

THE National Medical and Dental Association and the Health
- Workers Association yesterday slammed the Transvaal's
department of hospital services as the furore over the victimisa-

-tion of the doctors
who criticised
conditions at Bara-
gwanath Hospital
worsened.

Nineteen of the 101
doctors who signed a
letter describing
conditions at the
hospital as 'deplorable'
have been
warned to apologise or
lose their jobs.

Unity

In a statement yesterday Namda said: 'We
condemn the high-
handed manner in
which the situation is
being handled by the
provincial authorities.
Furthermore the
methods used to under-
mine and divide the unity
of the concerned doctors
must be deplored.'

The Health Workers
Association said that the
threatened dismissals
could lead to further staff

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By THABISO LESHQAI

Seniors doctors

shortages at the already
overworked hospital.

It said the action by the
authorities had 'strong
elements of repressive-
ness, vindictiveness and a
gross insensitivity to the
health care needs of our

communityâ\200\235.

A Soweto medical

" practitioner said that

instead of being victim-
ised the doctors â\200\234should
be commended for
bringing the situation to
the notice of the publicâ\200\235.
The controversy
erupted when â\200\230101
doctors at Baragwanath
signed a letter published
in the SA Medical Journal
in September critising
conditions at the
hospital. :
In the letter the

. doctors also accused the

administration of callous
disregard for the

conditions. >

After the letter was
published six of the
signatories were told that
their applications for
new posts at the hospital
had been turned down.

Judge

A Supreme Court

action brought by the six

was decided in their
favour with the judge
ordering they should be
given a hearing by the

the sack

administration. After
that hearing they were
told the decision
remained unchanged.

Last week 19 other
signatories were told to
apologise or face
dismissal or refusal of
post applications.

Of these, 17 signed and
their jobs were secured.
Three of the six doctors
who instituted the court
action subsequently
signed the letters of
apology.

" MRS Albertina Sisulu . . . U

THE former vice-president of the Azanian Students Movement, Mr Xolisile Mnyaka, and an unidentified man were stabbed to death this week in renewed inter-group political fighting in Walmer, Port Elizabeth.

They were killed in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

A third person, Mr Luyandile Tana, also a member of Azasm, was badly injured during the attack and is in a critical condition at the Livingstone Hospital in Port Elizabeth.

Appeal

According to reports reaching the Sowetan, the renewed fighting between members of the United Democratic Front and the Azanian People's Organisation and its affiliates, started at the weekend. Azasm is affiliated to Azapo.

The SAP public relations division in

SOWETAN, FRIDAY, January 8, 1988,

8 FORMER AZASM BOSS KNIFED

POLITICAL
MURDERS

'STOP IT' SAY UDF, AZAPO

Pretoria yesterday confirmed the .

killings of the two men, stating they were attacked by a group of men and stabbed to death. Five men have been arrested in connection with the killings.

Both the UDF and Azapo yesterday appealed to their members in Port Elizabeth to stop the fighting and these senseless killings.

Mrs Albertina Sisulu, president of the UDF, said: "We condemn such actions. We cannot allow ourselves to be used by the system. [am appealing to the members of the two organisations in the area to stop killing each other. This kind of thing must come to a stop," Mrs

Sisulu said.

Mr Lybon Mabasa, deputy president/

of Azapo said: "This is a war the UDH
cannot win."

He appealed for peace in the area. Mr
Mabasa also condemned the attack on
their members. !

"This is a war the UDH
cannot win."

Page .

MR Lybo Mabasa . . . po.
R S D SRR T S

i e M rat; . {

TWO youths were killed in KwaNobuhle township on >
Sunday after a crowd of conservative residents went.
from house to house searching for radicals, police

. said yesterday. o

Police spokesman Major Eddie Everson said

- some "1 500 black adults marched through KwaNo-

buhle in the Eastern Cape early on Sunday morning.

â\200\234They identified houses where they felt there
were troublemakers, brought out furniture and
burned it in the streets,â\200\235 he said. Furniture was
burned at eight houses. : 3

He said the bruised bodies of two black youths.
aged about 18, were found in the township on the
same day but it was not known whether their deaths
were connected with the march. -

_ The deaths have not been reported in the daily
unrest reports of the Bureau for Information.

Major Everson said groups of youths identified as

belonging to the United Democratic Front fled from

the township when the march began. Â¢

He said the marchers called themselves the ~Afri-

can Persons Â¢ Concerned Committeeâ\200\235 and maintained

T â\200\234they had no political
connections. He said
they were â\200\234ordinary
adults, basically paren-
tsâ\204¢ and were not armed.

