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RiBervs 15/07/87

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By Tom Masland
Chicago Tribune

JOHANNESBURG South Afri-
caâ\200\224A union representing up to

80,000 black factory workers or-

Â© rank

ment in court callmg its action â\200\234a
â\200\230abuse of fhe procedures.â\200\235
'NUMSA mÂ£ represents 80,000

: â\200\230workers in the
st

dered members to abandon a Which a
â\200\234strike just hours after it began ! m

Tuesday because the government .. 3

:tmposedawageagx'eetncnt mak-

a strike illegal.

he National Union &f%

Me}alworkers of South' Africa

SA), an ion of black |
industrial unions launched in May,
said it had called off the strike

after wer Minister Pietie du
â\200\234Pless:rsâ\200\234mpowd labor agree-

ment that had lapsed June 30.
South African law prohibits
strikes over issues covered in cur-
rent labor agreements.
An industry group said new
wage scales woul

ciation reported.

NUMSA, the only one of 15

metalworkers unions not to have
accepted the final wage offer of an
industry association on June 9,
promlsed to challenge the govern-

be imposed Fri-
day, the South African Press Asso-

vingly ex;
cui: il_ members to â\200\230â\200\230mass

id criminal prosecutionsâ\200\235
wmmz until the last minute to
\i-\201nnnonnce it was lmposmg the
,mm extension.
~The abortive strike, which the
vsumon said shut down 500 facto-
; ges and mvolved more than
000 workers, coincided with a
: armx?ofasmkcbyblackmln
ers the opening here Tuesday
night of a conventxon of the na-
-txons largest and most militant
black labor federation.

Leaders of the National Union
of Mineworkers said its 200,000
members had voted overwhe!
ly to strike over wages. They saxd
a strike date had been set but
would not disclose it.

ent Snd litical in-
/ volvemÂçnt by m&oumom :

rike is cut short

Officials in the mining industry,
which brmp â\200\230in more than half of

the nationâ\200\231s ragn urws,

glvately that the
ave 3
The oonvennnOn by the 750000- o
ber Council of South African
'rade Unions (COSATU), of
wî-\201xch the mipc{workers and
etalwnrkcrst are the Iame;;b :& :
&ates was_to_center on
such divisive issues as disin-

e

our 0
iy e, the 1955 Preddant
ave ado

Charter gf the outlawed African

National Congress. Some union

leaders are pushing for adoption

of an explicitly socialist program.

The new metalworkers union, in
its statement of principles in May,
called for membcrs to uni y
â\200\234under the guiding sl of the
international working class: From
each according to hxs ability, 102 %
each according to his needs.â\200\235

SRR RSO

z

THE one-day old nation-wide strike by up to 60 000 metal industry workers was suspended yesterday.

The National Union of Metalworkers last night

appealed to members to .

return to work pending an investigation by its lawyers into alleged irregularities in a Government

Gazette which made the

strike illegal.

The Minister of Manpower, Mr Pietie du Plessis, yesterday renewed an expired Industrial Council agreement, reached between metal industry

By PETER DELMAR

management and 14 out of the 15 relevant trade unions early last month.

Numsa lawyers were yesterday investigating alleged irregularities in

the last-minute renewal

of the old agreement, a Numsa statement said.

The statement said Numsa lawyers were considering challenging yesterday's Gazette on a number of grounds. These include:

@ Whether the offic-

ials of the Industrial

Council were authorised

to request the Minister to extend the old agreement; N

Whether the Minister satisfied himself as to the representivity of the parties as he is requir-

ed to do. (The figures

supplied by the Council
were inaccurate and mis-
leading, Numsa claimed.)

@ The alleged defec-

tiveness of the agree-

mentâ\200\231s renewal; ;

~ @ Numsa claimed the
last minute gazetting of
the agreement was an
abuse of the discretion

\, /,/
conferred on the Minister
by the Labour Relations |
Act.

Numsa accused the |
Minister, the Industrial
Council and employers of
having â\200\230â\200\234â\200\230acted secretly
and attempting to create
an illegal strike situa-
tionâ\200\235. i

They also claimed the
union and its legal advis-
ers were obstructed when
they attempted to obtain
clarity on the Gazette.

