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DP election campaign stresses do-good image

INSTEAD of being a watchdog, the NP was likely to become the ANC's lapdog in the new government, DP PWV provincial leader Tony Leon said yesterday.

Leon was speaking at a provincial party conference where the DP focused on its "clean hands" image and its role as the guardian of human rights and civil liberties.

He said the danger of a government of national unity was that the country would be deprived of a vigorous opposition.

Leon added that voting for the ANC would be like chickens voting for Colonel Saunders, because the ANC too had authoritarian tendencies, as its reconstruction and development document showed.

He gave notice that the DP would be campaigning for citizens' initiatives and for the recall of incompetent officials.

TIM COHEN

About 700 DP delegates attended the meeting, with speakers introduced to the strains of rousing pop songs.

DP leader Zach de Beer said that unlike the ANC, the Inkatha Freedom Party, the PAC, the "white right" and government, the DP had never taken part in violence or even been accused of this.

De Beer provided 10 reasons South Africans should vote for the DP, including that the party stood for the dignity and freedom of the individual, decent living standards, and the establishment of law and order.

In the DP's view, the purpose of government was to provide a framework within which people could be economically provided with the services they needed to live their lives

effectively, he said.

Conference chairman and MP Robin Carlsle introduced a motion, carried by delegates, critical of both government and the ANC for not scrapping detention without trial.

The meeting also focused on intimidation, with a variety of delegates complaining their campaigns had been hindered by threats of violence and incidents of intimidation.

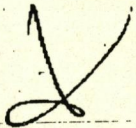
Addressing the ANC, Carlsle said: "We fought for your political rights, now at least respect ours."

DP candidate David Unterhalter said the changes to the constitution the DP would seek included greater federal powers and a new system to decide parliamentary candidature.

Speaking on the economy, MP Brian Goodall said only the DP could create the conditions which would allow the economy to grow and the standard of living to increase.

Politics

by Gerald Shaw



There is a future

FOUR years ago this week the State President, F.W. De Klerk, stunned his followers when he announced the unbanning of the ANC and the imminent release of Nelson Mandela after 27 years as a prisoner. Then came the historic day when an unbowed Mandela, a figure of immense authority and dignity, walked to freedom through the gates of Victor Verster prison.

Mandela returned to the Cape last week to lay a wreath at the prison and launch the ANC's national election campaign — at the same time as De Klerk, in the north, was launching the NP's campaign and its election manifesto.

Four years ago who would have thought that a multiracial crowd at a Nationalist congress would be singing *When the Saints go marching in* rather than *Afrikaners, landgenote*, and that De Klerk would be leading barnstorming forays into the townships in search of black votes! And proclaiming non-racial policies scarcely different from those of the Democratic Party and its forerunners!

The DP should welcome this extraordinary reversal. In a sinful world, there is rejoicing in heaven when one sinner repents. De Klerk is a brave man who has more than earned his Nobel Prize and his place in history, presiding over a negotiated revolution.

Yet the NP would do well not to make too much of the claim in its manifesto that it does not kill, threaten or intimidate people. This is a gibe directed at the ANC, no doubt, but it will backfire.

Whatever the ANC's shortcomings, the record of successive NP governments in the area of human rights and killing people is appalling beyond belief. What about the torture of detainees in solitary confinement and the scores of deaths in detention, which successive NP ministers of justice and police were able to contemplate with equanimity.

As the late Jimmy Kruger said in a public speech, the death of Steve Biko left him cold.

And what about the criminal activities of the CCB under its shadowy controllers in Military Intelligence and the assassination of militant opponents of apartheid, ordered at high level. Of course the NP killed people.

As the campaign begins it is sad to see that British and North American media are filled with dire prognostications of civil war when South Africa goes to the polls.

It helps to restore perspective, on the other hand, to note the progress which has been made towards a constitutional settlement.

An interim constitution has been enacted,

with the approval of almost all significant groups, which will pave the way for the growth of a federal/democratic political culture.

At the time of writing it seemed that even the Freedom Alliance of white right-wingers and Zulu nationalists in Inkatha might yet be persuaded to contest the election, unless the irrational forces in the alliance were to assert themselves.

The best-informed of foreign observers, such as the American ambassador, Princeton Lyman, do not believe that the danger of full-scale civil war is great, however.

There will be more political violence, including a campaign of sabotage and terrorist bombings by the right-wing fringe which has already begun. All the same, it is remarkable that we have been able to come so far in relative peace and stability.

Question marks have now been raised about the loyalty of the civil service and the security forces as April 26 approaches.

And there have been alarming television news clips of heavy-paunched, hard-eyed bravos of the AWP in full cry at their rallies in the north which have caused some anxiety in gentler climes further south.

Fearsome the TV images most certainly are. And the questions cannot be shrugged

aside. Yet the images are deceptive if they suggest that the majority of conservative Afrikaners are on the point of grabbing their rifles and bilting and heading for the hills.

