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Boer B Cabhas A man in Alex talk

the experience of being attacked

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spiced up with
Vlok and shack

ve a voice to some of the
/ %:iceless, it still fell into the
trap of not giving itself time t(; |
analyse an issue I depth. Wha
here are talks. And
there are talks about
talks. There are even the
Ultimate Talks which will

i hing
we miss more than aqyt
else is a programme like the |
BBC â\200\234Panoramaâ\200\235 with teleyi-

bring peace to South Afri-
ca. And there is always
television coverage of

sion commentators or journ ;
talks.

ists that we can trust.
Watching CNN â\200\234Head

On the

Box it.

JOHN VAN ZYL

_ Or then again they might just

People that can fearlessly and
line Newsâ\200\235 on Thursday was a

ith the utmost integrity inves
:Yllgt:te a question such as Vvi0-
lence and not simply talk abopt
strange experience. The Secre-
tary for Ireland had been trying
to arrange talks between the
Unionists and the British gov-
ernment for the past 16 months.

Eventually he got the Reverend â\200\230

Ian Paisley to Number 10 Downing Street and in the inevitable press statement outside its morbid railings it was announced that talks about the violence were â\200\234a possibility rather than a probabilityâ\200\235.

Later a caller to a radio station in Belfast prayed that the talks would â\200\234beginâ\200\235 (he did not even venture to use the word â\200\234succeedâ\200\235!) so that an end could be made to the bloody violence.

It was all very familiar. So much like all the calls for talks to end the violence in South Africa that we see every day on television or hear on Radio 702.

As far as one could make out on television news Buthelezi seems to have taken a winter rental in Tuynhuis. And unless

he and F W have taken to chat-

ting about the prospects for the sardine run, one would imagine that occasionally they would have talks about the violence. Or at least speculate on the 800 or so hostel dwellers that pos-

sessed the remarkable powers

of covering the 5km in and around Kagiso en masse without being observed.

One also presumes that Adriaan Vlok had a word or two with Eugene TerreBlanche and Piet â\200\234Skietâ\200\235 Rudolph in the vicinity of Ventersdorp last Saturday afternoon. Perhaps they also speculated on the remark-

white violence so soon after it had started?

have had talks on the commando tactics that Veldkornet TerreBlanche had borrowed from the Anglo-Boer war. Mounted on their horses, hovering on the horizon, clutching their Martini-Henryâ\200\231s, dressed in khaki (Oops! A little blaps by the art director!) the brave commandos watched while farmers

made short work of shacks with

-

their Mercedes trucks.

Then, of course, there was the talk that did not happen at Tuk-ki-es and the talk that almost did not happen at Maties. But in both cases there was lively discourse between the students involving a lot of body language, not to mention a short seminar on freedom of speech between Mr Mandela's bodyguards and some students.

However, dominating all else is the talk about the violence that is engulfing South Africa, which is carried daily by televi-

- sion, radio and newspaper news.

Thinking I would gain a different perspective on all of this I had a look at the pilot pro-

gramme of South Africa Now the weekly news programme

that was broadcast in the United States for three years. It has just ended its run and is now trying to start up in South Africa. That is some measure of the more relaxed conditions locally.

o 1

The people who make inserts of the programme are well-known progressive filmmakers, most of whom have had at least one film or video banned. What I was looking for was a different kind of talk. People talking

able powers that Vlok had of about their experiences.

living on the scene of white-on-

I found a lot of it. A returned exile talking about the way a pre-primary school had turned her away in horror when they learned that she had been trained in Cuba! Or what it was like to meet her 13-year-old daughter that she had last seen

as a three-year-old toddler.

THE CITIZEN

j THE planting of a limpet mine in a restaurant in Hillbrow, injuring seven people and causing extensive damage to the restaurant, is outrageous.

And if that were not bad enough, the bombers-planted a limpet mine in a toilet in a downtown store, injuring at least seven people.

Other limpet mines were found, one in front of a bank, and another at John Vorster Square police headquarters, both of which were defused. :

There was also a bomb scare at the Inkatha offices in Johannesburg.

We do not know who was responsible for the blasts.

Some will put the blame on the ANC, since limpet mines were customarily used by the ANC in its terrorist campaign.

Those who favour this theory suggest it might be a warning that unless the government takes firm action to end the present wave of violence, it can expect a renewal of terrorism.

The last limpet mine blast in Johannesburg â\200\224 at the Witwatersrand Medical Command building in Braamfontein â\200\224 was in February 1989.

In the year to February there were 139 attacks with limpet mines, all attributed to the ANC.

However, the ANC has suspended the armed struggle and this suspension remains in force. The ANC also denies it planted the limpet mines.