The union called upon
the Minister to resign
â\200\234due to his failure to
exercise his power and

TO PAGE 2

" THE CITIZEN

Govt denied visas

'IHE Goverment has
refused a number of
European and north
Amenean trade union-

ion to enter
South Africa so they

can attend the annual

of the coun-
tryâ\200\231s biggest labour
federation.

The Congress of
African Trade Uni
(Oosatu)Pressofi-â\201cer Mr
Frank Meintjies, said yes-
terday visas had been de-
nied to delegates from

\5*â\200\2301\01â\200\231\

to delegates, '

Cosatu

Norway, Sweden and the
United States.

Cosatu opens its annual
congress at the University
of the Witwate d in
Johannesburg today amid
a strike by thousands of
metalworkers and reports
of a looming strike by
some 200 000 workers on
the countryâ\200\231s gold and
coal mines.

Mr Meintjies said the

ollowing European
ionists had been re-
entry to the coun-

â\200\224

- try: MrKaareSandegran
a_top Norwegian union
official; Mr Stig Malan,
president of a large Swed-
ish labour federation; Mr
Kjeld Ajkaer, a Danish

unionist; Mr Wouter van ,

derSchaffoftheNether

lands; Mr Pertti Viinenen of Denmark; Mr Gerald Larose of Canada and Mrs Shirley Carr, president of the Canadian Labour Congress.

American unionists denied entry were Mr Don Strill of the United Automobile Workers (UAW), Mr Ken Zinn of United Mineworkers Union

and Mr Bill Lucy of the American Federation of Service and Municipal ~ Employees (AFSME).

Many African countries, socialist countries,

laims

Philippines and Caribbean countries have pledged solidarity but are unable to attend, said Mr Meintjies.

The congress is expected to debate key resolutions on Cosatu's political programme as well as its attitude to economic sanctions and disinvestment.

It is widely expected that the federation the largest and most militant in the country will adopt the freedom charter drawn up by the ANC and the unions in 1955 in line with resolutions recently adopted by four of its biggest affiliates

Delegates are also expected to debate a more controversial resolution on the political programme that is more explicitly socialist, than the freedom charter - Sapa

ly 1987.

THE CITIZEN

Page 3

By BRIAN STUART

A ROW Hhas Ã©rupted
between the Govern-
ment and the Labour
Party majority in the
House of Representa-
tives over evictions i
terms of the Group
Areas Act.

A call for â\200\234an immedi-
ate stopâ\200\235 to Group Areas
Act evictions was made
yesterday by the Rev Al-
lan Hendrickse, cabinet
minister and leader of the
Labour Party.

His statement was
made in the wake of no-
tices served on people of
colour following the re-
cent Government warning
that properties could be
sold if the owners did not
comply with the Group
Areas Act.

Those affected, include
tenants of flats in Cape
Town, Durban and parts
of Johannesburg. -

â\200\230month, when Mr

roup

ew row erli/fits

Mr Hendrickse said ac-
tions now being taken,
could pre-empt the Presi-
dentâ\200\231s Council report on
the Group Areas Act.

â\200\234In the interests of re-
storing healthy relation-
ships, I would again make
a call for such actions to
be stopped,â\200\235 Mr Hen-
dricksÃ© said.

â\200\234I would emphasise
that through the years the
Group Areas Act has

caused a great deal of harm, to Coloured people in particular, and has created an atmosphere of hatred.

Hendrickse endorsed a motion that "this House is of the opinion that the Group Areas Act and related legislation should be repealed". The motion was adopted. '

During that debate, Mr Badenhorst said action would be taken against the owners of buildings if they let their premises to

tenants of colour in con-

travention of the Act. "»
"If owners do not follow the indicated chan-

nels, I shall act against.

them;" said Mr Baden-

Il\)\1:1 "¢

Referring specifically to people of colour living in Hillbrow, he said: "It cannot continue like that,

. because the Act does not ~ make provision for it."

He had instructed the Group Areas Board to determine the extent of mixing in Hillbrow so that a Government decision could be taken.

_ It was reported yesterday that eviction notices were being served on

about 50 Coloured ten-

ants of a select block of

"In the light of this I would again make an appeal for an immediate stop to any evictions.

