

Mangosuthu

(53) P/11/121-53

1928

BUTHELEZI/Gatsha

1. Buthelezi was born on 27 August ~~1918~~ into an aristocratic Zulu family. In 1951 he graduated from Fort Hare in History and Bantu Administration. He worked for a while as an interpreter, until in 1957 he was appointed head of the Buthelezi tribe. In 1970 he was elected Chief Executive Officer (later Chief Minister) of the Zulu Territorial Authority. A new and turbulent life was beginning.

Cartoon: Buthelezi presiding over the Assembly

2. Glad in full war dress Buthelezi was a leading figure at the installation of Prince Goodwill Zwelethini as King of the Zulus. But he is in ^{no} danger of being drawn into what Z.K. Matthews called the 'blind alley of African civilisation'. He clashed with the King who wanted to reign like an old-time monarch. The King at last consented to constitutional limitations.

Cartoon: Buthelezi in full war dress at the King's installation.

3. Kwa-Zulu is at the moment in twenty-nine (actually more) pieces. Buthelezi wants consolidation, and worthwhile consolidation too, which would mean big white sacrifices. If he got this, would he accept independence? He says his people do not want it, and That South Africa is one country. This does not endear him to the Government.

Cartoon: Buthelezi looks sardonically at the map of Kwa-Zulu in twenty-nine (or more) pieces.

4. Buthelezi is aware of the powerful role played by Afrikaans cultural organisations. He revived Inkatha, a Zulu society which he is determined to make representative of all black people. It is reputed to have over a hundred thousand members, and it can draw a great audience in sophisticated Soweto - if Buthelezi is there. He has recently formed an alliance between Inkatha and Coloured Labour and Indian Reformists. Its future is unpredictable.

Cartoon: Buthelezi at a rally in Soweto

or Buthelezi at a table with Sonny Leon and Y.S.Chinsamy.

Buthelezi (cont)

5. Buthelezi has many opponents - the Government, the Zulu traditionalists, young black radicals. The latter call him a stooge, which he is not. He uses the apparatus of Separate Development for what he can get out of it.

Cartoon: Demonstration against Buthelezi at a black university with placards "Black skin, white stooge", and "Buthelezi, back to Pretoria".

6. Events - and political pragmatism - have made Buthelezi more radical. His policies are not always clearly spelt out. He has declared that he is in favour of an undivided South Africa. Does that mean he is for a unitary state at whatever cost? Or would he consider federal or confederal solutions? At present he opposes disinvestment; could radical pressure change his view? His involvement in power politics is not made easier by his Christian beliefs. No political leader in South Africa faces greater problems, and his continued health and strength are vital for us all.

Cartoon: Buthelezi pondering over his many problems.

But he must not be shown as bewildered, or as unequal to his challenges. What about Rodin's "The Thinker" as a model?

or Buthelezi standing at a crossroads.