

1 KWAZULU-NATAL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
2 INTERVIEW WITH ARCHIBALD GUMEDE ON 2 OCTOBER 1997

3 ('A' SHALL SIGNIFY ARCHIBALD GUMEDE, THE INTERVIEWEE, AND 'I' THE  
4 INTERVIEWER, RUTH LUNDIE (APC), 'I2' SIBONGISENI MKHIZE (NATAL  
5 MUSEUM) (APC), ANOTHER INTERVIEWER)

6 (Note: Where the text is inaudible, it is so stated in  
7 brackets, or else a 'X' is used (in brackets).)

8 The tape starts as follows :

9 I: This is the third interview that Mr Archie Gumede has been  
10 kind enough to give the Alan Paton Centre and we are so  
11 very pleased to see you again and to be able to, I should  
12 mention that the date is the 2nd of October, 1997, and I  
13 have brought you a copy of the Legal and article that we  
14 have received. Do you read these journals? Shall I read it  
15 to you - let me read it to you.

16 A: Please.

17 I: UDF National President, Archie Gumede, one of the Durban's  
18 'sit-in three', has been honoured by an international law  
19 organisation. Mr Gumede, an attorney with a practice in  
20 Pinetown, was elected Vice-President of the International  
21 Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), this week.

22 (Mr Gumede chuckles ...and says 'How's that?')

23 I: You do remember that - don't you?

24 A: Let me see that.

25 I: The IADL decided to honour him at a meeting in Athens. The  
26 UDF said they were delighted that his contribution as a  
27 lawyer, and his courage and sacrifices had been recognised  
28 by the Association. And this is a quotation : "We trust  
29 that the South African Government will take note of this  
30 and ensure that it gives the genuine leaders of the  
31 community the recognition they deserve." Would you like to  
32 keep that?

33 A: good Lord, let me see - how did you come by that writing  
34 anyway? Where you get this?

35 I: Well, you see I never knew you didn't know.

1 A: Hey - let me see that (he chuckles, and because they speak  
2 at once one cannot hear clearly)...

3 I: ...mutual respect (?) ... at no trouble to yourself. (Mr  
4 Gumede chuckles wholeheartedly).

5 A: Oh, my goodness, you know, this is one thing the Alan Paton  
6 (door creaks and obliterates voices) just the late Alan  
7 Paton, yes ...Just the name Alan Paton to me is - as you  
8 know, Alan was one of the people who inspired me to be very  
9 (he chuckles) ah, committed to this cause. You know, that  
10 as a person, he was prepared to be called a traitor to the  
11 White race because he believed that the human being, and he  
12 practised his belief - he is a creature of one God and  
13 should be recognised as such - may God bless him, peace...  
14 when it comes to ...(?) Paton, and to me, living in South  
15 Africa ...

16 I: Yes, certainly, certainly....

17 A: And that is why as a matter of fact I joined the UDF I  
18 joined the UDF Party here in 'Maritzburg ....

19 I: ...could you remember the year?

20 A: Could I remember the year?

21 I: Yes ..

22 A: I wonder, I wonder because so many things happened,  
23 happened, you see it was just after the war, and just  
24 after the - NP have been - the Nationalist Party,  
25 Nationalist Party.

26 I: Yes ...

27 A: Well, all these they things sort of happened at the same  
28 time you had this contradiction of South Africa being  
29 involved against Nazism ...

30 A: And having so many of it's sons and daughters committed to  
31 a war against nazism. And just then the very, very first  
32 election after the end of that war you had the election  
33 of a party, that identified itself with the nazis. They  
34 were opposed to the war - South Africa getting involved in  
35 that war as part of the commonwealth forces and it was  
36 their philosophy, their perception was that race was of  
37 more relevance to life and marriage. And because of that,

1 you had all of us had to do it - just that belief in race  
2 the 'Deutschland uber alles' - that was it - that was the  
3 general perception. I embrace .. us, the chosen race, the  
4 chosen one who rules whom the Scriptures note - the race  
5 that is superior to all other races. Well, it may soon  
6 eliminate that racist aristocracy. You know these things  
7 were just sort of tried again earlier so I went then -  
8 when the ANC took on the mediation struggle, that was the  
9 nucleus creating another sort of - sort of climate for  
10 change in which people were guarding their own life - now,  
11 maybe I hear Peter Brown ...