There will be much sound and fury but the intermittent terrorism and sabotage of the fanatics will not stop the election. If it begins to look as if it could so, the ringleaders will be interned until things are back to normal.

One estimate of the security situation which I have seen — written by Colin Legum, doyen of analysts of Southern African affairs, suggests that Northern Ireland is the closest parallel to present-day South Africa, rather than Algeria on the brink of independence, when the army generals revolted against De Gaulle's policy and France itself seemed momentarily at risk.

An Ulster-type situation is about as bad as things will get, it seems to me. The bombs will go off but life will go on.

The main thing will be to convince the world in the next few months that South Africa does have a future, in spite of the die-hards poised like Gadarene swine to hurl themselves to destruction.

Gerald Shaw is associate editor and political columnist for the Cape Times

Mandela writes off 'pathetic de Klerk party of weaklings'

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN KROONSTAD, ORANGE FREE STATE

DISMISSING President de Klerk and his National Party as "a pathetic collection of weaklings", Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress, yesterday warned the white community that it was betraying its children by keeping silent about white right-wing violence.

Taking his presidential-style campaign to the Orange Free State, Mr Mandela told a handful of white and black business people at a breakfast meeting in Sasolburg that blacks were being killed by whites, by the security forces and by other black groups, and, he said: "The whites in this country are totally silent. The whites have an obligation to stand up and join us publicly in saying that we want to build peace."

Hope in the future was being destroyed by the emigration of skills and because overseas investment was being discouraged by instability and right-wing threats of civil war.

Mr Mandela declared: "You must understand that when that happens, it is not only blacks who are going to die. Both blacks and whites are going to die. You are betraying your children, your communities, your future by keeping quiet in the light of these bombs against the ANC."

Rightwingers have been blamed for a series of recent bomb blasts in the Orange Free State and in the western and northern Transvaal. Targets have been railway lines, power pylons and recently offices belonging to the ANC and its allies. Nobody has been killed, although a few people have been injured. Nobody has been arrested.

Five more bombs exploded overnight, three in the western Transvaal, one in Klerksdorp and one in Harrismith, in the Orange Free State. One of the western Transvaal bombs ex-

ploded at the farm of Jan Serfontein, a white farmer and ANC member. During Mr Mandela's campaign last week, Mr Serfontein allowed a training college he runs to be used for a meeting.

Mr Mandela yesterday visited an ANC office which was recently bombed in Bothaville, not far from here.

The ANC president called on whites, especially Afrikaners, to isolate the right wing, and prevent South Africa from becoming a Bosnia or a Somalia. It was no use relying on the government to do so.

"You have a lame-duck government led by a lame-duck President, who is intimidated by the right wing." Ironically, Mr Mandela also recalled the bomb attacks carried out by the ANC's armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), against Sasolburg itself. Sasol, a state company, owns a huge refinery around which the town was built. The refinery was developed to extract oil products from coal and so avoid sanctions on imported crude. "My visit is



De Klerk: seen to lead a lame-duck government

significant," Mr Mandela said, speaking in the oil company's sports club, "in view of the activities of Umkhonto we Sizwe and Sasol."

Mr Mandela did have a number of words of comfort for the business community, however. Calling on businessmen to trust the ANC, he assured them that they were needed to create jobs and that they would be allowed to make profits.

He also promised that, despite the appalling treatment he and his colleagues had suffered, they were not out for vengeance. "We believe in a multi-party state," he said.

At various stops during the day, despite saying he did not wish to waste his time talking about the National Party congress that has just ended, Mr Mandela was particularly sharp in his remarks about Mr de Klerk's attempts to woo black voters.

"They are a pathetic collection of weaklings unable to reconcile themselves with the fate of extinction which stares them in the face." The ANC leader insisted that the Nationalists have "never served the masses of the people of South Africa. They only know how to serve the white community." Speaking to an excited crowd in a football stadium at Zamdela, a nearby township overshadowed by the smoking chimneys and flame tower of the refinery, Mr Mandela said that people were now shunning the National Party "like lepers".

"They are a racist party. They want the whites to be on top," he said. Mr Mandela claimed that the ANC had a history of more than 80 years of fighting racial discrimination, while the National Party was practising the worst form of discrimination.

"They worship God. They are Christians," he said derisively. "They have been killing

innocent people in the name of God." Mr Mandela strode around the stadium's perimeter fence, chatting to children and an 89-year-old veteran of the freedom struggle, and punching the air with his clenched-fist salute. Similar walkabouts were features of his later visits to Kroonstad and Welkom. Before he arrived in Kroonstad, he said, 100 people were injured when the crowd began dancing on the roof of a pavilion that collapsed.

The remaining dancers continued on the undamaged portion. Amid deafening cheers, a group of women from the ANC Women's League presented him with a rocking-chair and warm blanket, despite the already opened up wounds on his back, state

grey sky. Then he danced a little, and swayed to the music with Razia Hanza, 22, a beauty from Vereeniging, on the other side of the Vaal river. He scoffed that the National Party "tells blacks to say, 'We want you to join our party, because they have been abandoned by whites'". The election campaign had already turned into a vicious

war of words, with Mr de Klerk accusing the ANC of not knowing what it was talking about. Mr Mandela showed yesterday that he can give good as he gets. As President de Klerk told television viewers the previous night: "In election, politics is not a sickness."



