

Indaba still on course ^{2/11/86} — Martin ^{NW}

by Strini Moodley

THE Natal/KwaZulu Indaba is still on course and about to come up with a solution to the problems of the region, a member of the Chairman's Committee, Mr Frank Martin, said last night.

He denied that the Indaba was "bedevilled by any differences".

Mr Martin was reacting to a report yesterday that new differences had emerged, causing the scrapping of the Indaba Image Committee.

"The Image Committee is no longer functioning because it has done its job.

"Whoever has claimed that the committee was scrapped because of differences is telling a lie," he said.

The Chairman's Committee will take over from the Image Committee, and will consist of Indaba Chairman Professor Desmond Clarence, Dr Oscar Dhlomo of Inkatha and Mr Martin.

"There are no problems within the Indaba ... because no one is upset. In an effort like the Indaba where there are 37 organisations there must obviously be differences and I would be surprised if there weren't, but this does not mean that our efforts towards solutions have been halted," he said.

Reacting to comments by Mr Ray Swart of the PFP, Mr Martin said he was aware of right-wing groups which were unhappy with some of the pronouncements and the bill of rights of the Indaba.

"But I cannot speak for the National Party and I cannot say that the National Party is attempting to use those groups to wreck the Indaba.

"What I do know is that all kinds of groups were invited to participate in solving the problems of Natal/KwaZulu and they came there in a spirit of sincerity to express their views," he said.

Mr Alwyn Bisschoff, former chairman of the Natal Agricultural Union and an active member of the Indaba Support Group (ISG), said the ISG had nothing to do with the Image Committee and would continue to do its work.

"The ISG is trying to get the public to understand the process at work in the Indaba and to support the result of the legitimate negotiations between the various political groupings in Natal/KwaZulu," he said.

He emphasised that the ISG had nothing to do with the Image Committee and would, therefore, continue to do its work.

"The ISG is independent of the Indaba itself, and is a non-racial, non-sectarian voluntary association of concerned individuals who share the belief that the Indaba approach is not only sound, but of vital importance — not only to all South Africans but, specifically, to those resident in this region," he said.

3/2

Anger and disapproval greet news of Chief Buthelezi's visit

By David Chilton

A chorus of anger and disapproval has greeted the news that the Chief of the Zulus, Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi, is coming to Toronto to speak on the future of South Africa.

Akwatu Khenti, a Trinidad native and president of the African and Caribbean Students Association at the University of Toronto said, "Buthelezi is doing exactly what the South African government wants him to do."

PROTECTION

Echoing Khenti's remark was Yusuf Saloojee, the African National Congress representative in Canada.

"He's coming to do (South African president) Botha's work," he said.

And, Saloojee pointed out, in September, the last time Buthelezi spoke in Soweto, he needed protec-

tion from police and South African Defence Force units.

Federal M.P. Dan Heap (NDP-Spadina) summed up the visit by saying, "I don't think Chief Buthelezi will do any good here."

Buthelezi is due to give a Fraser Institute luncheon address Dec. 8 at the Harbor Castle Hilton hotel.

Sierra Leone native Olu Gordon, a member of ACSA and a U of T doctoral student in Modern African history, described Buthelezi as "marginal" and a "black puppet."

ACSA, he said, intends to show its disapproval over Buthelezi's visit, but he wouldn't disclose how.

Buthelezi, who is on a speaking tour of North America, received an honorary degree from Boston University last week.

The chief, who is also

chief minister of the KwaZulu Homeland, has a degree from the University of Fort Hare, Cape Province.

His ancestry can be traced back to King Shaka, founder of the Zulu nation, which now numbers six million.

PEACEFUL

Buthelezi opposes the use of economic sanctions against South Africa.

He is also a proponent of peaceful change in that country.

Phone calls to the Toronto office of the Vancouver-based Fraser Institute to find out more about Buthelezi's visit were not returned.

The Canadian Club, which promotional literature says is acting in co-operation with the institute, is in fact handling only some mailing and public relations said a spokesman.

Howard McCurdy, the only black federal M.P. and the NDP's Human Rights and External Affairs critic said from Ottawa that as a democrat he couldn't be opposed to anyone coming to Canada to speak.

But, he went on, "Buthelezi is willing to bargain human dignity in the interests of short term gains."

The chief is here to undermine a united front against apartheid, he added.

Easy Mokgakala, a South African refugee living in North York, Ont., spent three years in Robben Island maximum security prison in the 1960's for his anti-apartheid activities.

"I don't regard him (Buthelezi) as somebody who is serving black people," he said.

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Conduct
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Zulu Chief Deserved University Honors

Are we getting a new breed of university president? Benno Schmidt, who has started his career at Yale by making a valiant stand for free speech all across the board, is something fresh on the scene. And now comes John R. Silber of Boston University, who has just presented an honorary degree to Chief Mangosuthu G. Buthelezi, the leader of South Africa's Zulu tribe, who wants to see apartheid abolished in South Africa without wrecking the economy and drowning both whites and blacks in a sea of blood.