"Actions ~ which __, are_ taken now could anticipate and have a detrimental effect on the President". Council re-

Mr Hendrickse's state-

ment is in direct conflict with- Government policy as stated by Mr Piet Badenhorst, Deputy Minister of Development Planning. He has sent a copy of his statement to Mr Badenâ\200\224horst.

Mr Hendnckse and Mr - Badenhorst first clashed on the issue in the House of Representatives last en- |

bachelor flats in the heatt of Cape ' ~ Town. * The

Coloured tenants have.

been asked to vacate the

building by the end of this

month. i

Among them - are Coloured professional people and businessmen who work in central Cape Town.

A spokesman for the building agent said owners had decided at their last annual meeting that all tenants occupying the premises in contravention of the Group Areas Act

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Areas ewctmns.

Qi 7Ty egsvy "

should be iven notice.
Mr Hendrickse said

â\200\234 therÃ© were no bachelor

flats in Coloured residen-
tial areas - â\200\234and evictions
should cease, pending the
Presndentâ\200\231s Councl re-

ThÃ© rehon of the Con-
stitutional Affairs Com-
mittee of the Presidentâ\200\231s
Council wa\$ due for re-
lease last year, but was
delayed after a request by
the steering committee of
the Council that some as-
pects of the issue should
be investigated further.

There is no indication
at present, as to when the
teport will now be tabled
and discussed in the Pre-
sidentâ\200\231s Council.

Wednesday' 15 July 1987

THE ciï¬\201zeï¬\201 :

Government, Blacks

hold first National
Council talks â\204ç

By FRED de LANGE
THE first meeting be-
tween the government
and Black leaders on
participation in the
National Council took
place in Pretoria yes-
terday.

The Minister of Consti-
tutional Affairs and De-
velopment, Mr Chris
Heunis, and senior mem-

bers of the United Mu- -

municipalities of South Afri-
ca (UMSA), met yester-
day in what was described

asa â\200\234frunful meeting to.

- discuss negotiation as a
means of solving South
Africaâ\200\231s pohtwal prob-
lems.

UMSA president, Mr
Tom Boya, said after the
talks that the government
and UMSA had agreed
on the concept of negotia-
tion in a forum where
people could sit down and
â\200\234talk about talksâ\200\235.

Mr Boya said UMSA
had certain preconditions
before formal talks on a
negotiated settlement be-
tween Blacks and Whites
could- start. â\200\234These were
the release of all political
prisoners. the unbanning
of all political orga-
-nisations, and a declara-

&

tion from the government

for the scrapping of all
discriminatory laws.

He said UMSA felt
there was a need for fu-
ture meetings with - the
government and was
aware of the problems
facing the government.

Mr Heunis had been

asked to arrange for gen-
_eral Â¥
_Blacks - before Â° formal

elections ~ among

talks started to ensure the

elected leaders of the'.

people took part. This, he
said, would solve the
problem - of negotiators
being branded â\200\234collabo-
ratorsâ\200\235 and â\200\234sell-ou

â\200\234We also asked
whether -the government

would allow leaders such

as Nelson Mandela and
other political detainees
to take part in such elec-
tions. Mr Heunis told us
such a step would be diffi-
cult and we can under-
stand it,â\200\235 Mr Boya said.

Mr Heunis said what
was important was the
fact the parties involved
were prepared to nego- -
tiate.

â\200\234We have pleaded in
the past, and do so again
today, that people should
not-paint themselves into
a corner by saying they
are not going to negotiate

- unless certain conditions

are met,â\200\235 he said.
Effective negotiation
iallso implied talks about
&
people might have. â\200\234Ne-
gotiation is a' process of
give and take,â\200\235 he said.
The governmeÃ©nt had
several options before it.
â\200\234We have chosen nego-
tiation as a method for
change and we have
opted against violence.â\200\235

Those not prepared to

negotiate peacefully were
excluding themselves
from the process, he said.
Mr Heunis said the
government had already
made a declaration of in-
tent against discrimina-
tion. â\200\234We have said we
are against discrimination
on a racial basis and we
say it again.â\200\235

reservations - some

Dakar delegate

g _]Liimpr esse
ANC

By TONY STIRLING
JOHANNESBURG
businessman, Mr Al-
bert Koopman, a
member of the group

Frederik van Zyl Slab-
bert to talks in Dakar,
and one of the first to
return to South Africa,
said last night he had
been deeply impressed
by the willingness of
the ANC to negotiate
with the South African
Government.