Nelson Mandela dancing while campaigning in Sasolburg, Orange Free State, where he asked whites to build peace

Mandela election motorcade defies homeland troops

THE African National Congress leader, Mr Nelson Mandela, narrowly avoided showdowns with the security forces twice yesterday when his motorcade forced its way through checkpoints of the nominally independent homeland of Bophuthatswana.

On one occasion the Bophuthatswana soldiers levelled their automatic rifles at Mr Mandela's car. Both they and the ANC bodyguards looked extremely jumpy and for several seconds a tense stand-off ensued.

Mr Mandela played down the incident and told a rally of about 30,000 supporters that he was confident that, if he had got out of his car and approached one of the soldiers, the man would have dropped his gun and run.

He also ridiculed President Mangope of Bophuthatswana, who is a member of the conservative Freedom Alliance coalition which demands a federal South Africa before it will consider taking part in April's poll.

The day's events underline the potential for disaster in the campaign. Mr Mandela is the ANC's main attraction and appears in public almost daily. If something happened to him the country could be plunged into chaos.

Bophuthatswana is one of four so-called independent homelands set up in the 1970s. In theory they were to allow tribes to live on their

By Alec Russell
in Tweespruit

own, but in practice they were dumping grounds for unwanted black labour.

Last December South Africa's multi-party negotiators agreed to abolish the homelands, but Mr Mangope refuses to accept the ruling and enforces a decades-old ban on the ANC. Last weekend his forces broke up an ANC rally near Mmabatho, the Bophuthatswana capital.

Yesterday was the third and final day of a campaign blitz in the Orange Free State and Mr Mandela was clearly determined to use it to take his message into the heartland of his old enemies.

First stop was in the plateau (flat land) south of Bloemfontein, a bastion of the conservative white farmers whose militant Right-wing unions announced on Friday they were banning political activity on farms.

But Mr Mandela defiantly travelled to Tweespruit, an isolated pocket of liberal landowners, where he attacked farmers' treatment of their labourers.

Wages of barely £20 a month, minimal education for children, seven-day working weeks, squalid living conditions and feudal obligations would all have to go, Mr Mandela said.

He urged the 1,000 black farm workers to take on the

farmers at their own game. "If your farmer gives you 10 rands (£2) and a good meal and says go and vote for the National Party, take the money, eat their food, say 'yeah baas' and then go into the polling booth and vote for the ANC."

Then, on an impromptu change of schedule, Mr Mandela headed for the grave of the ANC's founder, Dr James Moroka, in Thaba Nchu, a hill community in one of the seven jigsaw pieces of land that make up Bophuthatswana.

It was on the so-called frontier that he encountered the Bophuthatswana security forces.

It was later disclosed that his bodyguards were instructed to get him through to his destination "whether Mangope liked it or not". A gun battle could easily have broken out.

● Christopher Munnion in Johannesburg writes: South Africa's new peacekeeping force, drawn from the ranks of the existing army, the defence forces of the homelands and former "freedom fighter" formations, is in disarray, said the *Johannesburg Sunday Times*, quoting senior defence force officers.

● Twelve people, ranging in age from three to 80, were killed in an attack by about 20 gunmen on a rural community in Natal yesterday, police said. — AFP

THE
"The Guardian" - London
7/2/94

News in brief

South African gang kills 12

A gang of 20 black men shot dead nine women and three children, the youngest aged three, in South Africa's Natal province yesterday.

The attackers swept into a rural settlement near Richmond, raiding seven homesteads and gunning down their victims. — Reuters.

THE GUARDIAN - LONDON
7/2/94

Mandela threatens retaliation for attacks by far right

7/2/94

By RAY KENNEDY
IN JOHANNESBURG AND
EVE-ANN PRENTICE

IF SABOTAGE attacks by right-wing groups on the African National Congress's offices continued, the organisation would order retaliation by Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), its armed wing, Nelson Mandela said yesterday.

Police have failed to make any arrests since a wave of bomb blasts at ANC and trade union offices in the western Transvaal and Orange Free State started at the beginning of the year. Railway lines and electricity pylons have also been attacked. There were six attacks on ANC and trade union property last week after General Constand Viljoen, leader of the Afrikaner Volksfront, announced that the right was considering the use of "limited violence" to achieve its goal of an independent Afrikaner homeland.

At a campaign rally for the April 27 elections at Tweespruit in the Orange Free State yesterday, Mr Mandela, the ANC's president, said: "It won't be a limited type of violence if we retaliate." He indicated that attitudes within the ANC were hardening and said it was becoming increasingly difficult for the leadership to restrain demands for a firm response.