Vigilantes

Conservative black
vigilantes have clashed
with radical â\200\234comradesâ\204¢
in a number of town-
ships. â\200\224 Sapa-Reuter.

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The Star Friday January 8 1988

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Police

ban ANC
birthday -
and Mbeki .
rallies

By Jo-Anne Collinge 153

e Acting Commissioner of Po- ' :::
'll;ge has uged emergency powers â\200\230f;\j
to impose a 10-day ban on â\200\234â\200\234â\200\234fj
rallies in Johannesburg andn.) .,
Roodepoort that commemorate aiv
the 76th anniversary of the: ;
founding of the African National it
Congress and to honour recently,"; 0
released ANC leader Mr Govan: ;
Mbeki. '5ib

The move appears to be de- -

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lanned by the South African :-;
l\){outh Congress (Sayco) for noon
today at Khotso House in Johan- it

burg. i

naSayc%â\200\230 â\200\224 a national organisa- ;
tion of local youth groups repre-f;, i
senting some 700 000 members
â\200\224 had declared today, the anni- 59
versary of the founding of thev_
ANC, Govan Mbeki Day and had \
called on its affiliates around
the country to hold meetings.

ORDER

e banning order was pub- Â°
lished in a special Government: |
Gazette yesterday by Acting Po-

lice Commissioner Roelof Jan-i, (t
4 sen van Vuuren under regula--t
tions promulgated in terms of;Â»
the Public Safety Act. 'sh
Until January 18 it will be il.
legal to hold any gathering at.:
which: 1811
@ â\200\234The 76th year of existence of i
the African National Congress is
commemorated or celebrated. -
@ pâ\200\234Homage is paid to Govan::
Archibald Mbeki.
@ â\200\234The release from detentionâ\200\231â\200\235
of Govan Archibald Mbeki is "
commemorated or celebrated.â\200\235
Sayco said its decision to hon-, -
our Mr Mbeki on the anniver-
sary of the founding of the ANC =
'shouldâ\200\224 be understood in the
proper context.

ADVERTS 4
AWe want to make our posi-. !
tion known that we are not a
front of the ANC nor do we have-;
any organisational relationship. :
with the ANC. But we recognise:
its centrality and leadership in /

resolving the South African
problem.â\200\235 g 3

signed to counter a rally - .

The Release Mandela Cam-:
paign (RMC) has placed adverts Â«
in several newspapers noting
the ANC anniversary.
Commenting on the ban onf
meetings, RMC national organi-\
ser Mr Aubrey Mokoena, said: (;
â\200\234The ban is a farce because thei'
ANC is a reality of the South
African situation. There is no--
wisdom or sanity in the Govern-!
ment trying to wish it away.â\200\235 -~

Bdday vsulanuary 1988

ANC likely to

By Tony Stirling

ANC president Oliver

Tambo's Speech in [y-

saka today to com- Programme of dividing .. evaluation of the become recognised as 5
memorate the Organi- the Whiteg and activating material from the confer- government i exil
e, par-

sation's 76th anniver- the masses, hence, as well as other re- tx
cula{ly in Britain and

Sary is expected to It was being expected intelligence, jngj. America, > 4 -
underline jts copcep. that these aspects would . While terrorism js ex. the _ diplomatic.
lration on efforts 4, be underlined whelp, Tam- these categories pected to remain a part of
front, Tambo js expected

isolate South Africa, in- bo makes his anpyg) anni- Arusha ; the ANC's
overall e pocontinue with his cam.

ternationally, versary address in I ygayy ropeated setbacks to p g X wooing the West,
According to jnteyjj. today. ination of ts o, TSt campaign in and Eni-\202ubse'regargdth?re
gence analysts jp Pretoria - analysts said jt wag i o Alrica have vy :irem):o v:sit ;?
aglymto :xe::

events at th_e recent ANC signiï-\201cant that most of ebrations ;. C h political leaders a
nd the

conference in Arusha jp- e big names in the that the Organisation wag : Pope. -

that the ANC ANC's military wing. trying to get away from its i ign. Ments are bei
ng handjeq

image of Promoting vip]- by Italian elements who

., ence and of being com- Last . J ambo was the Arusha cop-

mmunist e dominated; alreq Y Sp assing the

Party, such ag Joe Slovo, activation of trade unions : B o

cott against the OUntry, were absent from the Ar- It was the Projection of in laboyr Aok a
nd the According o .-

and internally op labour ygph, conference in Tanza. this image that cost the fact that sac
p Seneral Bence sources, there e

unrest and its politica Dia early in December. ANC dearly in jts big Â¢ cecretary, Joe Slov
o, has however, 5 Power strug.