The suggestion that it might have been a Right-wing group that was responsible is highly unlikely, since the Hillbrow restaurant in which the first limpet mine was placed is mainly frequented by Whites â\200\224 and all the victims were White.

The Right-wing extremists would not select a target in which Whites might be the victims â\200\224 and they use commercial explosives, not limpet mines.

The extreme Right, it is argued, might plant â\200\230bombs to derail the peace and constitutional negotiations, but this is quite unnecessary, since the ANC is doing a pretty good job of that itself.

Whoever was responsible, they stand condemned as inhuman monsters who place the lives of innocent people in danger.

We have enough of bombings and certainly do not want to see a return to this kind of indiscriminate attack.

It cannot even be argued, as the ANC previously did, that civilians are unfortunately caught in the crossfire.

There is no crossfire at this point in time, and the limpet mines were planted deliberately to cause civilian casualties.

What the purpose is remains unclear, but the public will not be cowed by bombings. They never were at the height of the ANC blasts and they won't be now.

All that a renewal of bombings will do is to harden the hearts of people against those or-

: _ ganisations that are found to be responsible.
* It will also put the pressure on the government - to be less lenient towards bombers who are

already imprisoned, especially those who are or were in death row.

There was a cut-off date for amnesty for so-called political prisoners. The new bombers will not qualify for that amnesty, and it would be a rash government that showed any clemency towards them.

We hope those who engaged in or plotted terrorism and have now been freed will appreciate the revulsion most people feel about limpet-mine attacks.

We call on whoever is responsible to stop the bombings now, before innocent people are killed. .

We call upon them to stop the bombings now, because this country needs to negotiate its future in peace. :

We call upon them to stop the bombings now, because we have had enough of violence, the violence of AK-47s, of pistols, spears, pangas, sticks and other weapons, and we cannot have the planting of limpet mines as an added dimension to the violence.

(And we call upon them to stop the bombings,"

- because it is the most inhuman, indiscriminate

form of political terrorism.

I'm

C/"Z@"

- Sda

By Rich Mkhondo

DURBAN. South
Africaâ\200\231s rulmg\,

ional Party made Black
businessman, Dan

Makhanya a second-
class citizen, but in a
multiracial election it
would get his vote.

â\200\234I am no Uncle Tom,â\200\235
said Mr Makhanya, one
of the first Blacks to join
â\200\230the party which invented
the system of racial segre-
gation that became
known to the world as
apartheid.

â\200\234President FW de
Klerk has done what none
of his predecessors could
do. He is very braye be-
cause he has successfully
challenged the wrath of
Afrikaners who for years
imbibed apartheid from
cradle to grave,â\200\235 said Mr
Makhanya, who runs a
small industrial relations
consultancy.

Sizeable

â\200\234De Klerk has been
criticised left and right,
but he has simply invited
people to come forward
with solutions. I feel this
man needs support.â\200\235

no

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No ï-\201gures are available gr_cmâ\200\234have a lot in com-

. for the number of Bla ackssâ\200\231
who have ioingdiine Nat-
Â«lonal Party since it open-
ed its doors to all races
last July but political ana-
lysts believe a sizeable
number would support
Mr De Klerk in a non-
racial election.

Two non-White National Party branches have been formed recently, one in the Coloured township of Eersterus near Pretoria and the other in Tembisa east of Johannesburg. Plans for more branches in black areas are advanced.

â\200\234The National Party does not go out of its way to recruit members,â\200\235 said Joggie Boers, the partyâ\200\231s regional secretary for Pretoria.

â\200\234People come to us to join. And if people in the area want it, we form a branch. I am astounded by the brotherly love which our new Black members have shown.â\200\235

Mr Makhanya believes the National Party and Mr Nelson Mandelaâ\200\231s African National Con-

mon.

It is only their strategy which differs, their direction is much the same, so I have opted for the National Party which has an advantage because it is the government of the day.â\200\235 he said.

â\200\234What is wrong with what I have done? Blacks send their children to White schools, some have White people fronting their businesses. I have just engaged in White politics. I wish to teach my White colleagues something about Black aspirations and perceptions.â\200\235

200 Coloureds

In Eersterus, about 200 Coloureds signed up in two weeks after the NP branch was formed and applications are flooding in, branch treasurer Gershwin Jones said.

â\200\234I would like to see many Eersterus residents joining the National Party

so we can prosper. The National Party is the only party which can give the country peace and stabili-

e g o Â¥

ty,â\200\235 said Mr Jones, a businessman.

â\200\234] am very optimistic about the future of this country. Mr De Klerk has taken the bull by the horns and is doing what we have always asked.â\200\235

Political scientist Willie

" Breytenbach said Nat-

ional Party policies could be acceptable to most Blacks.