At nearby Thaba Nchu, in that part of the Bophuthatswana homeland enclosed by the Orange Free State, Mr Mandela's motorcade crashed through two roadblocks as armed police tried to stop them entering. At one checkpoint ANC bodyguards drew handguns, but jumped back into their vehicles when homeland police did not retaliate.

The ruling National Party has urged Mr Mandela to end his attacks on President de Klerk. He had described the President as a weakling who had not raised a word of protest against right-wing attacks on ANC offices and cared nothing for black lives.

A National Party statement pointed out that Mr de Klerk had freed Mr Mandela, lifted the ban on the ANC and other

■ Raids by white rightwingers on ANC offices have increased pressure for the armed wing to strike back. A warning has been given that its violence will not be limited

movements, and had averted a bloody conflict. All his actions had involved great political risk, exposing him to bitter opposition, particularly from right-wing Afrikaners.

According to intelligence sources, the right-wing saboteurs who attacked ANC offices were adopting IRA tactics, operating alone or in pairs, using home-made explosives and dynamite stolen from gold mines. A South African Defence Force officer was quoted as saying: "Everything we do to try to combat them is leaked to them in advance." The leader of the



Viljoen: considering the use of violence

neo-Fascist Afrikaner Resistance Movement, Eugene Terre'Blanche, declared at an Afrikaner Volksfront rally at Lichtenburg, western Transvaal, at the weekend: "Mandela, give us a volkstaat [Afrikaner state] or you'll have total war."

Mr Mandela declined to visit a training camp outside Bloemfontein for the racially integrated National Peace-keeping Force. It is claimed that there has been a collapse of discipline among the 3,500 volunteers, many from the ANC's armed wing, and that South African army and police

instructors are demanding to be posted back to their units.

Mr Mandela said he was confident that its joint command would be able to sort out the problems.

One report yesterday said that about 600 MK members, many of them drunk, had rampaged through the camp last week, chanting "one settler, one bullet" and threatening to kill white soldiers and policemen.

In London today Mr Justice Richard Goldstone, who heads South Africa's independent commission of enquiry into political violence and related matters, is expected to tell the Jewish-based World Union of the Organisation for Educational Resources and Technological Training, that black South Africans needed to see fast "tangible benefits" from the change to democracy, including better education.

He said yesterday: "If some of their aspirations are not met within a short time span, there will be trouble. Many millions of South Africans have been deprived because of racial discrimination, and I think they'll be seeking tangible benefits from the change in government pretty quickly."

"To do that we need a growing economy. To attract investment we need a peaceful environment. The new government will have to work in all these difficult areas simultaneously and ... the assistance, advice, support and encouragement of the international community will be indispensable."

□ Durban: A gang of 20 black men shot dead nine women and three children, the youngest aged three, in Natal province yesterday, in raids police said were linked to continuing political conflict between the ANC and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party. (Reuters)

Negotiations: Only six days remain

HERCURY 7/2/94 HE/IM

IFP adamant on regional power demand

INKATHA has again rejected participation in the election despite the ANC's agreement to a double ballot, saying that it will only be "flexible" once its demands for greater regional powers are met.

The Freedom Alliance, including the IFP, will meet the government and the ANC in Pretoria again today to resolve outstanding differences with only six days left for parties to register for the election.

The IFP's central commit-

Political Staff

tee announced after a meeting in Ulundi yesterday that the constitutional concerns of the IFP were "inter-related" and it could not agree to contest elections on the basis of only one demand being met.

Deputy constitutional development minister Fanus Schuerman said last night if a negotiated settlement with the alliance succeeded today, immediate steps would be taken to recall the tricameral parliament for a two day session next week.

The necessary amendments to the constitution would then be made.

Mr Schoeman said it was possible, however, that a session could be called "any time before the election", but parties had to register for the poll this Saturday. If agreements were only reached after that, changes would also have to be made to the Electoral Act as well to allow the alliance parties to register late.

"Things will therefore become more and more difficult (to accommodate the right-wing) as we come closer to the election date," he said. "We,

therefore, need to find each other today ... time is running out."

The Freedom Alliance leaders, Inkatha president Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope, Afrikaner-volksfront leader Gen Constand Viljoen and Conservative Party leader Ferdi Hartzenberg, meet this morning to formulate a joint response to the proposals.

However, ANC and government sources were not hopeful that the alliance would accept a package of compromise proposals.

Mr Schoeman said further talks would be held only if the alliance was prepared to be flexible "in the spirit of negotiations" and not "just wanting to achieve 100% of their demands".

Should today's talks proceed, their success will depend on whether the alliance is prepared to compromise on their demands for regional autonomy. The government has already signalled that it is prepared to extend greater fiscal powers to regional authorities.

CP spokesman Lem Theron

said his party was not optimistic about the negotiations process. "We are not so stupid to not realise that the ANC is trying to keep us talking until April 27," he said.

Dr Theron said the Afrikanervolksfront, of which the CP is part, will continue its plans to set up a volksstaat for the Afrikaner nation. "We are just talking because we don't want to be blamed for breaking down the negotiations process."