-â\200\224_ -â\200\230 been given the job of con- gle developing jn the

i i ANC over the organisa.

tion's future leadership.

its increasing importance. They_ say there have

~ . been Signs: recently . thag

Thâ\200\230.â\200\231 ANC's ampaign ambo's health aÂ¢ the age
ihacd o

â\200\230Why

MARGARET THATCHER stepped out of
_her RAF VC10 in the warm Nairobi dusk
.on Monday to begin her first visit to Africa

since the Lusaka Commonwealth summit
of 1979. British Prime Ministers are infre-
.quent visitors to the continent, even

i although its problems, mainly from the
_South, have a habit of sitting on No 10

Downing Streetâ\200\231s doorstep.

- Usually, Prime Ministers have gone to

. Africa in the interests of rallying selâ\200\230xjpport
L Ora rex%ional policy. Thatcherâ\200\231s predeces-

- sor in Kenya was Harold Wilson in 1966

) ggost-UDI in Rhodesia). In Nigeria (which

', she visits on Thursday and Friday) it was
_ Harold Macmillan, in 1960, breathing the

first blasts of the â\200\234Wind of Changeâ\200\235 on a
- continent just stirring from its torpor.
Thatcher in Lusaka was settiâ\200\234nsgI in mo-
tion the developments that pushed Ian
Smith and his Rhodesia regime over the
cliff. While she is in Kenya, Smithâ\200\231s suc-
cessor, Robert Mugabe, will be enjoying
his first days as Executive President of a
country he intends to turn into a one-party
Marxist-Leninist state.

â\200\234Invitation

This week'â\200\231s visits seem to be something
- of a departure from pattern. No new poli-
.cies to announce at the two state banquets,
_unless her aides have her -intentions

. wrong. Certainly nothing to celebrate.

- More than a warter of a century after
Macmillanâ\200\231s â\200\234Wind of Changeâ\200\235 speech in
Cape Town, the post-colonial era in Africa
has never looked more like a dingy, totali-

. tarian failure.

Thatcher is not given to qâ\200\230ointless jour-
neyings, so why did she go? The search for
- an answer points back to the Vancouver
Commonwealth summit last October,
. when her relations with the black African
~ members reached a new low. To the de-
G :?ht of the British delegation, there came
striding from the scowling throng the bur-
ly figure of President Daniel Arap Moi

Mago:
Sosniy

'OWN CORRESPONDENT
in London

bearing an invitation to visit Kenya in return for his visit to Britain last March.

On this, it was hoped, could be built a trip to one of the Frontline states. There she would be able to elaborate on the twin themes of her detestation of apartheid and a Southern African policy that excluded further economic sanctions.

At Vancouver Thatcher had, in a re-

markable piece of navigation over the summit's rough terrain, enunciated a virtually new policy. Investment should be encouraged, not discouraged, in SA. An expanding commerce and industry, in their search for skills, would break down the barriers of apartheid.

- The African National Congress was branded as a 'terrorist' organisation. The generous flow of aid to the Frontline states would continue, with encouragement to concentrate on repairing their own battered infrastructures and economies.

In economic terms it may have been a

sensible message, but it was not a popular one. The summit ended in a raucous sequence of Press conferences. The Frontline states issued no invitations to Thatcher and there have been none since but there was one from Nigeria, Black Africa's biggest and most important state. In Kenya, Thatcher will, perhaps wisely, concentrate on the economic well-being of a country where Britain is not only the biggest aid donor but has given more than to any other African state. She will talk to Moi mainly about bilateral matters (he is not over-excited about SA, either) and spend the rest of her time visiting rural projects, farms, schools, training centres, sugar and tea plantations. Kenya is not a happy country at the moment. Its human rights record is under fire, the university is closed, the threat of

is the

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e

an AIDS epidemic hangs over the future
)and has already damaged tourism) and
alls in coffee and tea prices have hit an
economy rated among the strongest and
brightest in Africa. :

n to Nigeria, then, where Major-Gen-
eral Ibrahim Babangida hopes a new poli-
tical culture will have been found by
1992, enabling the military to bow out in
favour of apolitical civilians imbued with
the right sort of democratic values. His
chosen instrument is Mamser, the acro-
nym of the Movement for Mass Mobilisa-
tion and Economic Recovery.