12 I: (X) Yes.

13 A: They were prepared to sacrifice all in their belief that  
14 your life would get better in the long run .... ah my, so  
15 be you see now, when you come to say when ... my mind  
16 becomes troubled at this.

17 I: Can I lead you back a little?

18 A: Yes.

19 I: The Nats came to power in 1948 ...

20 A: Yes.

21 I: The Liberal Party was formed in 1952. The Kliptown Charter  
22 was in 1955.

23 A: Yes.

24 I: Now where Cousin Selby (Msimang) was, I think, in with the  
25 Liberal Party right from very early on. And perhaps he had  
26 moved to the Liberal Party then. You see they were a lot

27 it was a very interesting period because a great number of  
28 the men coming back from the war were not white men. And  
29 they had learnt about democracy, they were seen and there  
30 was a great deal of talk going on about democratic ideals.

31 A: Ja, well, as I know, I think you're quite right when you  
32 are saying there are there had been the 'Pound a Day'  
33 Campaign ...

34 I: Yes ...

35 A: Um, in '52 or '54 - that time -

36 I: Yes ...

37 A: and, uh, '52 there was the ... so it was ... as you say,

1 the Liberal Party was formed in ...'53?  
2 I: I think '53,  
3 A: '53, ja.  
4 I: Baba Gwala (Interviewer means Mr Gumede), when you went to  
5 the Kliptown Conference...(noises on tape)  
6 A: Yes?  
7 I: ... were you leading the Natal delegation?  
8 A: Yes.  
9 I: And at that time, unfortunately to my mind, the Liberal  
10 Party did not go to Kliptown.  
11 A: Yes.  
12 I: Were you you can time it by this. You went to Kliptown  
13 as ANC, were you at that time a member of the ANC?  
14 A: No, I wouldn't say I was ...  
15 I: I think you joined after ...  
16 A: Yes, yes. It was after this. It would have been ...  
17 I: It would have been between Kliptown and your appearing in  
18 the Treason Trial.  
19 A: Yes, it's 50 - it would make it '52, wouldn't it?  
20 I: Okay.  
21 A: Maybe 1954. You see there was this African restaurant - in  
22 Otto Street, in Pietermaritzburg; the owner was Mr Majola.  
23 And Majola is the person who became a member of the Liberal  
24 Party and he persuaded me to join the Liberal Party. Like  
25 I told you, I did it - when I talked to the police - after  
26 being held - I joined; this is just at '58 - ja. His  
27 (Majola's) views and mine were the same and the views that  
28 are now being expressed by people like, people like Peter  
29 Brown, were the same. Now ... I remember the election, the  
30 formal '48 election. That year is the election, yes ...  
31 I: '53 or 54.  
32 A: '53.  
33 I: Five years.  
34 I2: Ja, '53.  
35 A: Yes. Now, in '57 I had joined the party by '57, yes ...  
36 I recall it. I was asked by Peter to address a meeting at  
37 the Liberal Party, it was during the campaign election

1 campaign, at Scottsville.

2 I: You were here, weren't you?

3 A: At St John's Church, at Scottsville. I remember I had just  
4 joined and the coming election on election day, the very  
5 election day - well ah, well, a very unusual incident took  
6 place (the ringing phone obscures the conversation) point  
7 was made ..

8 I: You want to get it?

9 A: Thank you. Good Morning. (The tape is switched off.)

10 I: Yes ...

11 A: And during the election, a prisoner in the prison gardens  
12 took a rifle from one of the warders and held him up with  
13 it and shot him and killed him. And there was a huge  
14 outcry for that man - to be done - just on the election  
15 day.

16 I: Really?

17 A: Well - it just meant that a person's very first move was to  
18 - white or black - well, we have changed this (perception)  
19 to the extent that I don't think that it will ever make  
20 high-powered liberals who voted for Peter and ....