Report by S. Anthonissen and O. Pless, in Durban Street, Durban

TRIBUNE 6/2/94 HE/IM IFP's seven-day countdown

Surprising new light has been cast on the election trail by results of a national opinion survey released this week — by coincidence at the same time as the election dates were promulgated.

Findings are that although the ANC is easily the front runner, with just under 50 percent support, the final outcome — and in particular the two-thirds majority that the ANC needs in order to write its own constitution — is anything but a racing certainty.

There have been major shifts in allegiance — away from the DP and CP in particular, with National Party support dropping by four percent since 1991 to 14 percent. Only the PAC has remained static at a meagre one percent base. The fluidity in voter

preferences should be an effective check to any extravagant plans of politicians sensing an assured and overwhelming victory and therefore unlimited power.

For the IFP in particular the potential of the swing vote is both an opportunity and a threat. If the party stays aloof from the election its supporters will either abstain or switch either way will be to the benefit of the ANC, especially in Natal, where trends also show that there has been a significant move by the Indian community to the ANC — more so than any other race group. Democracy now rests on the swing vote and the opposition that can be mustered against the powerful ANC. The IFP has a week left to decide how it will provide that opposition.

Cheers for

NP's Bartlett

HERCURY 7/2/94 HE/IM

Mercury Reporter

The National Party election headquarters hit the Indian township of Shongweni yesterday.

Natal NP leader George Bartlett and several other NP leaders spoke at a packed Shongweni hall amid resounding cheers and what seemed to be a large Indian support for the NP.

Speakers amid cheers of "Viva NP, Viva" raised and energy affairs minister Mr Bartlett compared the plight of the Indian people to the Afrikaners in their predicament in overcoming the hardships that they faced.

"You people pulled yourself by the bootstraps — worked in the fields as labourers. The Afrikaner has also been through it," he said.

The meeting was not without controversy, though, with the Democratic Party staging a protest outside the hall, headed by the DP MP for Phoenix, Mr Ome Singh, a small contingent of people protesting about the housing subsidies issue.

Report by S. Anthonissen and O. Pless, in Durban Street, Durban

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NATAL WITNESS

7/2/94 HE/IM

Alliance talks hold promise

by WYNNDHAM HARTLEY
Political Editor

LAST week's tense negotiations between the government, ANC and Freedom Alliance did not deliver sufficient progress to secure Inkatha's participation in the election.

With time rapidly running out for a political settlement, Inkatha's central committee yesterday decided it could be flexible in today's talks if the autonomy of regional constitutions is guaranteed.

An ANC package, which is likely to concede to a two-ballot system, was not tabled at last week's meeting. Instead, a more flexible Alliance was asked to return today, after consulting its leaders, to conclude a settlement. Compromises from both parties are essential if an inclusive election is to be held.

Since the proclamation of the election last Wednesday, parties have just this week in which to register.

Inkatha expressed concern yesterday that regional constitutions adopted after the election should not be forced to change in accordance with changes which might be made to the central constitution. The central committee resolutions said Inkatha's demands for a constitutional settlement are all inter-related. Key demands are for the regions to have the right to raise their own taxes and to write their own constitutions.

Yesterday's developments come against heightened tension in the political arena. Leaders of the Alliance-aligned Afrikaner Volksfront have threatened war, while ANC leader Nelson Mandela said that Mkhonto, Wesizwe could strike back at the right wing for bombing ANC offices.

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WITNESS

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Overall picture becoming less fuzzy

I would like to comment on Colin Gardner's article in the Witness (Monday 27). His comparison about the DP claiming to have clean hands just as Switzerland was able to after World War 2, is nonsense.

The DP, unlike the ANC, does not lay claim to democratic values in one breath, and then in the next, have their supporters killing or maiming the opposition, burning opposition posters, tearing down and burning opposition posters and intimidating people into voting for them.

It is unacceptable to use the excuse, that because the ANC is made up of people of different backgrounds that you will acknowledge that the broad picture, overall policy, overall picture and consistency, kind of looks OK. For credibility there surely has to be congruency between ANC policy on paper and the actions of its supporters. Colin Gardner condemns "lapses and wrong-doings" (nice words for killings and intimidation) but at the same time continues to dream and believe that the ANC "overall picture" is wonderful, because they tell him it is so.

For those of us that have not been fooled, the "overall picture" is slowly becoming less fuzzy and a little clearer. That picture in the past weeks, includes the fact that 13 out of the top 50 in the ANC election list are either members of the SACP or have some kind of affiliation with organisations that are in some way part of the "overall picture". Is that a well-known convicted kidnapper has been ranked fairly high up on that list. The thought that this particular individual could possibly be considered for public election is not a good thing for our democracy. The office doesn't look well for our democratic future.

KONJUNNEN
Photomontage

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WITNESS

7/2/94

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THE NATAL MERCURY

Security Cinderella

CLAIMS THAT the National Peacekeeping Force being trained at the SADF's camp outside Bloemfontein is in a shambles, are not going to do anything for the public peace of mind.