He said, however, that
the ANC was not willing
to abandon violence as a
prelude to any such talks.

It was not even willing
to consider a ceasefire as
a precondition to talks be-
cause the organisation
saw the armed struggle as
its major bargaining point
in getting the South Afri-
can Government to nego-
tiate. =~

Mr Koopman, who re-
turned to his home in
Oaklands yesterday after
leaving the talks early on
Sunday, was formerly
managing = director - of
Cashbuild, but is now a

business consultant oper- .

ating from home. -

It was also still the
ANCâ\200\231s position _that it
was only willing to" nego-

tiate a transition to taking

power in South Africa. "
He said, however; that

it was his impression that -

the ANC would be willing
to enter talks with â\200\230the

South African Govern-

ment if there was a state-
ment of intent by it, even

if it would be willing to -
state that there would be
a transition to majority
rule in 50 years. . .
The ANC is willing-

, LT

S

ness to negotiate with the
Government was unbelievable,
he said.

The ANC saw its use of
violence as its only bar-

* which accompanied Dr Puining today in initiating

talks and was unwilling to
abandon violence. -
' But he had gained the

impression that if negotia-

tions did get underway
-and - the Government
showed sincerity in elimi-
nating apartheid, that the
organisation would be
willing to enter a morato-

rium on the use of viol-

Conclusion, ...

There was more com-
mon ground than there
was not common ground
on the issues, he said,
but there was no way in
which the White group at
the talks could say they
endorsed violence.
Violence had, howev-
er, been discussed in
depth and they got a bet-
ter idea of our fears, and

we got a better insight on

their reasons for using vi-
olence and their posi-
tion; he said.

In relation to the econ-
omic question, the thrust
of the ANC argument was
that the Government's in-
transigence was causing
immense pressure on the
economy and that small
reforms would not relieve
this pressure.

The ANC had viewed

- developments such as the
â\200\234Regional Service Couty
-cls and the Natal/Kwa-
Zulu Indaba as â\200\234divisio. L
naryâ\200\235.

. The "ANC had shows

flexibility on the degree

_ of socialism there would *_
'be_in a post-apartheid ' .

South Africa, but â\200\234vision- | -bank said, however, that
Â@ aryâ\200\235 steps towards change - -

were required. L

d by

attitudeâ\200\231

lsTe

The organisation had -

! also shown a willingness

to accommodate Whites
il a â\200\234democraticâ\200\235 post-
apartheid society, but not
any mechanisms . which
perpetuated ' racism - or .
privilege. - ot e N
"...Mr_Koopman said he
, the State Presi-
dent, Mr P W Botha or
members of lis Govern-
ment would- talk to Dr
Slabbert and the groupâ\200\231s
leader about their experi-

| ences in Dakar and that

this could lead to some
benefit for the country.
Wooltry managing di-
rector Mr Tony Williams
said, on his return to
Cape Town from the talks
yesterday, that he had at-
tended the talks as. am
â\200\234â\200\230observerâ\200\235. - >
. {- He said that, as direc-:
tor responsible for long-
term stratÃ©gic planning in
his company, he consider-
ed it necessary from time
to time to observe at talks
involving

different

groups. :
It was not his compan-

yâ\200\231s police to make public
statements on such mat-
ters.

He said that, given his
observer status, he had
not considered it appro-
priate to sign the joint
declaration signed by the
group and the ANC del-

_egation.

Standard Bankâ\200\231s econ-
omic adviser, Mr Andre
Hamersmal, also re-
turned from the talks yes-
terday but was not avail-
able for comment.

A spokesman for the

Mr Hamersmal, who also
did not sign the joint dec-
laration, went as an ob-
server.

"FLOYD CAMBELL,

trained ANC terrorist
who was killed out-
side his home in
~ Alexandra, ' Johan-
nesburg.