Obstructing Mamser is aâ\200\231political of-
fence. The country recently held non-par-
3; local elections as a step towards laying
- e foundations of Nigeriaâ\200\231s Third Repub-
â\2027. -

BannÂçd

Banned from holding elective office in
the Utopia-to-be will be former presi-
dents, prime ministers, heads of state,
governors, military chiefs, members of
the present Armed Forces Ruling Council
and the past Supreme Military Council.

The ban also apÃ©)lies to executive mem-
bers of banned or defunct political parties,
politicians, senior public servants and
military officers indicted or found guilty
of offences while in office between 1960
(independence year) and 1992.

Equally unwelcome will be all those in
the public and private sectors who have
been dismissed from their jobs or indicted
and punished for corruption in the same
period. :

All-in-all, there may not be too many
qualified people available to run the coun-
try in 1992, :

After talks with Babangida in sultry
Lagos, Thatcher will fly to Kano, in the
Muslim north-west, where the Emir is
throwing a durbar for her, complete with

~ displays of horsemanship and exotic
- music. It sounds more fun than Mamser.

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_ing and despicableâ\200\235. It was signed by

"The letter demanding apologies said:

- been inaccuracies ... we did not kiibw

~an incorrect allegat

ï¬\201)ï¬\201â\200\231ï¬\201%&he â\200\230Verwoerd Hos

- @ Pleas for help have been met by in- Â¢ * â\200\230doctors said, â\200\234given the pass
age of time and the

~ 101 doctors. : :

at Baraggnm ta : 1 oth) i According to the MEC in charge of

by their employe ~ hospitals, Mr Daan Kirstein, the letter
of a dismissal row. iy " is untrue and if the signatories do not |
s and cons - sign a letter of apology, they can ex-
pect action to be taken against them.

â\200\234We are not prepared to employ them,â\200\235

: 10 | â\200\230South African he told The Star.

Medical Journal in September last A letter drawn up by the province
year describing conditions as â\200\234disgust- insists the doctors apologise if they
wish to retain their positions.

The doctors said:

. The conditions in the medical wards at the hospital are disgusting and despicable. The attitude of the responsible authorities can only be described as deplorable. The state of affairs is inhumane. Facilities are completely inadequate ... The overcrowding is horrendous. Nurses are allocated according to the number of beds, and not to the number of patients. Ablution facilities are far short of acceptable health requirements, and ethical standards are undoubtedly compromised. B ; Pleas for help have been met by indifference and callous disregard. Patients and their problems are treated with utter contempt by the authorities. Nothing is done to correct this affront about this at the time.

The crux of a letter drawn up by the authorities is that the letter in the SAMJ contained inaccuracies, written by an eminent doctor: motivated people to sign it in faith. By signing the letter prepared by the province, the doctors acknowledge that developments and improvements have taken place. Three clinics have been set up in Soweto and 200 beds opened to Baragwanath at Leratong Hospital. ~ Signatories concede that there have

The facts contained in the letter to human dignity. Here is human suffering which were taken on trust from senior academic cannot be portrayed by mere statistics. The letter starts by stating that a similar letter which we were working. We signed the letter had been sent to the South African Medical Council and Dental Council in 1980 (it was signed by 70 doctors). That letter was ignored, as well as repeated appeals and pleas to the Transvaal Provincial Hospital. The letter was signed on the basis that eminent doctors, who we approached, as Baragwanath is a teaching hospital all respect, took the lead in motivating and appeals were made to the Faculty of Medicine to sign the letter and, in soliciting support. Years later the situation has changed, we acted in the best of faith, but not improved. Indeed it is worse, the letter states. We unconditionally apologise and withdraw the following comments which are derogatory: by saying a new hospital is being planned for Soweto and that improvements cannot be made to Baragwanath. These statements are devoid of truth, the difference and callous disregard. The fact that inquiries at provincial level have

hown

@ The answer (â\200\234there is no money for i . there is no basis for this excuseâ\200\235
. B

new facilitiesâ\200\235) is utterly hypocritical. = The letter stated that the authorities
claim |

â\200\234Furthermore, we acknowledge nurses Â¢ there is no money. However, a R300 million h
ospi-

are allocated according to the average ' - tal mainly for whites was being planned alongsid
e

number of patients and not beds.â\200\235~ . the HF Verwoerd Hospital in Pretoria.

aamâ\200\224

. which effectively doubled the tax. that
_ panies in South Africa would have to pay.