With township violence and rivalries continuing to claim a heavy toll, and with right-wing bombings of ANC offices and railway and power lines beginning ominously to echo left-wing shootings of churchgoers and bombings of restaurants, many people must by now strongly doubt the chances of having an even reasonably peaceful election campaign — not to mention free and fair elections.

As with everything else about replacing apartheid with a nonracial democracy, nobody said that integrating former enemy forces like the SADF and Umkhonto we Sizwe was going to be easy. But somewhere along the line the architects of change seem to be getting their priorities badly mixed up.

Last week, the ANC-dominated TEC decided with astonishing equanimity to keep the Nationalists' detention-without-trial law. The reason given was fear of political unrest threatening a future democratic government — although everybody knows how little that ignominious law did for maintaining law and order in the old days and what a handy tool it was simply for suppressing dissenting opinion.

If those mapping out our future course are serious about securing a reasonably safe and stable passage, they will start putting far more effort, money and resources into getting the security establishment into shape. Time is dangerously short. Instead of resorting to draconian laws, they should put their best officers to the task and do all they can to help their security force which law

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Bombings: Right-wing warned

MERCURY 7/2/94
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ANC will strike back, says Mandela

BLOEMFONTEIN—The ANC would retaliate with force against the ultra-right-wing before the April election if attacks on the organisation continued, Mr Nelson Mandela reiterated yesterday.

Two people have died in 29 attacks on ANC offices and electrical and railway structures since the start of December.

Speaking on the last day of a three-day election drive, the ANC president said: "Sooner or later we must take counter-measures, and when that happens many innocent people — black and white — will die."

Cosatu also announced it was considering mass action.

Mercury Correspondent

the spate of bombings continued.

Cosatu spokesman Bheki Nkosi said it was up to the police to maintain law and order and to arrest the perpetrators. Otherwise, Cosatu would have to use its "organisational strength" to object.

Cosatu and the ANC will ask the TEC this week to investigate the attacks.

Three railway carriages were derailed and an electricity pylon was damaged in two separate explosions in the western Transvaal and West Rand on Friday, Sapa reports.

Mr Mandela said that the ANC could not allow the

ing its offices and officials' homes — 10 or 11 to date — in the western Transvaal and Free State.

The ANC was prepared to use Umkhonto we Sizwe to retaliate, he said during an address outside Welkom at the weekend.

Mr Mandela's warning of imminent action came after AWB leader Eugene Terre-Blanche threatened "total war" unless whites were given a volkstaat.

"Mandela, give us a volkstaat or you will have total war," Mr Terre-Blanche told a rally in Lichtenburg at the weekend.

He promised more bomb attacks in the area.

Report by D Greybe, 11 Diagonal St.

Self-defence units' revamp

SELF-defence unit representatives at a conference in Daveyton at the weekend resolved that unit operations should be accountable to existing structures, such as civic associations, in the troubled East Rand townships.

The conference was held to formulate a policy of accountability for the controversial units.

ANC East Rand chairman Vuyane Mpofo said one of the aims of the conference was to develop a more formal infrastructure for the units.

He said most of the delegates who attended yesterday's workshops were unit commanders.

They, he said, had different ideas about their function.

JOHANNES NGCOSO

Mpofo added that the creation of formal structures had begun in units in Katlehong, where local and zonal commanders had been appointed. It was hoped that the streamlining of the units would make them acceptable to the community at large.

Ill-discipline in self-defence units, particularly in Katlehong, has been blamed for much violence and a number of killings in the area.

However, Mpofo said that if it were not for members of the defence units, ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa and SACP chief Joe Slovo would probably have died in the shooting incident during their recent visit to Katlehong.

We'll retaliate, warns Mandela

DAVID GREYSE

BLOEMFONTEIN — The ANC would retaliate with force against the ultra-right wing before the April election if attacks on the organisation continued, ANC president Nelson Mandela reiterated yesterday.

Two people have died in 29 attacks on ANC offices and electrical and railway structures since the start of December.

Speaking on the last day of a three-day election drive, Mandela said: "Sooner or later we must take counter-measures, and when that happens many innocent people — black and white — will die."

Cosatu announced it was considering mass action, including consumer boycotts, in the western Transvaal if the bombings continued. Spokesman Bheki Nkosi said it was up to the police to maintain law and order and to arrest the perpetrators. Otherwise Cosatu would have to use its "organisational strength" to object.

Cosatu and the ANC will ask the TEC this week to investigate the attacks.

Sapa reports that an electricity pylon was damaged in an explosion at Bothaville in the Free State on Saturday. Three railway carriages were derailed and a pylon damaged in two explosions in the western Transvaal and West Rand on Friday.

Mandela said the ANC could not allow the right wing to continue bombing its offices and homes — 10 or 11 to date. The ANC was prepared to use its armed wing

□ To Page 2

Warning

Umkonto we Sizwe (MK) to retaliate.