21 I: And it was a it was a time when the mailed fist was  
22 closing, it was in '53, it was the Bantu Education Campaign  
23 ...

24 A: Yes ...yes...

25 I: Which made things so very dangerous....

26 A: Yes ...

27 I: ... impossible...

28 A: Ja.

29 A: '52, '53 was that amendment to .... there was an amendment  
30 ..which

31 I: Yes .. I told you about it the other day ...

32 A: which..

33 I: Yes...

34 A: ...in terms of which a person who was involved in defying  
35 a law, did not receive the sentence that was normally  
36 applicable to that, but had two years, two or three years  
37 mandatory sentence by the magistrate ...

1 I: Yes ...

2 A: If it was clear that your defiance of the (X) was intended  
3 - was on account of that Campaign - then you got taken.  
4 That is what caused the - that was the year that really  
5 caused the ANC to come into the armed struggle because it  
6 was the intention that we would defy the law.

7 I: You were building up to - what about the struggle?

8 A: You can't give me dates, to me they are useless.

9 A: But these people were intimidated by the Campaign, they  
10 outlawed the Defiance Campaign.

11 I: Baba, at that stage - there's '52, '53, '54 - were you, as  
12 well as your leader then, at that stage, concerned with the  
13 Trade Unions?

14 A: At that stage I will say that we were concerned with the  
15 State - with the Trade Unions. We have got these two who  
16 were very new at this stage - Mbele (?)).

17 I: Yes. And you were also, I think, at that stage, concerned  
18 with the Natal Indian Congress?

19 A: Oh yes, oh my ...

20 I: Up to the next ...?

21 A: Oh well, the Natal Indian Congress - so much so, that come  
22 '55, it is Jacob Motala and myself who are - tried in  
23 'Maritzburg.

24 I: Yes, yes.

25 A: Ja.

26 I: We invited you to look ...

27 A: No (he chuckles). Yes, yes. Ja.

28 I: And were you at any stage, and we are having a little  
29 difficulty in finding out about this. Moses, your leader,  
30 worked in the Sobantu village - would have been around  
31 about that time - wouldn't he?

32 A: No, Moses has been there - he was working for the ...

33 I: You mean when ...

34 A: ... the SACP, ...

35 I: Yes.

36 A: ... at what we call Mathini the Old Native market.

37 I: Yes.

1 A: And, anyway he was the Secretary of the Pietermaritzburg  
2 Branch.  
3 I: I see.  
4 A: You see he was, he was Assistant Secretary later then he  
5 became Secretary.  
6 I: I see. Because we haven't got a great deal of information  
7 on him. We certainly know that he was living at  
8 Slangspruit...  
9 A: Yes ...  
10 I: ... but we thought we might see her (Mrs Mashida)..  
11 A: ..yes ...  
12 I: .. but I would like to contact her in Sobantu. You never  
13 fought with Mabhida?  
14 I: Perhaps with the (X)...  
15 A: I don't know - he wouldn't know my business, but I don't  
16 think you'll do much by taping him, no. Well, his calendar  
17 will be - probably was in Sobantu ...  
18 I: Yes, that's right...  
19 A: ...he and his wife - he belongs to the Sobantu Branch.  
20 I: ...wasn't he ...?  
21 A: ...but internally ...  
22 I: ...Sorry - there's yourself, John Makhatini, too ... - who  
23 I believe was working with the self-help project at Sobantu  
24 would you think he was a Sobantu Branch member?  
25 A: No, he was at, he was at this, he was at this Majolas ...  
26 I: ...in town?  
27 A: In town.  
28 I: ...Yes, oh well, thank you very much for that.  
29 A: You were saying to him, of course, that the  
30 Pietermaritzburg Branch, and of course he moved that,  
31 contrary to all the other plans (X) his ...  
32 I: Yes....  
33 A: he is the ....  
34 I: Sibongasani - would you like to ask the question - about  
35 this period particularly?  
36 I2: Ja, the 1950's. Baba, I am still interested in learning  
37 more about the ANC in Pietermaritzburg specifically, and



1 your maybe where you said you were Secretary to them in  
2 the 1950's - that Mabhida is Assistant Secretary. So was  
3 it an action branch, Pietermaritzburg Branch, at that time  
4 and did you maybe help, maybe a place in Natal where you  
5 used to have your meetings, or you had separate meetings of  
6 Natal Branches at the time?

