

FACTS AND REPORTS

INTERNATIONAL PRESS CUTTINGS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

VOLUME 20 NO. 5

15th MAY, 1990

J1: Guardian (w) (Br), 90 05 13

J2: Fin Times (Br), 9 0 05 14

ANC and Pretoria agree on next moves

THE African National Congress and the Pretoria Government last week reached broad agreement on conditions for full-scale negotiations on ending the political conflict in South Africa.

The ANC leader, Nelson Mandela, said at a joint press conference after three days of talks in Cape Town that the breakthrough was "the realisation of a dream" and "we are all victors". The State President, F. W. de Klerk, described it as a great step forward and an important breakthrough.

The ANC delegation did not have a mandate to agree to an outright cessation of the armed struggle at the talks, but has clearly indicated that it is likely to do so as the other components of the agreement come into effect.

The breakthrough in attempts to start constitutional negotiations was announced in a carefully worded joint communiqué. It said that the ANC and the government had agreed on "a common commitment towards the resolution of the existing climate of violence and intimidation from whatever quarter".

The agreement will be a big boost to Mr de Klerk, who begins a European tour this week during which he is expected to meet seven leaders, including Mrs Thatcher. Mr Mandela will meet Mrs Thatcher in London at the beginning of July.

Mr Mandela refused to give way on the question of sanctions, saying they would remain in place. But he hoped that it would not be necessary to call upon the international community to intensify or maintain sanctions as a result of the agreement, as well as future developments.

The de Klerk administration did not make an end to the armed struggle a precondition to the negotiations, merely arguing that it was illogical to maintain it in present circumstances, but the issue was pivotal to last week's talks. The ANC's strategy was to insist on a parallel government commitment to bring an end to state violence against the black population.

This amounted effectively to a ceasefire, although the government was anxious to avoid the term because of the implication that the security services were

engaged in a war against the black majority, as opposed to law and

order operations. The fuzzy wording of the joint commitment to "a resolution of the existing climate of violence and intimidation from whatever quarter" represents a compromise.

The ANC was also seeking an agreement on a mechanism to oversee the ending of violence, such as joint monitoring committees which would conduct inquiries into what might be described as breaches of the effective ceasefire.

This has again been dealt with by fuzzy terminology, in a reference to the creation of "efficient channels of communication" to curb violence. Mr Mandela indicated that the ANC would be recommending that a formal monitoring structure should be created.

The government's "reiteration" of its commitment to work towards the lifting of the state of emergency is likely to mean that emergency rule will not be renewed when it lapses on June 12, provided progress is made towards reducing the level of violence in the townships.

One of the most striking pointers to movement on the government's part is its undertaking to "review existing security legislation", which is believed to refer to the Internal Security Act. If this legislation is repealed, in tandem with the state of emergency, it would mean the end to detention without trial in South Africa.

A communiqué announced that the following had been agreed:

A working group would be set up to advise on "norms and mechanisms for dealing with the release of political prisoners and the granting of immunity in respect of political offences". The working group would report by May 21.

Temporary immunity from prosecution for political offences would be considered as a matter of urgency for the ANC executive and other selected members to enable them to return to South Africa and "assist in bringing violence to an end".

Immediate attention would be given to emigration offences which might have been committed by political fugitives as well as offences relating merely to organisations which were previously prohibited.

Pretoria plan for minority rights criticised by ANC

By Patti Waldmeir in Johannesburg

THE South African Government has spelled out its negotiating position ahead of planned talks on the country's constitutional future, proposing a 12-point plan to protect minority rights.

The plan was immediately criticised by the African National Congress (ANC).

Mr Gerrit Viljoen, the minister charged with elaborating a post-apartheid constitution, told parliament that the National Party would seek to protect South Africa from the one-party rule which could result from "an unsophisticated majority vote".

Mr Viljoen said: "These minorities, because of their particular values and aspirations, should have a special voice in the new constitutional dispensation."

He gave few details of how such rights would be protected.

The statement appears to have annoyed the ANC, whose leaders met the Government 10 days ago for preliminary negotiations.