â\200\230of the people who work

â\200\230US companles can play

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constructlÃ©e role i in S

By Bruce Anderson Jï¬\201"" ?P

" A visiting professor from Harvard Business

School says he was â\200\234bitterly disappointedâ\200\235 when
the US Congress recently passed legislation
S com-.

Professor John Mathews, who is in South Afri-
ca to present a series of seminars on business
ethics, says he believes American companies can
play a constructive role by staying in South

â\200\230Africa, despite pressure on them to pull out.

He sald he believes that local South African

companies also have a considerable role to play

in solving the countryâ\200\231s social problems b

; SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY s
â\200\234South Africaâ\200\231s problems are so complex and

so vast, that I donâ\200\231t see how any businessman can
- turn his back on the social problems. Saying
that the government must take care of the social

problems, is a way of ignoring reality,â\200\235 he says.
_Professor Mathews believes that business eth-

ies â\200\234has to start with a frame of mind and an

emotional mind-set, only then do the tools and

techniques for implementing changes become

relevantâ\200\235.

â\200\234If you have a person at the head of a com- â\200\230

pany who does not have personal values that

translate into good corporate values, then the

people below him will pick that up.â\200\235
According to Professor Mathews, every busi-

â\200\234ness, whether a large corporation or a small res-
: taurant functions as both a â\200\234moral envmon- ;

mentâ\200\235 and a â\200\234moral agentâ\200\235.
A business is a â\200\234moral envu-onmentâ\200\235 in the
sense that it affects the happiness and well-being
; or it. It is a â\200\234moral
agentâ\200\235 because it also affects the lives and well-
being of people and entities who are external to

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it, for/%:ple customers and suppliers.

The notion of â\200\234social responsibilityâ\200\235 which is
often evident in programmes run by local and
foreign firms to uï¬\201mde schooling and provide
housing for the population at large is an example
of a firm acting as a â\200\234moral agentâ\200\235. '

Businessmen in South Africa have proved
themselves capable of speaking out and disso-
ciating their companies from apartheid, he says.

But he also stresses that the apartheid system
is all-encompassing and that businessmen are in-
evitably part of
and countries who associate with South Africa.

_Historically, he traces concern about the le-
gitimacy and morality of business behaviour in
the United States to roughly 100 years ago.

Anti-trust legislation, which made it virtually
impossible to create monopolies, was passed in
the 1890s. :

WATERGATE INVESTIGATION

Another wave of interest in business morality
came in the late 1920s and early 1930s in the .
wake of the stock market crash when legislation
; governing the financial markets was promulgat-
ed.

The excesses of corporations, which became
evident following disclosures in the investigation
of Watergate, also â\200\234shocked and disgus-
nessmen in the United States, he says.

Illegal campaign contributions and highly
questionable payments to foreign politicians,
especially in Ja
~ that contribut. to what many observers de-
scribed as â\200\234corporate Watergate" :

Professor Mathews says this was one of the
factors that led to a greater interest in business
morality in the post-Watergate era.

e system, as are individuals

- b11S1-

, were among the practices

PROFESSOR MATHEWS

Business
seminars

Professor John Mathews will
conduct three seminars in
South Africa on business. lead-
ership and corporate morality.

The seminars have been or-
ganised by the Harvard Busi-
ness School Club of SA.

The first seminar will be
held .at the Carlton Hotel in
Johannesburg on January 13.
This will be followed by a se-

â\200\230minar in Cape Town at the

President Hotel on Tuesday,
January 19.

The final seminar will be
held on Thursday, January 21,
at Durbanâ\200\231s Royal Hotel.

For further information,
phone Ms Merle Richardson at
(011) 465-1595 or pager (011)

'393-1020 code 1334

b,

South African will emerge as an issue

| in the seven-man Democratic race

for the American 200230 presidency this year, says Herman Nickel, former US ambassador to the Republic.

In an interview he also forecast a

| continuing rough ride this year for

multinational 200224 not

200230 American community 200230) in South African

ca.

" Mr Nickel, an analyst for the US operation of the respected Economic - African organisation and southern African

at the Johns Hopkins School

for Advanced International Studies, said pressure groups would be pushing the Democratic candidates on the

groups among

them, he said. 200234 One of the recent things emerging ever more clearly is we select presi-

offend them, he said. The

Rev Jesse Jackson, one of the candi-

dates with considerable black support

and an outspoken critic of the South

| African Government, would use his

leverage to its

200230 Democratic debate.

The South African issue had be-

come one where the pro-sanctions camp had become identified

3 US

; had

maximum in the Dem-

pre

cratic candidate had yet strayed from that, however.