7 A: I would say that we - there used to be a branch in  
8 Nazerville which used to meet at Majebe'as (?) - and later  
9 on other branches were established - now this other man out  
10 there ... '56, '56. You see, when these a when we were  
11 arrested in '56? That really - people were concerned and  
12 interested in what was taking place, so that after that -  
13 organising people with their branches in the various  
14 settlement areas, did not present so much of a problem  
15 because so many people were aware that something was being  
16 done. As a result of which the Government of the day made  
17 this action and you see the '56 arrest actually advised at  
18 the court for being of the African National Congress. In  
19 a sense also from that time on, there was this difference -  
20 that people from Cape Town, Pretoria, Jo'burg, Durban,  
21 Port Elizabeth, Bloem' - they together in the ANC, I think  
22 that's important. Important, important all the time - so  
23 they got to know one another, and the ANC could never have  
24 known and trusted one another, had they not had that  
25 opportunity. I know where, for instance, many people who  
26 were aware of what was happening at that time in a sense,  
27 you know, have confidence in me - by virtue of the fact  
28 that I was with these people. And no, yes it was a  
29 problem too -

30 I2: Okay, can I also follow up on this Cumedede?

31 A: Yes, of course.

32 I2: Yes. Let's talk about the 1956 - I mean - that in 1956, in  
33 1956 there were womens' marches in Pietermaritzburg...

34 A: Yes...

35 I2: Can you remember - at that time was there maybe a strong  
36 ANC Womens' League Branch, in Pietermaritzburg that could  
37 mobilise all the people and all the women to come and march



1 - because they marched in 1956 - and they also marched in  
2 1957 - January - but I think during the first march, after  
3 the first march, they have found that in fact they were  
4 arrested under an obsolete bylaw and then they had another  
5 march in 1957. I don't know if you remember about the  
6 strength of the ANC, or the leaders of the ANC Womens'  
7 League - if it was present at the time in Pietermaritzburg?  
8 A: It was present in Pietermaritzburg, but - in that regard we  
9 had a woman, a womens' organiser - who went along with very  
10 serious, explaining to women this Pass protest, this  
11 protest about Pass Laws. You see, and so - she - when she  
12 went to various meetings - it was not actually the Womens'  
13 League as such ...  
14 I2: Ja ...  
15 A: .. which organised it - it was the ANC itself, its  
16 organising people in the different areas around  
17 Pietermaritzburg, so that the march was quite a  
18 success. Well, you see - at Pieter' - the one where  
19 the ANC was one year this thing - people came from  
20 Durban ...  
21 I2: Ja, Ja ...  
22 A: Lawrence Mkhize, and his men - Imkhontu weSiswe was a part  
23 of the ANC - ....  
24 I2: Can you remember, are you still remembering some - some of  
25 those people - maybe just to give us their names - some of  
26 them who were they active. I am not sure if they are still  
27 alive, but - just their names, ...  
28 A: Few names? Well, I remember Mrs Motale for instance, who is  
29 one of them, she has passed away and Mrs Zwane, the wife of  
30 a Minister.  
31 I: Who belong to the Presbyterian Church?  
32 A: Yes. You said just names, and uh. And a ... a ...  
33 I: Mrs Ostrich ...  
34 A: ... in the, in the - no, she was not in him, say ..  
35 I2: Mpo Hlongwane?  
36 A: No, she was one from the Union/Liberal Party (?) I forget  
37 her name - I forget the surname.