~ Angola.

. By JfOHN MILLER
POLICE yesterday
confirmed that the
man who was shot
dead and then â\200\230stoned
outside his house in
Alexandra township
over the weekend, was
a trained ANC terror-

â\200\230ist who left South Afri-

at a local townshnp disco-

theque in which Mr Solo-
mon Bafu Petersen was
allegedly shot dead by
Cambell.

He said the two men
were first involved in an
argument outside the dis-
cotheque before they
walked across the road
and Petersen was shot

cain 1982 and returned â\200\234dead.

in April this year.

The man has been iden-
tified as 30-year-old Floyd
Cambell, alias Bruce
Tula. After leaving Sou)h
Africa in 1982 he began
his training in May 1983
at Caxito and Quieaxi in

After this, Cambell
joined a special opera-
tions unit of the ANC i in
Mozambique.

On Safurday mormng a

â\200\234group of about 20 youths

went to Cambellâ\200\231s house
./ which is situated near the
disco. After him
outside the youths took

his Russian-made Makarov pistol which had been

used on 200/230 Petersen the:

night before, and shot Cambell three times in the head.

: mrtndges

ochp o U womdlomd bt

gan stoning him. They also collected a 40kg rock and put it on the body before they dispersed.

About two hours later detectives found Cambell's body. In the dead man's pockets they found R208 in various notes, a 20 dollar Zambabwean note and a 20 Pula Botswana note. Six spent were also found in the area.

Lt Louw said he could not say if anyone had been arrested in connection with the incident as this would interfere with the investigation. He also

said it was too early to say if Cambell had an

to do with last week's bomb blast in Johannesburg ' Jor '

200/234 In our past contact with members of the public in Black areas, people have become quite fed-up with certain radical individuals who make use of various circumstances in order to intimidate members of the public. However, we cannot condone vigilante action.

200/234 We feel we should stress that our doors are always open - should people experience any attack from any radical elements they should report the incident to the nearest police station. 200/235

In 1984 he infiltrated Swaziland through Mapu-

to. It was while in Swaziland in April 1984 that he and seven other trained ANC terrorists were involved in a one-hour shootout with the country's police force in Mbabane.

Following the shootout, Swaziland police arrested the eight terrorists and confiscated eight Russian-made hand grenades, four AKA47 rifles, 293 rounds of ammunition, four pistols and two magazines.

The eight terrorists were later tried and deported to Zambia.

In April this year Campbell returned to South

Africa through Botswana.

Lieutenant Pierre Louw, liaison officer for the police on the Witwatersrand said Campbell's death followed an incident on Friday night

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Blood-smeared stones, a Russian Makarov pistol, six spent cartridges, and money were some of the objects police found with the body of ANC terrorist, Floyd Campbell.

Many differences apparent

Boya: Govt
recognises
Umsa's

existence

14/5/1977

By McKeed Kotlolo
Pretoria Bureau ;
The United Mail (Jtnsa),
Mr Tom Boya, said yesterday's meeting
proof that the Government recognised Umsa's existence.

Umsa broke away from the Urban Councils of South
'Africa (Ucasa). :
Mr Boya, who is also the Mayor of Daveyton, told Mr Heunis
Umsa stood by its call for the release of political detainees before it
would participate in the Government's proposed National Statutory
Council :

Umsa said other preconditions were that banned political organi-
sations be unbanned and that all discriminatory legislation, such as

the Group Areas Act, be scrapped. It said dele-
gates to the NSC should be elected by the
people and carry their mandate.

Mr Boya, told the Press after the meeting
that there had been more differences than agree-
ments during the two-hour session at Mr Heunis's
offices in Pretoria.

One aspect on which agreement had been
reached was that a forum for negotiations be-
tween blacks and whites should exist.

Mr Heunis said he believed there were par-
ties who were prepared to negotiate and also
to discuss the conditions under which they would
participate in the NSC.

Referring to the participation of prisoners such
as Nelson Mandela, Mr Heunis said there were
laws which governed the country and that these
should be adhered to.

Two aspects which were not discussed at
today's meeting included land and housing for
blacks. Umsa asked Mr Heunis to conduct a
nationwide investigation into these aspects for
discussion at a later stage.

ion and government by consent of the governed.