Â«But there is a fading of interest in South Africa as far as the

observed, so the two trends would have to be weighed against each - other.

On American companies in South Africa, Mr Nickel said a law Con-

last month, i credits US businesses received at home for those they paid in the Republic, probably -more bite

against those firms than economic sanctions passed the year before. <â\200\234The Rangel Amendment was one of those bits of | legislative guerilla , Nickel

sneak attack that worked sad reflection on our leg-

Â» Mr Nickel

less implemented on a . glowbaSis. N s sk i

side

Tl STHR

IJwE /98T

From Alan Dunn of The Starâ\200\231s Washington Bureau

South Africa had unfortunately become an issue on which not even. Republican politicians were p to spend a great deal of political capital, he added.

seemed to have lost some interest in South Africa, with some - politicians developing oughts about the sanctions they imposed in October 1986. It had become obvious to them that the sanctions had not produced the â\200\234quick fixâ\200\235 many on Capitol Hill had spoken of at the time.

Anti-sanctions Republicans were now in a better position than they

were then: passing the sanctions had driven the monkey from their backs, there was increasing evidence that sanctions had in fact di ' Ameri- can influence in South Affril all-time low, and 2 dawning realisa- timthatsanci~\201onswmĩ~\202dnotworkunâ\200\224

'mands until they we

PO A F T A St (iR

. The anti-apartheid lobby would clearly aim for worldwide sanctions as one of its campaign thrusts this

Mr Nickel said. He warned of

: anti-,apartheid groups leading con- tts in

sumer the US against the products of multipationals operating in South Africa. j

lf the two-year-old campaign against Shell Oil was anything to g0 by, he said, these boycotts : make much of a dent. relations terms, major multination- als are very senmsitive to their i!nagw.Â» Â¥ .

Anti-apartheid movements would not stop their campaigns and de- e able to re- a transfer of political power in | South Africa.

~ Mr Nickel said the dynamic of se- lective contracting by US state and local authorities would continue in 1988. Â» :

Two states, six counties and 20 cities, constituting 2 potent bloc of

potential business, have so far im-

g to deal with ompanies dealing â\200\230with or in South L auing: snild

B A L

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The Star Friday January 8 1988

" the real issue <

AS A TEACHING HOSPITAL

Baragwanath may be the best
equipped on the continent and

it has some of the finest skills

in South African medicine.

Through their work among the
underprivileged, â\200\234Baraâ\200\235 doc-
tors have earned a reputation
for dedication. Yet the staff
and accommodation shortages
that have plagued the hospital
for years threaten to nullify its

proud record of service.

Baraâ\200\231s shortcomings were
re-emphasised four months
ago, when more than 100
interns, registrars and consul-
tants wrote â\200\224 as a last resort
â\200\224 to the Medical Journal de-
crying â\200\234deplorable and inhu-
manâ\200\235 conditions at the hospi-

tal and calling for urgent ac-

tion to relieve the situation.

The authorities responded
* by denying six interns appoint-

ments to senior posts at the
hospital. Since then a Supreme
Court judge has ruled the doc-
tors must be given a hearing.
Hospital officials are also
demanding written apologies
from doctors who signed the

letter. One registrar who has .
refused to comply has been

threatened with dismissal. It is

an extraordinary action by a
hospital in dire need of quali-
fied staff. g

Mr Daan Kirstein, MEC in
charge of hospitals, admits the
doctors are being punished be-
cause they wonâ\200\231t a,pologise for
telling â\200\234untruthsâ\200\235. What un-
truths? That patients sleep on
the floor? That the staff canâ\200\231t

â\200\230cope? Perhaps an insight into.

the mind of the authorities is provided by a Deputy Director of Hospital Services who told a former senior doctor at the hospital that â\200\234Baragwanath serves a Third World community, that they (the patients) were used to sleeping on the

â\200\230floor and that he did not know

what all the fuss was aboutâ\200\235. The authorities need to spell

out whether such comments.

represent the official view. In-

stead of threatening to fire

doctors, Mr Kirstein and his

- officials should be fighting for

more resources for â\200\234Barâ\200\235. e By expressing concern at

_the situation at the hospital,

the doctors were surely respecting their Hippocratic Oath. They should be allowed to get on with the business o

_saving lives. : .