1 I3: Ruth, weren't you present? At the Womens' Marches?.

2 I: Yes, I think Marie Dyer and I were there and Violaine

3 Junod.

4 A: Yes...

5 I: and Mrs Poonam, from the NIC (Natal Indian Congress). Oh,

6 June Simmons, she was in the first march - the one that was

7 arrested - do you remember she was Secretary of the

8 Liberal Party?

9 A: Yes, yes ...

10 I: ..but she wasn't in the second one.

11 A: Oh, she wasn't in the second one?

12 I: No.

13 A: Now we were, I remember the first march because I don't

14 think that I was involved with the second march.

15 I: The first march was the dramatic one because all of the

16 police brought up from Durban.

17 A: Oh, they moved Durban ones here?

18 I: Yes, to 'Maritzburg -

19 A: Oh, I see ...

20 I: They were so sure of themselves.

21 A: Aha - then they tried - that night couldn't hold all those

22 arrested ..

23 I: Alright.

24 A: They just had to let the people go ..

25 I: Yes....

26 A: They said that they were going to fine them five pounds or

27 something, then they said 'alright, twenty-five cents here,

28 twenty cents .... you can see marches are not allowed....

29 I3: Please, could I ask a question? Where did the march go

30 from and to?

31 I: Which one?

32 I3: The 1956 one.

33 I: The 1956 was in December, I was working in the Local Health

34 Commission and a journalist came to me and said 'all your

35 friends are in jail.' And they had been put into an old

36 shale building on the corner of Buchanan and Loop Street,

37 and there were about six hundred of them, with babies. And

1 of course it was quite impossible. I went along taking  
2 some food and so on, but for the people I know would be  
3 there. But they had to let people go because the whole  
4 building would have just broken down, I think, shale or  
5 not. And in the January march, as 'Bongi' says, it was  
6 found that although the police had been briefed up to  
7 arrest everyone, they were doing so under a bylaw that was  
8 obsolete. So in January the next year we had a march from  
9 the Market Square, up to Braemar House to take a petition  
10 to the Chief Native Commissioner of Natal, and then we  
11 marched round on Longmarket Street to East Street to a  
12 place called, in those days, 'Red Square', which I think is  
13 where the bus terminus is now.

14 I2: Oh yes, I know.

15 I: In 'Maritzburg, opposite Green's Butcher (?). And someone  
16 backed up a lorrie and that was used as a background for  
17 the speakers.

18 I3: And do you remember who spoke?

19 I: Mrs Ostrich\*.

20 I3: Mrs Ostrich.

21 I: Because the translator stopped halfway and she was dealing  
22 quite graphically with what white men did to black women  
23 and we were thus unwilling to translate that part of her  
24 speech. But I think there's a family called 'Ostrich'  
25 still practically here (?), or was ...

26 A: No, when the Ostrichs came to the (X) of this.

27 I: Are they dead now?

28 A: Yes, there's no more Ostrichs here.

29 I: Oh no, well thank you for that.

30 I: Baba Gwala, just before that time - I'm calling you Baba  
31 Gwala, because

32 A: Tehee ..

33 I: .. I was going to back to the association of Baba Gwala  
34 with the Trade Unions,...

35 A: Mmm..

36 I: ... up at Howick,...

37 A: Mmm .. (\* Ostrich - an Edendale family)

1 I: .. in the year or two prior to this - were you involved  
2 with that at all?  
3 A: No, there was some dispute in the January I became involved  
4 in that ...  
5 I: I think so ...  
6 A: January, something -  
7 I: Legal ...as a legal advisor.  
8 A: Ja ...  
9 I: Because the NIC would have supported the Unions as well...  
10 A: Yes ...  
11 I: And I think it was largely at Howick ..  
12 A: Mmm ...  
13 I: May I quote with you have you put a anything in my  
14 glass?  
15 A: No ...  
16 I: Oh, this is a quotation from an article by Jordan  
17 Ngubane...  
18 A: Yes ...  
19 I: ..who published, in 1955, and he's talking about the  
20 Kliptown Day and he says, as a liberal, he says : 'to crown  
21 all this, the African National Congress was co-sponsor for  
22 the Congress for the people which met at Kliptown last  
23 month ..'  
24 A: Yes ....  
25 I: ' ... is now narrowing, if not officially pledged to a  
26 charter of freedom, some of whose provisions would find a  
27 place of honour in any orthodox communist programme.' Now  
28 is this an indication of liberal nervousness, of the -  
29 Communist baby that prevented the Liberal Party from going  
30 to Kliptown would you say?  
31 A: I would say that, definitely, because as far as I was  
32 concerned there was simply no reason why ...  
33 I: They all knew they had to be there ...  
34 A: Yes ... they sadly stayed away - it was I just cannot  
35 accept that that sort of criticism was just accepted as the  
36 reason for not participating and they were a little bit  
37 aggrieved there. Well, because it didn't do the country