â\200\234Opening National Party branches in Black areas is a logical move for the party, taking into account the results of most

recent Opllen â\200\230surveys.

â\200\234The opinion polls have been showing all along that De Klerk is the second most popular leader in the country after Mandela,â\200\235 Dr Breytenbach said.

â\200\234The National Party has three times more support among Coloureds and Indians than among Whites.

â\200\234Now that the pillars of apartheid are going, there is nothing standing in the way of canvassing support among people of other races,â\200\235 he said.

Uncle Tom,
s Black Nat .

â\200\234But it would be a mistake for the National Party to concentrate only on Coloured and Indian support. They would have to gain support among the Blacks, where Mr Mandela is still by far the most popular leader.â\200\235

Win most

One recent survey said the ANC would win most votes in South Africa's first democratic election, but would fail to get an outright majority.

Research Surveys said the Nationalists could emerge as the biggest multiracial party and could pick up a significant number of votes from Blacks, who were disenfranchised under apartheid.

Mr Makhanya said that although many Blacks would vote for the National Party, few would actually join.

I know Blacks, they are usually reluctant to jump into something new.

They say we will tip-toe to look around the corner to see what is in store for us. Sapa-Reuter

A

tenced to six y

or not, there are

between them and both are, in a
| manner of speaking, fallen angels.

Of course, they

different backgrounds,

with different levels of success.

â\200\230But they have had to face very dif-
ferent challenges, and they arouse
curiously i
opponents. v

Watching from South Africa, many
expatriate supporters of Mrs
Thatcher have found her political de-
| mise inexplicable. She seemed unas-
sailable, surrounded by grey func-
tionaries like John Major. She had
transformed the British economy.

bour Party and Neil Kinnock in any
coming election.

But set foot on British soil and you
would quickly get a very different
picture. Mrs Thatcher was associat-
ed with â\200\234the cutsâ\200\235, a perceived
lowering of public spending in tradi-
tionally sensitive areas like health
~ and education. (In fact, her govern-
. ment spent more on both of these
than any other British government in
history.) ;

Personally, she was either loved
unquestioningly or hated.

In conversation, the eyes of nor-
mally sane balanced people
would narrow. From the corners of
their thin lips would hiss the â\200\230words

jons in their .

She would clearly see off the La-

\

a m

/ â\200\234that womanâ\200\235.

}

| _If you then tried to use your for-
| eignerâ\200\231s wisdom and explain the

benefits of having Mrs T in 10 Down-

" ing Street, they would snarl and turn

aply away or start talking "about

()

So it is with Winnie Mandela. She
is either loved or hated, and there is
no need to examine the reasons.

They are too well known. 24

But, like Mrs Thatcher, Mrs Man-
dela is driven. As Mrs Thatcher
hates socialism and its effects, so
Mrs Mandela hates apartheid and
its effects. %

Critics of both women would say
their hatred has gone beyond the
bounds of normality. Both remained
unswerving in their determination to
rid their countries of these wrongs.

And, just as they produce vitriol in
their opponents, both - command
great loyalty.

Mrs Thatcher won elections three

times, and became one of Britianâ\200\231s .

longest-serving Prime Ministers.

Mrs Mandela, through her long

and hard battle against apartheid,

earned the honoured title â\200\234mother of

gâ\200\231round for

aggie J\

â\200\230ca â\200\224 both countries where she is
still assured of a welcome befitting a

~ even, perhaps, as the wife of our first

the nationâ\200\235. LETLs

" Among, the .younger â\200\230members_of
the ANC, shie is held in great esteem..

Both women now face hard times.

Mrs Thatcher, in a recent interview,
admitted she had been shattered by
the speed and brutality with which
her party dumped her. She agreed
she was having difficulty picking up |}
the pieces.

She regularly. visits the United
States, and now she is in South Afri-

head of government.

There is pathos in this.

Winnie Mandela has just endured
a 44-day trial, been found guilty of

kidnapping and of being an accessory to an assault on four teenagers. While the case will almost certainly go to appeal, both her name and reputation have been damaged, perhaps beyond repair. :

In the future, wherever she goes â\200\224

black President â\200\224 hands will go up to mouths, hiding the whispers. There is pathos here, too. -

The Supreme Court has ~ pronounced her guilty, a verdict which the Appeal Court may reverse, but | either way, there is pathos here, too. |

It's unlikely Margaret Thatcher and Winnie Mandela will sit down together and have a cup of tea â\200\224 but if they do, they might surprisingly find a lot in common. &

@ Chris Gibbons is the presenter of Radio 702â\200\231s Ni ewstalk.

3 TAR

Discredit

We refer to your editorial of
May 11 1991 entitled: "Police
and priorities".

We wish to begin by replying

to the following sentence: "Here
was a stunning revelation of
how misguided are the crime
fighting priorities of the police".