An ANC official said the reference to unsophisticated voters was arrogant. "Did sophisticated whites vote the Nationalists into power? ... Did sophisticated Germans vote for Hitler?" asked the unnamed official.

The notion of "group" rights, rejected by the ANC, is likely to prove a big stumbling block in negotiations.

Mr Viljoen also stipulated

the preservation of the free market system, regular elections, a bill of individual human rights which could not be arbitrarily abolished or amended, no expropriation of property without proper compensation, an independent judiciary and state support for racially separate schools.

There should be guarantees that "those who want to live in a specific community context through free association can do so without laws forcing people to do so", he said, and there should be state support for

Pretoria has made clear it opposes black majority rule and will seek a constitutional system offering protection for the white minority's rights.

racially-separate schools.

Mr Walter Sisulu, a senior ANC official, appeared conciliatory on the issue of residential areas and schools, saying the ANC believed people should have the right to live where they wished.

With regard to schools, he reiterated the ANC position that it recognised that cultural diversity might need to be protected, though protection based on race was not acceptable.

J3: Fin. Times (Br) 90 05 12

ANC's Hollywood role

The African National Congress is planning a fund-raising campaign in Hollywood to coincide with Nelson Mandela's visit to the US in June.

The government will "review existing security legislation to bring it into line with the new dynamic situation developing in South Africa".

J4: Guardian (Br) 90 05 15

Coup toll rises

Five people were killed and 20 wounded in the failed weekend coup in Madagascar during which rebels held the state radio station. Journalists and technicians taken hostage escaped unhurt. — Reuter.

J69: Southscan (Br), 90 05 04

Angola negotiations positions spelled out

THE Angolan government and the rebel Unita movement have set out their preliminary negotiating positions after meeting in Lisbon last week.

The meeting in the central city of Evora on April 24 and 25, was described by the Portuguese government as exploratory. The facilitator was foreign affairs secretary of state Jose Durao Barroso - who subsequently received effusive praise from Unita for his role.

Earlier the Luanda government had refused a US suggestion that the talks should be held in Geneva with Zaire President Mobutu's mediation, and with US and Soviet technical support.

According to President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, there are now two main issues under discussion - the recognition of the present legal order, "leading eventually to the recognition of our state and government".

The second is the multi-party system.

Dos Santos said in a statement on April 30 that if the issue of recognition was resolved there could be movement on the multi-party issue (*SouthScan* v5/13-14 p100).

Unita, for its part, is refusing adamantly to recognise the Angolan government.

It has, however, declared that it will no longer engage in hostile propaganda, other than to make "objective criticism of the government's social and economic programmes".

In a statement on May 1, the organisation's political bureau said that there had been "extremely positive results concerning everything that happened in Portugal regarding Angola".

It said that it recognised the Angolan state "which has a leader with whom Unita, as armed opposition, wants to negotiate". It would not, however, recognise the legitimacy of the government.

On the issue of mediation, Unita said that the only channels between the opposing parties should be the Portuguese government, Zaire's President Mobutu, "the official mediator", and the US and Soviet governments. Mobutu's position as 'mediator' is, however, becoming increasingly nominal as direct contacts between the two sides have become a reality.

Unita has also called for observers to be present at the talks from the US, the Soviet Union, Cuba and Zaire.

Dos Santos again accused the US and South Africa of continuing to send arms to Unita via Zaire. He sharply attacked the rise in armed actions by Unita; there has been a marked rise in activity including the cutting of electricity to Luanda city by the sabotage of 26 pylons (*SouthScan* v5/16 p110).

Electricity supply was this week being rationed in the capital.

* Cape Verde's foreign minister has offered his country's help in promoting dialogue to end the Angolan war.

But Cape Verde does not want to play the role of mediator, Silvino da Luz said.

J70: Int. Herald Trib (US), 90 05 09

Angolan Rebels Report a Raid

Reuters

LISBON — Rightist Angolan rebels said Tuesday that they had killed 139 soldiers and captured about 100 tanks and other military vehicles while pushing back government troops near the strategic southeastern town of Mavinga.