" He said: "We aim to build support from
grassroots before we make a formal re-
cognition by the Government," Mr Boya said.

e o s
Metal strike
called off

afterâ\200\231'one da

THE National Union]
_ ion of Metalwork-
ey) yotrday dedced [
| -day strike by u â\200\234
60 000 members at nearly 500 yl P s P s hinasodâ\200\235
. Itsaid it feared di 2 and govern. | o) off the strik
e It fear ai:â\200\231srtnissa_ls and govern- | Both he and Ng - i
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unll\?wful â\200\230 d the strike :lrgt;i)ropriety in the gazetti ooy
| umsa and the Steel and Engi be
] Industries Federation of SA (Seigf:sgâ\200\230)aehl:gg
; i':tct;::sed each other of committing unfair
: ur practices during the wage dispute
t a'lrthied :o y:sterdayâ\200\231s strike. :
union has also made b,
Slons about collusjon betweenifat::;)i~\201;eegr:..
. a] (::: xl?â\200\230rÃ©i~\201ozg %Iintister and the industri-
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b lq\xtul strike uleÃ©â\200\230alf'r.u!king Â\$ pertectly
. And it has accused the council of wi ;
1 ?g}gin o:(ii_ta;lg?â\200\230csurfnents, gn ac?i(l)r? gtv;:at;:s-
. or a Supreme Court It said he w
; gga]Ã©;nf:nto ge legality ?f yesterdayâ\200\231s both employeis (;l:'ltlge:da:l?â\200\231
:onsult e
ice reneying last year's agreement. . . {0 minimiso industrial ungese - "
ecively made the- . 7 ft'said hisâ\200\235 cotiduct â\200\230has RsSitfed i

Theâ\200\231 renewal] 'ef Pane it St
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at the decision

gen-
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gazetting of the

The industrial council i

: L chair
}Vlcholson said the council acte:in ;?ofeil-l
ayl a:(;it itchee decision regarding the renew-
< M was made by the Minister

The union said last nj
considering challenging
of yesterdayâ\200\231s Governme
it appeared the strike w.
angl purposes, over.
yumsa condemned the Ministerâ\200\231s |
tion in promulgating the r::gx:tlerra:tlzgt

ght it was still:

the lawfulness
nt Gazette. But
as, to all intents

plam.xeq strike illegal.
Seifsa director Sam van Coller said he

Metal strikÃ© 1Â\$ Called! off

confusion and a situation of
| calat conflict and unrest
Van der Merwe has said the renewal of

Possible es-

Shp R

agreements was a normal procedure.
A Seifsa spokesman said late yester-
day it had heard from 140 companies that
28 000 workers had gone on strike. Seifsa
did not have complete data, but said the
correct figure was probably not as hitgh
as the 60000 on strike claimed by the
union.

Numsa mslgokesman Bernie Fanaroff,
although unhappy at the turn events had
taken, said he thought the one-day stop-
page had demonstrated the unionâ\200\231s mus-
cle. He believed this would pay dividends
in future years. ;

He also predicted Numsa would grew
as a result of the impression it had made
'| on non-members in the industr, . He saia
the union had signed up 1 000 new mem-
bers yesterday at one Iscor plant alone.

Seifsa said the union had not negotiat-
.ed in good faith and said it believed this
.constituted an unfair labour practice.

It accused the union of failing to adapt.

| its demands during four years of negotia-
] tions, and of making purely political de-
mands which employers could clearly
not resolve.

It said although Numsa had refused to
sign agreements, it had allowed its mem-
bers to benefit from them through other
unions accepting them.

Seifsa said it was not in a position to |
continue negotiations with Numsa be-
cause employers had concluded a new

agreement in the proper manner with 14 other unions. This agreement was due to be published on Friday;.

It added Numsa had representation in only 500 of 3200 plants covered by the agreement.

Numsa responded, in a telex to Seifsa, that it regarded Seifsa's refusal to continue negotiations as an unfair labour practice.

It said it was the largest party to the council and that it noted for the future the endeavour to categorise demands as political when they constituted demands that could be met by employers but would incur the wrath of government.

