and do not want the emergency lifted before the jailed black nationalist Nelson Mandela is released from prison.

These developments emerged today during briefings for journalists given by the deputy Defence Minister, Mr Wynand Breytenbach, and the Law and Order Minister, Mr Adriaan Vlok, who is responsible for the country's 65,000 police.

Although Mr Breytenbach did not say when the troops would be removed from the townships — one of the main demands in the ANC-sponsored Harare Declaration — he confirmed that the Government had decided to do so.

In a separate briefing, Mr Vlok



Mr Terre'Blanche ... will not hesitate to use violence.

indicated he would prefer the Government to allow all ANC exiles to return unconditionally.

This meets another pre-condition by the organisation, which has rejected the Government's decision to exclude those suspected of politically-related killings and "terrorism" from the amnesty announced during Mr de Klerk's reform package.

Mr Vlok added that the government was still involved in ensuring Mr Mandela's security after his release on a still-unspecified date.

According to the Minister, Mr Mandela has received death threats from both the white far-right and left-wing blacks opposed to his discussions with the Government.



Mr Vlok ... meeting ANC conditions.

Yesterday the white-supremacist Conservative Party warned that President F. W. de Klerk had "created the climate" for a violent Afrikaner backlash to his negotiation initiatives.

"My party is not interested in violence. But the Government, through its crookery of the [white] electorate, is creating a mood in which violence has become a possibility," a CP spokesman, Mr Koos van der Merwe, told journalists at a briefing here.

Mr van der Merwe's warning was echoed later when Eugene Terre'Blanche, the leader of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB), told a Pretoria press conference he would "protect the honour of my mother, wife

and child with violence" if Mr de Klerk's recently announced reform package caused "chaos".

The AWB threats came amid indications that some right-wing whites are increasingly taking the law into their own hands.

The possibility of a right-wing revolt is recognised by the Government as perhaps one of the biggest threats to the de Klerk initiatives.

The AWB has its own band of heavily armed men, known as Aquila (eagle), to guard Mr Terre'Blanche and other groups have formed paramilitary units.

Meanwhile, the Rev Allan Hendrickse, leader of the majority party in the coloured chamber of South Africa's tri-cameral Parliament, called on Mr de Klerk to immediately integrate the three segregated chambers into a single house.

Mr Hendrickse, who was detained as an "agitator" in the late 1970s and who earned the wrath of ex-President Botha three years ago by diving into "God's own sea" from a whites-only beach, said: "It will add impetus to reform in the pre-negotiation period." Mr Hendrickse called for an immediate end to the hated system of race classification — under which all South Africans are categorised as a member of one race or another — and the repeal of the Group Areas Act.

He quoted the former Minister of Constitutional Affairs, Mr

Chris Heunis, as saying that there were three obstacles to reform in South Africa: the Separate Amenities Act, race classification, and the Group Areas Act.

Replying to questions about the relationship between his Labour Party and the African National Congress, Mr Hendrickse said: "One must accept that they are the major force in the struggle." But, he added, it was not the only anti-apartheid force, mentioning the Pan-Africanist Congress and the Unity Movement specifically.

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