As you are no doubt aware,
the South African Narcotics Bu-
reau (SANAB) deals specifically
with crimes involving drugs, li-
quor, prostitution, gambling and
so forth.

Your article creates the im-
pression that the police should
ignore crimes such as gambling

and concentrate on other

crimes. It should be noted that
there are many other people
who disagree with this view.
The SA Police receives many
complaints from members of
the public concerning gambling
and gambling dens.

Several other crimes are as-
sociated with these institutions,
inter alia, drug abuse, liquor of-
fences and disturbance of the
peace. Often men squander their
salaries and wives complain bit-
terly to the police about these

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illegal gambling institutions.

These problems are conven-
iently ignored in this unwar-
ranted attack on the police.

As much as the police regret
the cowardly attacks on the el-
derly, we cannot prevent all
such attacks from taking place.
No police force in the world can,
no matter how many policemen
are available. Thus, it is unfair
to compare the police action in
respect of the gambling institu-
tions with the attacks on the el-

derly persons mentioned in the article.

The SA Police has done a lot in its efforts to safeguard the elderly. The detectives who participated in the special police action, performed these duties after normal hours and for a limited period only. They continued their ordinary duties at their specific units once this action was finalised.

The following paragraph also needs to be addressed: As we said two weeks ago: The battle between cops and robbers is over the robbers won. No more do prowling cars patrol sub-

.

DUTY CALLS: The police has appealed to critics to stop slating them for doing their duty. :

Address your letters to Saturday Star, PO Box 1014, Johannes-

burg 2000. IR

urban streets, no more do the police come immediately they are told of a serious crime. They might come four hours later, or the next day and even then they will probably not be accompanied by a detective. There are no winners or

losers in the fight against crime. Since time immemorial there has been crime and crime will remain with us until the end of time.

There is no instant solution. The police, with the assistance

lice makes battle against crime harder

of the public (and the support of the media) can try to make society as crime-free as is humanly possible. However, to denigrate the police by making generalised allegations, does not help matters.

There have been numerous instances reported in the media where the police have responded promptly to calls for assistance and on a number of occasions. crimes have been thwarted and arrests made. Why no mention of this?

In conclusion, it must be pointed out that crime prevention is a community responsibility and not only that of the po-

lice. One of the cornerstones in

this regard, is a respect for law and order. However, when certain organisations and individuals (and even certain newspapers) continually attack and attempt to discredit the police, this becomes almost impossible. The bottom line is this: Stop slating the police for carrying out their duties (no matter how unpopular you may consider the

particular law to be) and re-

quest the public concerned to respect and heed the law.

» As a closing thought, the following quotation is left with you

~ X (this was part of the opening address of the Minister of Law and

Order during his Budget speech in Parliament):

The world is too big for us. There is too much doing, too many crimes, casualties, violence and excitements. Try as you will, you get behind the race in spite of yourself. It is an incessant strain to keep pace, and still you lose ground. Science empties its discoveries on you so fast that you stagger beneath them in hopeless bewilderment.

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Be kilâ\200\230ld,â\200\230

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a tough time ..

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T is possible to sympa- .
thise with Mrs Winnie
Mandela without in any Through
way condoning the MY Eyes
crimes for which she was
recently convicted. Very OSCAR
few young and newly-
- married women could DHLQM
have survived what she - :
went through during the past group of young men who were

30 years.

At a young age and newly-
married, she was deprived of

* her greatest natural supporter

â\200\224 her husband, who was sen-
tenced to life imprisonment in
the early 60s. :

Even after this emotional
trauma, she was not spared
any psychological assault by
the Security establishment and
the Bureau of State Security
(Boss). she was hounded and
tailed by the Security Police
until she was eventually
banned and exiled to Brand-
fort in the Free State.

Still, this did not break her
moral resolve to fight for what

- she believed in. She continued

to play a prominent leadership role in the struggle of the ANC and later the UDF and MDM.

While all this was happening to her, she also had to create a home and bring up her children, virtually as a single parent. It is clear that somewhere down the line bitterness did catch up with her, as is evident from some of her fiery speeches â\200\224 the most notorious of which was the â\200\234necklaces and boxes of matchesâ\200\235 speech.

Her husband being in jail and the senior leadership of the ANC being exiled, imprisoned or banned, it appears that there was no-one of influence available to counsel and advise her on what a public figure could and could not say or do.