Heunis meets black leaders on NSC

NONE of the Kreconditions demanded by black leaders for their participation in the National Statutory Council (NSC) were insur-

mountable, Constitutional Devel-

opment and Planning Minister
C Heunis said yesterday.

The preconditions include demands for the release of political prisoners, the unbanning of political organisations and the scrapping of discriminatory laws.

However, Heunis said government had chosen a certain method for change in which it had opted for a negotiated settlement by peaceful means.

- Therefore people who are not prepared to negotiate peacefully on this basis have excluded themselves, he

said.

United Municipalities of SA (Umsa)

resident Tom Boya said after meet-

ing Heunis in Pretoria yesterday

Heunis believed it would not be possible for political prisoners like Nelson Mandela and Zeph Mothopeng to participate in the proposed black elections for the NSC unless these people are pardoned.

[pominious GueerT |

Boya and a group of 17 senior Umsa members including general sec:

Solly Rammala agreed at the meeting to hold further talks with Heunis in the near future.

Describing Heunis in an interview as having an understanding of the situation, Boya said: The minister is very much aware of what we have told him and we are also very much aware of the problems that he has.

Boya said both the Umsa group and Heunis agreed on the concept of a negotiating forum for talks about talks but Umsa stood by its preconditions for participation.

Heunis said the NSC bill will

lished not as a prescriptive me
for instutional forum but a consulta-
tive proposal. : :

While homeland leaders had al-
ready been elected â\200\224 some of whom
had shown interest in the NSC â\200\224 it
was governmentâ\200\231s intention that ru-
"Mâ\200\230 outside homelands be in-
cludk the election process. .

The talks continue tomorrow when
Heunis meets Transvaal MEC John
Mavuso. :

BUSINESS DAY, Wednesday, July 15 1987

COMMENT

Seductive

~sion of peace the risk grows

S the state of emergency
spreads its seductive illu-
that people will come to ac-

cept their condition as normal. As

Anglo American Corporation
chairman Gavin Relly remarked
this week, states of emergency
" and media controls create an arti-
ficial environment fostering illu-
sion and complacency.

Does it matter? So long as few-
er people are being â\200\234neckla
so long as the horrors of civil dis-
order are absent from local and

foreign television screens, does it
matter that people live in dark-

ness?

The answer is so tnte yet so
easily brushed aside by compla-

cency, that it is difficult to know
how to bring home to South Afri-

cans the dangers which the state %

of emergency creates.

Perhaps it will help to say that

in no sphere of life other than
national politics would anybody
suggest that ignorance is a better
basis for solving problems than
knowledge. But â\200\230that ls not the
worst of it.

The real problem of a closed
society â\200\224 one in which the affairs
of government are hidden from
the people â\200\224 is that secrecy itself
is corrosive of sound government.

Secrecy is a necessax;y pre-condi-
tion for the corruption of power.

Already South Africans have lost
many of the habits of free men
and women, accepting as they do
the progressive removal of gov-
ernment from public scrutiny.

The process began with the abolition of the Senate, a review chamber

the excesses of the Assembly but which, in lending itself to a cheap

~ ploy to disfranchise the coloured people, so lost respect that it

found no defenders when its own abolition became expedient.

Since then, the provincial councils have similarly been de-

stroyed, and provincial govern-

ment has been placed in the hands of functionaries, operating outside the sphere of public control, and

~ generally without close public

scrutiny. Cape divisional councils have been scrapped, and municipal councils have been displaced by management committees, substituting arrogance for dithering, and the principle of public accountability in local affairs has atrophied. As a result, the functions of public administration are being assumed so far as outsiders and taxpayers can tell by joint management committees which appear often to be run by

~military officers.

That plain corruption thrives under conditions of secrecy is sad, true, but not really important; what is more important is the corruption which power exerts on the

- minds of those who need account

only to their bureaucratic bosses. The result is a self-perpetuating clique of mandarins, blinded to their own deficiencies and equipped with the power to hide their mistakes.

It is towards mandam, an ultimately catastrophic condition, that the state of emergency is taking us. When Rully pleads for a return to openness, he is warning

~ that the benefits of emergency are that was supposed to check

government come at a high price.

