

First they
brought South
African Arch-
bishop Des-
mond Tutu to
the front of the
pulpit. There
they put into
his hands one
of the highest honors the synagogue has
to give, the George Brussel Jr. award for
human rights. .

At the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue
on W. 68th St., where only a few seats
were left empty, all who were there
stood, and the applause for Tutu rose un-
til it became special.

Courage and commitment is what the
Brussel award is all about, Tutu was
told. He was the 26th recipient. The ap-
plause was the congregation's way of say-
ing it was an honor Tutu had earned. .

For the role he has played in the fight
against apartheid in his native South Af-
rica, Tutu has made himself one of the
most admired religious leaders in the
world. Nothing has ever stopped him
from using his voice and position to stand
up to the regime. Whenever needed, Tutu
has been there with the commit-

.EARL CALDWELL .

ment and the courage to say (and do)

what the situation demanded.

blacks

. ernment of Israel to have the relation-

On Monday night, Tutu decided to

the synagogue on the Upper West Side
only to be honored. Again, he was called
on to exhibit the courage that has earned
him esteem, the Nobel Peace Prize and a
good place in history. Before an audi-
ence made up mostly of Jews Tutu was
asked to speak about the unspoken rela-
tionship between the nation of Israel -
and the racist regime in South Africa; -
In New York, where relations between
blacks and Jews have been strained, the
Israel-South Africa connection has been -

an explosive issue. So what would Tutu

say? How far would he dare to go? â\200\224
By himself, no matter how eloquent, *
Tutu cannot square matters between the

black and Jewish communities: But it

was in his hands to put a thorny issue on
the table, and Tutu did exactly that. .

â\200\234What a wonderful gift God gave us
through the Jews,â\200\235 he said: <*You have
been a tremendous light to the world. 5

people. Your history is our history. At
home (South Africa), many of those in the
forefront of our ,struggle have been
Jewsâ\200\224and we salute themâ\204ç., 3t
ut on this night, Tutu;had two stories
to tell. â\200\234We blacks in South Africa cannot
understand how you {Jews} allow.the gov-

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Bishop Tutu

ship with South Africa that it has.â\200\235 He -

told of how the two nations collaborated
even in matters that involve defense and
nuclear know-how. â\200\234We cannot. under-

â\200\234We give thanks to God for the Jewish. Âç stand how Jews cooperate with a govern-

nâ\200\230nfg.t that collaborated with Hitler,â\200\235, . ;.

tu also spoke of the price to be paid.

â\200\234Black-Jewish relations in South Africa
and the United States will suffer griev-
ously as long as the Israeli-South Africa
link exists,â\200\235 he said. - . 3 e

Before his speech at the Stephen Wise
synagogue, Tutu had not spoken on

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matter. But once the time had come, he
also questioned other Israeli initiatives.
.â\200\234[find it very, very difficult to under-
stand Israelâ\200\231s policy regarding the Pales-
tinians,â\200\235 he said. Tutu said descriptions
" of what is happening on the West Bank
- and Gaza Strip sounded to him like de-
. scriptions of South Africa.

He used more than an hour to make his case. Then he laid down a challenge. â\200\234Press Israel hard for justice for the Palestinians,â\200\235 he said. â\200\234Press Israel hard to change its policy on South Africa.â\200\235 After he had his say, Tutu looked into - the audience. â\200\234All this comes from the . heart,â\200\235 he said. Again, everybody in the synagogue stood, and applause began to â\200\230build. The senior rabbi, Balfour Brickner, went to Tutu, put his arms around the black South African and for a long moment, the two embraced. ~â\200\234A powerful message,â\200\235 Brickner said. â\200\234Words that come from the heart go to the heart.â\200\235

... . One speech will not change Israeli pol-

icy toward South Africa. Neither will it ;. heal the deep divisions between blacks and Jews in the U.S. In time though, the

) speech Tutu made at Stephen Wise Free ... Synagogue may be looked back as a turn-

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" ing point. For old allies, it brought into

" the open a very big problem.

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' @ Our Johannesburg Corre-"
. spondent writes: The:outlawed
African National Congress is
seeking a peacekeeping role to
â\200\234try. to end black-on-black vio:
â\200\230lence in South Africaâ\200\231s Natal
. province, which claimed -two
more lives on New Year's Eve.
More than 1,000 people have
â\200\234been killed in two years of
bloody feud between supporters
of the conservative Zulu i
Inkatha movement and of the,
radical United Democratic
Front, which supports the broad
political aims of the AN C.

It was reported yesterday that
delegations representing the
UDF and two of its major affili-
ates, the South African Council
of Churches and the Council of
South African Trade Unions, as
well as Inkatha, have been
invited to meet the ANC in Har-
are, Zimbabwe, on Jan 23,

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