Obviously concerned about her security, owing to the unrelenting attention she received from the police over many years, she eventually surrounded herself with a

completely unhelpful to her, to say the least. {

Horrible stories of barbaric

and criminal behaviour began

to surface in the local media, casting serious aspersions on the characters and actions of these young men. The stories culminated in the tragic death of Stompie Sepei and the subsequent conviction of Jerry Richardson. i

~ When the UDF leadership of jthe time condemned her and alled on the community to os-

Inkatha and the ANC that came to her rescue. Inkatha reminded those who condemned her that she had had to endure unprecedented hardships in the past, when amongst other things, she lost her husband through imprisonment. The ANC, on the other hand, appealed to the community not to ostracise her but rather to bring her into the flock and counsel her.

It would appear that is still the challenge facing the com-

munity today. It would be easy to throw stones and socially bury Winnie Mandela because of her mishap, but it would be more humane to accept what has happened to her and assist her to rehabilitate herself and be re-absorbed into normal socio-political life.

Fortunately, she now has her husband to lean on and seek advice from â\200\224 a blessing which many married couples take for granted â\200\224 but which was denied Winnie Mandela virtually throughout her young â\200\230married life.

tracise her, it was ironically|

Aim Ã©\gt to cr

riffs within blac

1.WISH to refer again to the article in the Saturday Star dated May 11 1991 about the emergence of a â\200\234new forceâ\200\235 in South African politics which was written by Mr Abbey Makoe.

â\200\234The article is not based on fact. j

. My interview with Mr I_Aakoe held at your offices was simply based on the event of the weekend and we talked for a very long time about the discussions that have been taking place within the civic movement.

" We spent a significant amount of time discussing the whole question of the Civil Society.

None of this discussion appears in the article. It became obvious that I was treated. unjustly by this article

LÃ©hd I wish to put on record my

te or widen
AU g
politics T

objections. -

it is common knowledge that
there are different opinions in
black politics just like within
any other community, but the
way it is projected by the media
is unfortunate.

I want to put on record just
like I did the last time that I do
not want to be involved in creat-
ing or widening the rift that is
suggested by Mr Makoe or the
rift that Mr Makoe seems to be
waiting to exploit, and I also
hope that any serious-minded
South African like you would not
like to be party to this, hence
my second letter to you.

T trust you will act accord-
ingly. :
Molwane Patrick Lephunya

UDF National Civic
Coordinator

Why Winnie probably won't go to jail

WINNIE Mandla is unlikely to

serve a single day of her six-year jail sentence, even if she loses her appeal.

A conjunction of political forces seems set to save her from the possibility of incarceration

for kidnapping and being

an accessory to severe assault and not, as in the past, for political opposition to apartheid.

It is operating quite independently of the legal forces set in motion by the application for leave to appeal launched by her lawyer, George Bizos, SC, only minutes after she was sentenced. :

Examination of two possible developments both premised on the entirely theoretical assumption that her appeal will fail shows how political con-

Rle|

first, an ANC statement describing the trial as part of the pattern of harassment and persecution directed at Comrade Winnie for the past 30 years; second, the more recent declaration by Chris Hani, chief of staff of the ANC's guerilla army, pledging that Mrs Mandela would be freed by an ANC

government if she was in jail .

when it acquired power.

The logic of Mr Hani's declaration is that if the ANC can pre-empt imprisonment with a timely pardon, it will do so.

But even if President de

. Klerk is still in power when

considerations are likely to rescue .

her from internment.

Her appeal may take as long as three years to be heard by the Appeal Court, although it is

not likely to take as long.

If it takes three years, however, it is possible that the present minority regime may have been replaced by then by

either an African National Con-

gress administration or by one in which the ANC is a major component.

If so, it is a betting certainty that the new government will not allow Mrs Mandela to go to jail; it will persuade the head of state, who may well be ANC leader Nelson Mandela, to exercise, in favour of Mrs Mandela, his prerogative to pardon

felons.

. It is relevant to recall two positions taken by ANC on Mrs Mandela in recent months:

Mrs Mandela's appeal is heard and for argument's sake

- lost, the chances of her going to jail are miniscule.

South Africa's settlement negotiations will, in all likelihood, be well advanced three years or even 18 months from now. Mr Mandela, judging from opinion polls and barring the unforeseen, will be looming large as the man most likely to

succeed President de Klerk.

It is preposterous to visualise Mr Mandela preparing himself for the role as president while Mrs Mandela readies herself for life in prison.

- The ANC will certainly put

pressure on President de Klerk to pardon her. The ANC's politi-

cal clout, and the indispensabil-

ity of its approval to any lasting settlement, make it virtually certain that Mr de Klerk will accede to ANC pressure to pardon Mrs Mandela.

The whole issue - may, of course, be resolved more simply: the Appeal Court may uphold Mrs Mandela's appeal and

set aside the sentence imposed

on her by Rand Supreme Court
judge M S Stegmann.

Mrs Mandela thus seems
likely to escape imprisonment,
one way or another.