1 too much good to have no liberal support ...

2 I: Yes, quite. No, Baba Gumede, carry on talking ...

3 A: No, they do have this problem of the politicians coming up  
4 with their beliefs which the majority of people cannot  
5 follow.

6 I: I understand ..

7 A: ..but, at the same time, it is important that there should  
8 be this - ah, it is important, there should be support for  
9 the unions of people which agreed - very negative (X).

10 I2: Eh, Baba Gumede, I'm, I'm still interested in the 1950's,  
11 now, I don't know - I must go to the 1959 disturbances in  
12 Natal - to focus - to focus on Pietermaritzburg.

13 A: Ja.

14 I2: On the 16th of August, before the Sobantu Riots...

15 A: Ja...

16 I2: Ja, there was a womens' march to see - to also see the  
17 Chief Native Commissioner, and he did in one of my  
18 documents that I got from the archives, it is reasoned that  
19 women came from Camperdown and from other and from other  
20 areas and - it was from Durban down, and they were going to  
21 several Police Stations in Edendale and Plessislaer,  
22 where some of them had been had held by police for carrying  
23 sticks or knobkerries... and said when that when they went  
24 to the Native Mens' Hostel, they were addressed by you.  
25 They said it is Archie Gumede, who was a high ranking  
26 official of the ANC, Mr Kunene - and the one you mentioned  
27 of small stature - I don't know who that man was. So do  
28 you still remember that incident?

29 A: I just don't. I don't.

30 I2: Because we are not sure who that European was ...

31 I: I'll tell you who my suggestion was - is. You will  
32 remember if he was in the LP - in '59 - there was a little  
33 white priest called Francis Cull, he was exceptionally  
34 short, and he was living in 'Maritzburg, but I think it was  
35 late - did you say in the 1960's? He was politically  
36 concerned with the Liberal Party. Can you think of a  
37 'daring European of short stature'?

1 I2: ...who addressed the Union on the same day with you, at the  
2 Native Mens' Hostel, and also Mr Kunene, who had this  
3 enormous beard - it's A Kunene, he was a junior of who  
4 started the junior official in the ANC.  
5 A: Ja, (he chuckles) - yea it was John, I think I know it's  
6 John Kunene...  
7 I2: Kunene - maybe that ...  
8 I: Yes, because he would have been with you at Kliptown,  
9 perhaps?  
10 A: Ja. No, he didn't - he was not in the organisation at the  
11 time - he only come in - in '59 ..  
12 I2: '59, ja?  
13 A: Ja, yes. He came after the actual - after this - after '56  
14 '58, ja. No I just - tell her, yima ... (?) with meetings.  
15 I: Well, I'll turn my mind back to it and see if I can make a  
16 better assessment of the time.  
17 I2: Because what I'm interested in is knowing the degree to  
18 which the ANC was involved in organising those marches, so  
19 when I saw your name being mentioned, I thought maybe the  
20 ANC was involved in organising, the 1959 march - in  
21 Pietermaritzburg and perhaps maybe the ANC was - involved  
22 in the Sobantu Riots in one way or another - because I  
23 didn't find enough evidence, maybe Xaba will be able to  
24 help us?  
25 A: Oh well, fancy - (he chuckles). I think if you want that  
26 information, the best person to be giving you that  
27 information is Xaba. I cannot think - for, if you would  
28 try Magubane as well.  
29 I2: Themela Magubane?  
30 A: Ja.  
31 I2: Okay.  
32 I: Oh really? Yes.  
33 A: He maybe - I think I will be more (X) than he .. (not sure  
34 is this is Gumede talking - sounds like somebody in the  
35 background)...  
36 A: ...and Thema's wife ...  
37 I2: Okay ...