"We have MK inside and outside the country and members are better equipped than the ultra-right." But the ANC was "restraining" its forces.

Mandela's warning of imminent action came after AWP leader Eugene Terre-Blanche threatened "total war" unless whites were given a volkstaat.

"Mandela, give us a volkstaat or you will have total war," Terre-Blanche told a rally in the western Transvaal town of Lichtenburg. He promised more bomb attacks.

"Professionals are destroying SA's railway tracks to fight the ANC. More explosions will occur," he said.

There was no such thing as "limited violence", Mandela said, referring to Afrikaner Volksfront leader Gen Constand Viljoen's statement that the right wing was considering using limited violence to achieve a volkstaat.

"We won't make it a limited retaliation," Mandela said. The ANC wanted to avoid a confrontation, but was being hampered by government's lack of decisive action.

During a meeting with Welkom's busi-

nessmen he said he believed government was a "pathetic collection of weaklings who are unable to take any decisive action to protect the interests of the people". If government was made up of weaklings, the ANC would have to "take steps even before it comes to power," Mandela warned. However, he hoped this would not arise.

He expected the government of national unity after the April election to deal with the issue of right-wing violence.

He compared the present stage of the negotiations with the right wing to that with government eight years ago in 1985 when the peace process began secretly.

It had taken almost eight years to achieve the TEC and an election date, and it would be foolish to expect negotiations with the right wing to proceed any faster.

Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel said Mandela's threat of unlimited violence to counter right-wing attacks was "hysterical and irresponsible", and would just be terrorism in another form.

The only way to combat the attacks was to infiltrate terrorist cells. This was time-consuming but the only way, Kriel said.

□ From Page 1

Camp chaos 'exaggerated'

THE ANC says reports about lack of discipline — especially among Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) members — at the national peacekeeping force base are exaggerated and designed to undermine MK.

The SADF yesterday washed its hands of the matter, saying it had nothing to do with the camp outside Bloemfontein.

SADF spokesman Col John Rolt said defence force personnel had only been seconded to the peacekeeping force and all questions — including reported bad hygienic conditions at the former SADF base — should be directed to the TEC.

Our political staff reports that the peacekeeping force's new commanding officer, Maj-Gen Gabriel Ramushwana, acknowledged that it would not be ready by

THEO RAWANA

the elections. He was critical of the training standards of MK soldiers.

Four MK cadres have been dismissed from the De Brug training base.

A report in yesterday's Sunday Times said discipline had collapsed at the camp, with the worst incident occurring when MK soldiers — many allegedly drunk — toyed in the camp, singing "One settler, one bullet" and "Down with FW".

The soldiers reportedly demanded one dead SADF member and one dead SAP member before sunrise, and at least two SADF instructors were assaulted.

ANC president Nelson Mandela and me-

□ To Page 2

Peace force

dia spokesman Carl Niehaus, in separate statements, said the ANC was confident peacekeeping force leaders could handle the situation.

Niehaus said no one had expected the camp to go smoothly from the outset.

DAVID GREYBE reports that Mandela said in Bloemfontein he would not visit the base because he did not want the force to be identified with the ANC.

He said he wanted all South Africans to have confidence in the force, because it was there to serve SA's people at a critical moment in their history.

The Sunday Times reported that SADF instructors were so disillusioned that nine of them had gone "on strike" and were refusing to obey orders.

At least 100 SADF volunteers wanted to return to their units and between 60% and

□ From Page 1

80% of the SAP volunteers had already left, it said.

MK soldiers were reportedly promoted to leadership posts "overnight" and temporary commanding officer Col Fred Burger had no say on the appointments, which were decided by the MK delegation.

An army roadblock stopped journalists from entering the De Brug camp yesterday, but some soldiers out on a training run said: "There are no problems here."

A Transkei Defence Force member said white SADF soldiers had been deserting, not blacks. "I don't know why," he said. He confirmed soldiers "were getting drunk", but said there had been no fighting. No one had been sleeping in the bushes.

"It's tough here, but only the fittest will survive," another soldier said, dismissing the reports of chaos.

Alliance leaders meet today, as Inkatha rejects compromise deal

FREEDOM Alliance leaders meet today to formulate a response to government's latest proposals for ending the constitutional impasse, as well as ANC demands for more flexibility from alliance negotiators.

The next round of talks between the alliance, the ANC and government is scheduled for later in the day.

Alliance chairman Rowan Croonje, insisting that his team had always been flexible, yesterday described the ANC's demand as irrelevant. The ANC should table its proposals so proper negotiations on "the real issues" could begin. Government's pack-

age, put to the alliance on Thursday, was not acceptable, but alliance leaders would discuss it and the ANC's demand.

However the Inkatha Freedom Party's central committee said in Umtata last night it would be flexible only when its demands for regional powers had been met. Referring to the ANC and government's compromise on a double ballot, it said it could not agree to contest elections on the basis of only one demand being met.