It does not, however, seem
possible for her to recover. the
esteem and power she wielded
in ANC circles before disclo-
sures were made of her role in
the kidnapping of three young
men and a teenage boy, Stom-

" pie Moeketsie Sepei, from the

Methodist manse in Soweto in
December 1988.

Even before Mr Justice Steg-
mann's damning judgment he
labelled her an unblushing
liar and a woman who had no
compassion for her victims
Mrs Mandela's influence was
on the wane.

One clear sign was her crush-
ing defeat in last month's con-
test for the presidency of the
ANC Women's League: Ger-
trude Shope won twice as many
votes as she did.

Another was the conspicuous
absence of support from high
profile ANC leaders at the end
of her trial; they did not demon-
strate their sympathy by at-
tending the trial on Monday
when judgment was given or
Tuesday when sentence was
pronounced.

Mrs Mandela, of course, has
enemies in the ANC, many of

' whom occupied key positions in:

the Mass Democratic Move-
ment, which unequivocally con-

demned her in February 1980,

In its now celebrated state-
ment the MDM accused her of
violating the spirit and ethos
of the democratic movement,
of allowing the Mandela Foot-
ball Club to conduct a reign of
terror in Soweto and of refus-
ing to co-operate with black
leaders in the crisis committee
who tried to mediate a recon-
ciliation between her and ag-
grieved people in the black

community.

The MDM statement ended with a call to the black community to distance itself from Mrs Mandela in â\200\234a dignified man-

it - e

Its statement led to â\200\234bad bloodâ\200\234 between Mrs Mandela and MDM leaders associated with the statement, some of whom were pushed to the side after the ANC was unbanned, Mr Mandela released and Mrs

. Mandela reinstated â\200\224 alleged-

ly from above â\200\224 as an ANC leader.

But now, in the aftermath of Mrs Mandelaâ\200\231s trial and the nadir in her political fortunes, election of a new ANC national executive by secret ballot is imminent. It will take place at the ANCâ\200\231s national conference in July.

The probabilities are strong that the election will see the rise to positions of prominence of former MDM leaders; while they will not allow Mr Mandelaâ\200\231s wife to go to jail, they will probably thwart any attempt she may make to assert herself

_politically.

Mrs Mandela, however, is a formidable and resourceful woman who should not be un-

_derestimated.

World's spotlight falls on three South African judges

THREE key legal men in South Africa took to journalists had a powerful presence in much publicised trial that of Winnie Mandela. PAT DEVEREAUX | 8' Q | the courtroom drama which unfolded. Mandela and her co-accused have fought; Where the course of Justice requires the intense world interest on this country: South African truth, no man has the right to withold try South's judicial system. FLE A ., The silence was quickly broken by Mr Justice, he said during the trial, 230 Occupying centre stage is the judge, Mr Bizo's announcement that he would lodge Senior Council and advocates say this Justice M S Stegmann, the man who dared an application for leave to appeal. -Judge, possibly selected because of a track to impose a six-year jail sentence on, some At the trial there were rumours in judging complicated commercial believe, South Africa's most politically minded lawyers that the fear factor had become so non-political trials, has a pristine record in powerful woman. : widespread that it threatened the entire justice system terms of political bias, R Then there is George Bizos, described as a judicial system. -Mr Justice Stegmann has a reputation as one of the Bar's most colourful advocates, among lawyers for being meticulous cates, 235, the man who defended Winnie Mandela - Powerful promoter conscientious and devoting considera dela, accused No 8, with every bit of verbal The trial was seriously hampered by time and energy to his judgment; 230s 235{.;\ 7Rt iy Wweaponly he could whip out from beneath events outside the courtroom. It was said His sentencing of Winnie Mandela has unhis legal cloak. that the impact of these events including: Jeashed criticism of the judicial system The other major player was Deputy Attorney General, the apparent kidnapper from some quarters. 18 iy torney General of the Witwatersrand (ung of key witness Gabriel Megkwe and But although the assignment of judges to division, Jan Hofmann SC, the man, who & he represented of witnesses Kenneth Gales is controversial in itself and certain prosecuted Mandela and her co-accused Kgase and Barend Pelos Mono, threatened judges have been said to be specifically selected with surgeon-like precision. to subvert the course of Justice. ' - lected to sit on political trials, most Human |

Stunned silence greeted Judge Stegmann - But Mr Justice Stegmann handled these Rights lawyers dismissed this possibility in mann's six-year sentence imposed on Winnie - major disruptions with ease and according such a high-profile criminal case.

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IT.had to be the most
miserable moment in Win-
~nie Mandelaâ\200\231s life, but she
-â\200\230emerged fromâ\200\231the Rand Su-
â\200\234preme Court building, hav-
ing just been convicted on
â\200\234charges of kidnapping and
broad smile of triumph, her
- fist raised in response to the
muted cheers of a crowd of
~barely 100 supporters.