( )

1 A: If you need this information you want, you are supposed to  
2 get it from Thema's wife, she will tell you - interestingly  
3 she was involved in these activities of the organisation at  
4 that time.  
5 I: He's very easy to get hold of.  
6 I2: Ja, I know from Themela, I know his family very well.  
7 I: Oh well, that's fine then.  
8 I2: Ja.  
9 A: There is a lady who can help you as well. This was before  
10 the women left ... (X)  
11 I: Which Dlamini was that?  
12 I2: This one called (X) Dlamini?  
13 A: Dlamini? No. I mean ..  
14 I2: Oh, Xaba...  
15 A: Ja, Xaba, he was there ...  
16 I2: Okay ...  
17 I: We feel that Sobantu has hardly been documented at all;  
18 Edendale has been better documented.  
19 A: Yes.  
20 I: That we don't doubt.  
21 A: Now, well, as far as Sobantu is concerned there were two  
22 ANC - demonstrations. One was in '54 - was it '54? When  
23 they set the schools on fire?  
24 I2: Ja, that was the '59 incident - ja that's the '59 incident  
25 and then I think there was another one during the 1980's  
26 where they also did the same thing ...  
27 A: Aha ...  
28 I2: ...with these boycotts and everything in the 1980's -  
29 before the coming of the UDF into the scene, ..  
30 A: Uh ..  
31 I2: .. you also had another one where they set the beerhall on  
32 fire there .. so Sobantu has been quite active in terms of  
33 protest - so that they had a lot of people who were in the  
34 positions in the ANC. But as you say it seems there is very  
35 little documentation that has taken place.  
36 I: That, and I remember - very clearly in the 1950's where  
37 there were a lot of protest meetings in the Lotus Hall ...

1 A: Yes ...  
2 I: I remember you speaking at them ...  
3 A: Yes ...  
4 I: ...I can remember the police at the door ..  
5 (Mr Gumede chuckles).  
6 I: Now this would have been NIC, LP, ANC - because the ANC was  
7 not banned until the beginning ...  
8 A: ah, '60 ...  
9 I: '60 ...  
10 A: Yes ..  
11 I: So the ANC would have joined in on that ...  
12 A: Yes ..  
13 I: ...as well. You were living and working in central  
14 'Maritzburg - would you give us something of just talk a  
15 little about your life and your contacts over that period.  
16 It would be very interesting.  
17 A: I wonder - I would like to do this, but - I can't I've  
18 got a bad memory.  
19 I: No are you feeling a bit tired, perhaps?  
20 A: I ..  
21 I3: Could I just ask a question?  
22 I: Yes, go ahead.  
23 I3: Jordan Ngubane ..  
24 A: Yes?  
25 I3: Did you know him fairly well?  
26 A: Yes, vory, very well, he is one of the senior men in  
27 Inkatha...  
28 I3: ..because he was a member of the ANC during, I think 40's  
29 and into the 50's, and then later on, was - I think - came  
30 into the Liberal Party. He actually belonged to both for  
31 quite a while ..  
32 A: Yes.  
33 I3: It was quite an unusual circumstance, but there were  
34 several people like that ... now I just wondered here how  
35 well you knew him.  
36 A: I knew him well, he and I had been members of the Natal  
37 Executive of the African National Congress in Chief



1           Lutuli's Cabinet, at least, Chief Lutuli's Executive. I  
2           think he was brought in by, I was Assistant Secretary so  
3           it would have been Mr MB Yenga (?).

4    I:    Well, certainly Chief Lutuli would come and address the  
5           Liberal Party Congress.

6    (End of side one of the tape).

7    (Second side of tape is blank).