The offer did not go far enough as regional powers of taxation and the provision allowing central government to intervene

BILLY PADDOCK

In regional affairs were unacceptable. Inkatha negotiators had been instructed to continue talking on the understanding that its demands be treated as one package.

Deputy Constitutional Development Minister Fanus Schoeman said government was disappointed with the alliance negotiators' stance. "It appears as if they want 100% or nothing. They do not seem to want a negotiated settlement. They want a negotiated surrender," he said.

Croonje said that as far as the alliance

was concerned the talks were between it and the ANC, as there was already a "clear understanding" between government and the alliance. The only new issue between the two parties was the double ballot. If the ANC and government were prepared to be flexible, a settlement could be reached.

Schoeman said he was close to despair over the protracted talks. If compromise seemed likely, alliance negotiators moved on to new issues. "Last Sunday Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthezi said the double ballot was the real issue and it would unlock the door and break the im-

passee. But as soon as concession on this seems possible, it is not enough.

"Since April last year we have had this pattern where the goal posts keep being moved. It seems that some parties, and even some members within these parties, don't want a settlement."

On provincial taxation, Schoeman said there was a "99% agreement among all the parties", and there had been reasonable progress on provincial constitutions. Regional powers and functions as set out in the constitution seemed to be "the best possible arrangement we are going to get".

ANC convoy careers through platteland

THE three-day Nelson Mandela election roadshow through the Free State at the weekend left more than its mark on voters.

Even seasoned journalists expressed alarm at the breakneck speed at which Mandela's 20-car cavalcade travelled from one public gathering to the other.

Speeds of between 160km/h and 190km/h were common as the convoy careered through the platteland.

ANC sources said the high speed driving was a deliberate security tactic. "We must secure the president's car," said one.

ANC security personnel have had secur-

DAVID GREYRE

ity training in the US, where high speed conveyance of VIPs is common practice.

By the time the roadshow reached its last stop at Botshabelo outside Bloemfontein yesterday afternoon, half a dozen vehicles had been damaged. This was due to cars, sometimes travelling four abreast, brushing against each other at more than 120km/h on muddy township roads.

"We are not travelling in friendly territory," Mandela's assistant Jesse Duarte said of the high speeds.

Two children were admitted to Thabong Hospital outside Welkom on Saturday after being knocked down in separate incidents by vehicles in the cavalcade.

There was no traffic police escort for Mandela in Bloemfontein. An ANC spokesman said the municipal protection services "told us they were off on weekends".

Meanwhile, there was a tense stand-off with Bophuthatswana troops at two roadblocks when the convoy made its way to Thabu Nchu. The convoy drove through, but Mandela sent representatives back to talk to the soldiers.

NEWS

Twelve killed in dawn raid near Richmond

TWELVE people, nine women and three children, were killed yesterday when a group of 20 men launched a dawn raid in the southern Natal village of Masunkazane outside Richmond, police said.

Police said about 20 men armed with AK-47s and shotguns attacked seven houses. Police blamed violence between Inkatha and the ANC as the motive for the attack, and expected to make arrests soon.

The ANC condemned the killings and accused Inkatha supporters. A Natal ANC spokesman said survivors had recognised the attackers as Inkatha members.

Slovo ready to meet farmers' union boss

SACP chairman Joe Slovo said at the weekend he was willing to meet Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) president Dries Bruwer to discuss the union's ban on political activity on farms.

The ban contravenes the Electoral Act. Bruwer said the union executive committee had mandated him to inform Slovo of the ban and warn him that farmers would resist the SACP.

He also alleged that according to a secret document the union received from "intelligence circles", the SACP had suspended its armed struggle only temporarily to take part in constitutional talks.

Slovo said he always welcomed dialogue and would meet Bruwer if approached without threats or intimidation. He knew nothing of the alleged document and believed it was an invention.

Slovo said the law did not allow the TAU to prohibit free political activity. The SACP would invoke the Electoral Act and other legislation to stop the union from carrying out its ban. The time had passed when farmers could treat their workers like prisoners, Slovo said.

An SACP statement challenged Bruwer to disclose the source of the document.

It also challenged him to condemn

MARIANNE MERTEN

recent bombings of ANC offices.

Sapa reports that the Free State Agricultural Union has announced it will bar political parties from establishing branches on farms in the province. Free State Agricultural Union president Piet Gous said on Saturday that allowing political parties to organise on farms would be a recipe for disaster.

However, reacting to ANC president Nelson Mandela's request for talks to "avert a dangerous situation on farms", Gous said yesterday he favoured discussions with Mandela.

Gous said there were several important issues which should be discussed.

Meanwhile, the Independent Electoral Commission has asked for an urgent meeting with the National Manpower Commission to discuss the bans.

JOHANNES NGCOBO reports that Bruwer said although farm labourers had the right to belong to political parties, their meetings should not be held on farms. He was not opposed to farm labourers exercising their right to vote on April 27, "but their meetings should be outside our gates and not in our yards."