... Nelson Mandela, who had
_loyally taken the day off from
attending to the nationâ\200\231s cata-

strophic affairs to be by his
~wifeâ\200\230s side, looked as if his
mother had just died. :

I>taincoat, she in black suit â\200\224 said
lmuch about thisymost ill-matched

of couples, about the difference in
-their perceptions of reality. This
â\200\230t)%ic spectacle, on a cold day in

more what a child Mrs Mandela
p on reality.

5s as a whole has tended to in-
abit a mythological revolution-
ry world, full of the motifs of

surrectionâ\200\235 but little of the sub-

'Â»i\e than Mrs Mandela.
ire and bombast, her politi-

s ol
CAll

incts of the adolescents who
rovide the ANC with so much of
ifs energiyy but so little useful
jought. - '

She ranits and postures while
Pr grave husband â\200\224 the very
sonification of the ANC with
afl its pr?ent troubles and its
dorthy principles of oid â\200\224 at-

mpts to wrestle with the com-
plex nitty-gritty of political life in
Sputh A,Afx:.i,.i-\201ch_,i-\201to hammer out the
dÃ@tails of His' peopleâ\200\231s future and
af the same tifne seek an end to

â\2027 worst bloodshed the country

s endured since the Boer War.

Â\$ Never before can a 72-year-old
dan, who has spent so much of his

P â\200\224

| After nearly 28 years in jail, Nelson
wifeâ\200\231s disgrace? For the sake of his
' " been covering the South African

â\200\234deceitful to assault, with a |

)5The contrast â\200\224 he in white

lOhanneburg, reminded us once
is, how tenuous, how fantastic, her:

(4f the African National Con-

â\200\234armed struggleâ\200\235 and â\200\234popular in-

stance rightly appropriated in
their time by Fidel Castro, the
Sandinistas, the Vietcong, no one |
h& presented a more caricatured -

c@ image has rested on appealing
to the most facile, most crude in-

life locked in prison, have had to
bear so impossibly heavy a politi-
cal burden.

And now this. No more tragic

- Spectacle â\200\224 tragic in the classical

Greek sense of the word â\200\224 must
exist anywhere in the world right
now. The heroic individual
brought low by the fatal flaw.
The question now is, how low?

Will Mrs Mandela go to jail and
will, then, the ANC leader be psy-
chologically and politically
crushed in the process?

He dotes on his wife. He hugged
her in court just moments after
the verdict. He kissed her on the
lips and called her â\200\234darlingâ\200\235. She
stood by him, as he sees it, during

â\200\230his long imprisonment, and sh

can do no wrong. i
He suspends his reason and,

blinded by love, ignores the howls

of protest from within his own

movement, from those in the

Mass Democratic Movement â\200\224
which was the ANC until the ANC
was legally unbanned last year â\200\224

who on February 16 1989 publicly
' denounced Mrs Mandelaâ\200\231s â\200\234reign

of terrorâ\200\235 in Soweto, a position
that has not changed to this day
among those who shunned exile
and avoided jail to fight the good
fight. :

tion been to his wife that dead-
bedts in the movement â\200\224 like
ANC secretary general Alfred

Nzo â\200\224 have sought to preserve

their dubious hold on their posi-

~ tions by slavishly proclaiming
their loyalty to â\200\234the mother of the
. nationâ\200\235. :

one, has been rewarded by Mr
Mandela, who makes a point of
publicising his esteem for the
man. .

Mr Mandela now faces as chal-
lenging a political test as he has
ever endured.

At a time when the ANC leader-
ship faces an internal crisis, es-
sentially a crisis of confidence
among its own rank and file, he
must rise above his personal diffi-
culties, place them in perspective

_ alongside his far graver task of

doing battle for the rights of those

Such has Mr Mandelaâ\200\231s d;adica-.

Mandela emerged triumphant; can he now survive his
people, he must find a wa

Y, says John Carlin, who has

scene for The Independent, London.

-under apartheid. ks
For in this vexed marriage is
dramatised the fundamental prob-
lem Mr Mandela and his fellow
members of the ANCâ\200\231s National
Executive Committee confront â\200\224
the perception amon'g}tâ\200\230hg:,.;MDM
people, the lifeblood of the â\200\230ANC

- as expressed in the unions and the

recently defunct United Demo-
cratic Front, that their leaders
are motivated more by petty van-

ities and personal ambition than
- by a sincere wish to do-justice to
the cause which originally in-
spired their rebellion. W ;
The NEC is perceived, in turn,
to be out of touch with the feel-
ings and aspirations of â\200\234the
massesâ\200\235 it says it represents.

