

P W Botha attacks Buthelezi for "blocking negotiations"

"He can't tolerate a black man expressing mass opinion," says Buthelezi.

"I am brow-beaten by nobody and the State President knows this. That is why he is stomping up and down now. The shaking of his finger in front of my nose and the maximum pressure he could possibly put on me, will not make me falter. That is why he sounded off as he did in Benoni. He sounded off precisely because I take my marching orders from nobody, least of all from him. I say least of all from him because I am opposed to him politically." — Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi — statement, October 1988.

At a public meeting in Benoni last October, the State President, Mr P W Botha, launched what the Press termed a "scathing attack" on Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi for having, he said, "gone too far" in accusing him of failing to fulfill black expectations.

Mr Botha was responding to a speech made by Dr Buthelezi to the annual ASSOCOM congress in Durban, also in October.

The State President said of Dr Buthelezi: "I have up to now been very patient

with him, because I believe he is often being misled and misused by people who do not have South Africa's best interests at heart . . .

"Over the years he (Dr Buthelezi) has on numerous occasions been invited to negotiations together with black leaders, but usually he refused to attend such meetings . . ."

In his ASSOCOM speech, Dr Buthelezi said he charged the State President with not having "delivered the goods that he promised he would deliver" by way of reform.

The State President had taken South Africa and had "turned it upside down and

inside out constitutionally" and now he had to govern under an ongoing national state of emergency.

He accused Mr Botha of "terrible political blindness" and added that black South Africans "loathe apartheid, they loathe the Group Areas Act, they loathe the Population Registration Act, they loathe the present tricameral parliamentary system . . .

"They loathe these things and they hold the State President responsible for them," he said.

Dr Buthelezi added that he found it "impossible" to meet the State President along with other black leaders because there was nothing to negotiate about.

"Negotiations only become negotiations when there is a defined objective ahead."

The State President has not tabled a decent agenda and hid behind "vague platitudes" when he said that agendas must be open.

National Party governments had repeatedly put the good of the party before the good of the State. Mr Botha, in his speech

speech, further criticised Dr Buthelezi and said: "It is high time the Chief Minister of KwaZulu decides whether he thinks he is the only leader in South Africa, or whether he is one of the many leaders of many groups who are searching for peace and progress in our country . . ."

To this Dr Buthelezi responded in a statement to the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly:

"For the State President to speak as though I think I am the only black leader worth negotiating with is altogether grossly unfair.

"This kind of statement is presumably made to draw attention away from the fact that there are many black leaders who, like me, are waiting for the right circumstances to emerge before they become involved in negotiation.

"Black leaders with real political constituencies are noticeably absent from all the forums the State President creates for negotiations."

At no time had he ever claimed to be "the only black leader worth talking to" and had fought for the democratic right of black leaders to be involved in the decision-making process of South Africa and for democracy in black politics which would enable the black people to choose the black leaders they wanted.

Dr Buthelezi added: "Mr P W Botha presents me as being awkward. It really is about time that he

appreciated the extent to which I am a committed democrat, a committed campaigner for non-violence in politics and am committed to the politics of negotiation.

"I want to bring about the reconciliation of race groups. I want to do so so that we can develop the national will to replace apartheid with something better and make it work. This is what the State President and I and others should be working for."

Buthelezi has gone too far, says 'patient' PW

By Esmaré van der Merwe, Political Reporter

has now gone too far." Mr Botha was reacting to Chief Buthelezi's remarks at Assenem's annual meeting.

see conflict and chaos in the country. Something, therefore, had to be done to prevent this.

NEWS



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By Sipho Khumalo

ULUNDI—President Botha's shaking of his finger at Dr Mangosuthu's political situation

The Inxuba president rejected an "easy" remark by Mr Botha that the South African Government had to bear the brunt of racial work.

seen and in Africa while he could not speak to some black political leaders in South Africa.

members working for reconciliation between black and white would be appalled that Mr Botha showed the racial face he did show in

The Inxuba president rejected an "easy" remark by Mr Botha that the South African Government had to bear the brunt of racial work.

of South Africa and to fight for South Africa.

"The State President knows damn well that I have done more fighting against apartheid than any leader in



Swart slams PW's attack on Buthelezi

Political Reporter

THE chairman of the national caucus of the Progressive Federal Party, Mr Ray Swart, last night criticised the State President's attack on Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi for refusing to enter into talks with the government.

Swart said Mr Buthelezi did not

Friday 21 October 1986

Buthelezi misled, misused says PW

By Cathy Winter

in the scrapping of the structures to deal with national disaster did not keep the Conservative Party out of government

South Africa's sombre alternatives

"We face some very sombre scenarios in this country . . .

"If we paint a picture of the future based on the assumption that the South African Government will remain recalcitrant in the eyes of the international community and tenacious in following its apartheid policies in the eyes of South Africans, we must necessarily paint pictures in which violence is on the ascendancy and will remain spiralling upwards until scorched earth policy meets scorched earth policy.

"If we paint pictures of a future based on the assumption that the South African Government will in the end put deed to word in bringing about the kind of reform that the majority of the people in this country will regard as truly meaningful reforms, then we must paint a picture of a period of turbulence through which we must walk.

"The South African Government wants to skirmish politically but it does not want to face whatever uncertainties there are in doing the right thing.

". . . the Government now knows that Dr Nelson Mandela should have been released by now and will have to be released sooner or later . . ." — Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, KwaZulu Legislative Assembly 1989.