A statement said that the rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola had stormed government positions on Monday, sending the troops fleeing toward a base at Cuito Cuanavale. The report came two weeks after the start of exploratory peace talks between the leftist government in Luanda and the rebels to end a 15-year-old conflict.

A spokesman for the Angolan Embassy in Lisbon dismissed the report, saying, "The information I have received from Luanda is that the armed forces have consolidated their positions in Mavinga."

Savimbi says he still has friends in Swapo

UNITA rebel leader Jonas Savimbi believes his movement still has friends in Swapo, a belief ridiculed by Angola's MPLA government.

And despite his forces apparently being pinned back against the Namibian border, Savimbi continues to claim it is Unita and not the MPLA which is currently on the offensive in the 15-year-old Angolan civil war.

In an interview with the London-based Africa Events magazine, Savimbi says he hopes Namibia's new leaders, with whom Unita worked "before Namibia went onto the map of the world", would "think properly before they act".

"They have been working with us and I believe we still have friends within Swapo," he continues. "I think those forces are going to work for moderation so that the new independent country will try to tackle all their own problems.

"They are not going to meddle in the Angolan problem. This is my conviction."

Savimbi avoids the issue of possible friction between Unita and the movement's long-time ally Zaire, and says support was still coming from the beleaguered president of Côte d'Ivoire, Houphouët-Boigny, Morocco and some Arab nations. This is on top of the annual R37,5 million worth of support Unita receives from the United States.

However, no assistance whatsoever came from South Africa, the rebel leader continues. "They just cannot, because of the (New York peace) accord... We are also not looking for any other form of support except the transit facilities that are not organised by the government of South Africa but by private Portuguese citizens there; and we pay for these services."

J71 Radio Report

government rejects UNITA's call for Savimbi - dos Santos talks (*Excerpts*) The exploratory meeting between the Angolan government and UNITA, which took place in Portugal recently, has brought hopeful expectations for a peaceful future in Angola soon. These expectations, however, are not in line with UNITA's ambiguous actions, who while proclaiming to all points of the compass its wish for peace, has intensified its terrorist actions against the population...

Hand in hand with the intensification of its subversive actions, UNITA is increasing its publicity campaign internationally, even to the extent of, in what amounts to an attempt to exert pressure and blackmail, suggesting an urgent meeting between Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Jonas Savimbi.

Even if it were no more than a mere play for time, the suggestion would have had a positive response from the Angolan government if only UNITA was a realist group and genuinely motivated by the need for peace in Angola... (*Angop in Portuguese 1915 gmt 3 May 90*)

J72: Namibian (Nam), 90 04 25 (abr)

J73: Radio Report

UN body suspends repatriation of Angolans from Zambia and Zaire (*Text*) Luanda, 27th April: The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has decided to suspend provisionally the repatriation of Angolan refugees from Zaire and Zambia for financial reasons. The newspaper 'O Jornal de Angola' reported on 27th April that the UNHCR, which is in charge of the repatriation operation that began in September 1989, currently faces economic difficulties. Quoting Fernando Rosario, Moxico province commissar for social affairs, 'O Jornal de Angola' reports that thousands of Angolan refugees in Zaire have already expressed their desire to return home. (*Angop in French 1959 gmt 27 Apr 90*)

J74: Radio Report

Angola: Cabinda separatists seize four French "hostages" Four French nationals have been taken hostage by separatist rebels of the Front for the Liberation of Cabinda (FLEC), on the border between the Angolan enclave of Cabinda and Congo, according to an announcement made by a FLEC spokesman in Kinshasa on 30th April, reported by AFP. The spokesman said FLEC guerrillas had seized 11 people, mostly French and Congolese, during a raid on 27th April on an Elf-Congo oil company camp south of the Congolese city of Pointe-Noire near the border, but seven had later been released. The others were being kept as "hostages", the spokesman said. [3]

J75: Windh. Adv. (Nam), 90 05 04

Loan

LISBON: West Germany's Berliner Handels-Und Frankfurter Bank (BHF) has provided a \$50 million credit line to Angola. Angolan News Agency Angop said on Thursday.

Angola will supply BHF with about 10 000 barrels per day of petroleum for the amount of the short-term credit.