THE recent tough line
against the Government on the
_issue of the township violence has

- helped, but the gâ\200\230riev#ncÃ@s run
deep. k73 Â¢

And few things have helped
spur those grievances more than
Mr Mandelaâ\200\231s â\200\224 and, by exten-
sion, the' NECâ\200\231s â\200\224 insistence on
standing by the self-professed

- â\200\234mother of the nationâ\200\235. | :

So Mr Mandela must rise above
his personal calamities, forget his
wife and get on with the far more
serious business at hand, if the
image of the ANC leadership is
not to be eroded still more. g

For he is the very image of the

- leadership and if he falls, they all
~ do â\200\224 with potentially catastroph-

: ;
AND, â\200\230indeed, Mr Nzo, for
cate of times.

Mr Mandela has had to dig into
his deepest reserves of courage
and dignity. _

- For his own mental and physi-
cal health are tied to the health of
the ANC and the black nation as a
whole, whose dreams he repre-
sents. y

- What he must now do is break a
spell that has held him since the

ic consequences at this ;most deli-

- day 33 years ago when he aban-

doned his quietly spoken first
wife, Eveline â\200\224 she might have
been forgiven a little gloating this
week â\200\224 for a beguiling-Delilah 16

- years his ju'niqr.

Deadline gets
closer for the
| ANC and state

|working grou%!K :
? By GAYE DAVIS \N =
CapeTown 05!\%\n
â\200\230,'I'HEworkinggroupofi\202nes 1-
â\200\230ment and the African National Con-
ss held sittings in Pretoria and
; ;hisweekasMondayâ\200\231sdead# :
line for it to complete its work ap-
Sachod : P

" Established in terms of the agree-
at the historic â\200\234talks about talksâ\200\235 in
Cape Town earlier this month, the
| working groupâ\200\231s task isto:

_ @Make recommendations on a defi-
nition of political offences; -

political prisoners and the grantin,
immunity, in respect of political of-_
fences, to people both inside and out-
The ANC team is being led by Ja-
cob Zuma and includes fellow ANC

? | national executive members Aziz Pa-

5 hadandJoeNhlanhla.aswellas

members Mat-

United Democratic Front national
i Curnick Ndlovu.

The names of the governmentâ\200\231s
members inthegronphavenÂ«;t,beenâ\200\230
1 announced, but a constitutional advis-
er in the department of constitutional
development, SS van der Merwe, is

y leading the team.

; â\200\234Jt was stated in the Groote Schuur
| Minute that the proceedings (of the
working group) would be confiden-
tial. It follows therefore that there will
be no statements emanating from the
| working group or about its activi-
| ties,â\200\235 a department representative told
the Weekly Mail. v

The acting head of the ANCâ\200\231s de-
partment of information and publicity
inside South Africa, Ahmed Kathra-

da, said: "Even if we knew something, we wouldn't be able to tell you." He added that the teams would first

report back to their leaderships. :

I URBAN The SA Hostel
Dwellers Association, apparent-

ly representing more than -

50000 hostel dwellers in Natal
and the Transvaal, is to be

launched at a mass rally in
- | Durban tomorrow. '

! The association was formed last
month. According to the interim

 committee is general secretary; .- \
;Boengani Mongwa, it is pom-politi-. .-

feal and exists- to attend to hostel
dwellers grievances. Sl

: Mr Hlongwa yesterday said the 2550

 riation was formed last month after a

 number "of representatives from no-

Â» Disagree

13

e oans

mpolitical organisation. We're there 10

 help hostel dwellers, no matter what
 Politi- party they belong to, he said. -

| Mr Hlongwa said the press had often
reported tnings about the hostel
idwellers which they (hostel-dwellers)
ldid not agree with . :

| These and problems such as Tiving =

" conditions in hostels world bAe_m"ad:

 merons hostels in Natal came together. -

i 70T - be addressed.
He said it was not affiliated to any

" dressed, hesaid. . -

. "The organisation will be formally

â\200\234 laupched fomorrow -at the amphithe-

" atrejin the railway hostel at Remnion at -

_ - MrHlongwa said the assoriation was |
presently forussing on two ro@in issnes: .
The prevention of the demoliion. of |

_ hostels and the Government summit.- |
onviolence. - - .- e

7 Problems -

. â\200\234we need to prevent the. demolition
of hostels. We want io continue liw-

ing in the hostels.â\200\235 ST

â\200\234Rut. onee this is achieved, we then
peed to look at.all the problems we are -
stels zmd these need to

- facing ifi the hos

-7 Mr Hlongwa said the association was 3

. hoping to send a â\200\230delegation to next :

-weelâ\200\231s smnroit-on violenc to. â\200\234put

" forward their caseâ\200\235. Aigh

Â©. Tt represeated. more than 50 600 hos- .

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