As might have been expected, the usual group of protesters was on hand to indicate displeasure with Silber's support of a black South African tribal leader who is against sanctions.

THERE WERE cries of "traitor" and "go home." Chief Buthelezi, who heads the largest tribe in South Africa, took it all in good grace. "This is an American way of doing things," he said. "You protest at the drop of a hat. But I have the same right as them to be here."

Silber brought the Zulu chief to the United States in the perhaps futile hope that the visit might help

end the "near-blackout" of information about the moderates in the South African struggle to extend the suffrage to 24 million blacks without making a present of the country to the communists of the African National Congress.

If they had cared to listen, the protesters at the honorary degree ceremony might have learned something. Buthelezi's positions, as Silber says, happen to be based on the philosophy of Martin Luther King. He is as famous in his own country as the jailed Nelson Mandela or Bishop Tutu.

BESIDES BEING the head of the six million strong Zulu nation, Buthelezi is president of Inkatha, which has a paid-up membership of one million. This makes it the largest black political constituency "ever to have been formed in black South Africa." When Buthelezi holds a rally in the black dormitory town of Soweto he can fill a soccer stadium.

Buthelezi is against disinvestment for the simple reason that it would, if successful, put a lot of blacks out of work. "Every year," he says, "tens of thousands of ordinary South Africans roar their dis-

approval of disinvestment as a strategy." Inkatha, as Buthelezi explains, "stands for the rule of law in an open race-free society and for progress through the responsible development of free enterprise." It wants to settle things by negotiation. It has been for a "unitary" one-man, one-vote state, but Buthelezi, after talking with American blacks such as the economist Walter Williams, is now leaning to a federalist political system that would allow the tribes, including the white tribe of Boers and English, autonomy under a Bill of Rights.

SILBER, in introducing Buthelezi to Boston University, is making common cause with President C. Peter Magrath of the University of Missouri, who, despite the senatorial sanctions, will continue to promote the exchange of white and non-white students between Missouri and South African universities.

What Silber would like to see is a calculated effort to make a whole host of South African moderates known to Americans. He mentions Bishop Isaac Mokoena, the spiritual leader of millions of blacks in

South Africa's independent reformed churches. Bishop Mokoena has spent five years in jail for opposition to apartheid. But he remains firmly opposed to the terrorist African National Congress and to sanctions.

Silber hopes to interest President Reagan in calling a conference at Camp David of all the factions in South Africa, including the ANC and Nelson Mandela.

HE WOULD not rule out any solution in advance. The conference would set its own agenda.

Silber's action in bestowing an honorary degree on Chief Buthelezi does something to counter the spectacle of what happened at the University of Massachusetts when a degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe. The New Republic has called the honoring of Mugabe an "act of moral callousness." We can expect such displays of callousness to continue as long as the generation of the '60s and early '70 hangs on to power in our universities. But a new day is coming. We'll have more Silbers to introduce more Buthelezis before we are through.



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Rude welcome

F/411
It's ironic and sad to compare the Canadian welcomes given Bishop Desmond Tutu and Dr. M.G. Buthelezi.

Buthelezi is the traditional prime minister of the Zulus and a key figure in the trauma of South Africa. He's here for a speech Monday and will get the same official cold shoulder he's received in the past.

He will not be treated as a voice to be listened to. He will not be given his due as one of Africa's most important and powerful black leaders.

Not for him the honors and raves given the bishop.

Why not? He's too moderate, you see, in a world that wants South Africa to bleed.

But Buthelezi knows all about Canada and Toronto. This is the city where his nephew got into trouble at U of T just because of his views on fighting apartheid.

The chief of more than six million Zulus isn't in favor because he's seen as having sold out. He rejects bloodshed and is scorned for his common sense. The question must be asked then if liberals and the left want a solution or a holocaust?

Marxist leaders fear Buthelezi for what he is: A block to their conquest of southern Africa because he understands the nature of progress — genuine, lasting progress.

Buthelezi's program for taking his people toward equality is breathtakingly simple: "Strength through education — once we are educated no one can deny us our rights."

Education — the classic savior of the oppressed.

He's laid down tough conditions for a new constitution and demanded a single parliament. He argues that unless it is accepted that South Africa is "one country with one people who will share one destiny" meaningful negotiations cannot get off the ground.

Unlike extremists of any color, Buthelezi is pushing for a united nation with all races participating. He deserves support. Unless the Afrikaner rulers follow his reason, their country will be delivered into civil war hell.

Buthelezi's words and actions are a model for all who want progress rather than red revolution or fascist suppression. Our leaders should listen to him, not pretend he isn't in town.