



## Government urged to reconsider

### Statement of intent vital, says Chief Buthelezi

The South African Government has evaded the call by Chief M G Buthelezi for it to issue a "statement of intent" regarding power sharing between Blacks and Whites.

The next issue of *Clarion Call* will be devoted exclusively to this issue and will describe, in detail, the stand of the KwaZulu Government and Inkatha.

Recent attempts by the State President, Mr P W Botha, and the Minister of Constitutional Development, Mr Chris Heunis, appear to have "poured cold water" — according to Chief Buthelezi — on the politics of meaningful change in the country.

As a result, violent reaction to apartheid could become endemic and a permanent aspect of political life, Chief Buthelezi added.

President P W Botha told millions of British television viewers in a recent interview with Brian Walden that he was "not prepared to do anything to destroy the present character of South Africa" and that the Government would never agree to one-man-one-

"I am prepared to talk about power-sharing without insisting on one-man, one-vote in a unitary state...

"I ask simply that the South African Government declare its intention of talking about an alternative to a one-man, one-vote in a unitary state with Black South Africa...

"A declaration or statement of intent should call on all leaders to amend the South African constitution to make it acceptable to all groups...

"We must seek an alternative political system in which universal adult suffrage is expressed in constitutional terms acceptable to all the people of South Africa...

"Power-sharing within the framework of the present constitution is not possible ... power-sharing will only have meaning for Blacks when they share power at central government level...

— Chief M G Buthelezi, Legislative Assembly, Ulundi.

vote in a unitary state.

He said the Government was working towards creating a system "for the broadening of democracy in South Africa" to see to it that everybody had a vote as far as possible over his own interests.

Asked whether he envisaged a Federal solution to the South African situation, Mr Botha said he did not want to prejudice the issue.

"What I have in mind is that we will start with an open agenda, providing we accept that we are a multicultural country and that every one of these cultural societies has certain rights. We are looking for a solution where every one of these cultural societies will retain their way of life, their language rights, their traditions and also, to a certain extent, their own ambitions..."

In the television interview, President Botha made several statements relating to Chief Buthelezi. The Chief has subsequently made it clear that he totally disagrees with President Botha's interpretation of certain events and issues.

Chief Buthelezi told the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly: "The State President told all of South Africa and the whole world (in the television interview) that he had met me frequently and that while he and I both accepted differences of opinion on some matters, we co-operated on a wide range of issues..."

"The fact of the matter is that we have only held one formal discussion in four years and one private one (arranged by a prominent South African businessman) to break the ice for the sole discussion," he added.

"But Mr Botha wants to pretend to the world that I am working closely with him and that we have our differences of opinion.

"... he (Botha) rejected what we regard as the essence of the Buthelezi Commission report. He ruled out giving political expression to the total interdependence of KwaZulu and Natal and he poured cold water on the prospects that the area of KwaZulu/Natal could be an experimental seedbed for the future. He ruled out the possibility of the government making a declaration of intent about power-sharing.

"The State President misleads South Africa ... if my going to Cape Town to see the State President is construed as active co-operation in legitimising White supremacist politics, I will, in future, rather stay here in

Ulundi and fold my arms while the Government squanders the hope which flows from the willingness of the majority of Blacks in this country to seek non-violent solutions..."

Chief Buthelezi said he was not afraid of "wilderness politics" and he would have to withdraw from situations in which he was represented as betraying the trust of millions of Black South Africans.

He went on to stress that within the framework of what President Botha had said on television there was nothing that he could talk to him about.

"The world must be told that he refuses to discuss even the possibility of power-sharing in a unitary state, that Mr Botha regards my goodwill and that of Inkatha as an expendable item which he does not really need."

Power-sharing, he said, would only have meaning for blacks when they shared power at central government level.

One man, one vote in a unitary state was his aim for Black South Africans' cherished ideal.

"No matter how deeply I cherish this ideal," said Chief Buthelezi, "I know that at this point in the history of our country, Whites will be driven to grave acts of desperation if we try to ram this solution down their throats."

"We would have to do so with butts of guns and we would have to attempt to do so in situations in which Whites would adopt a scorched-earth policy in their resistance to it."

"On the other hand, Whites will have to ram down Black throats, also with the butt of a gun, the notion that they as a minority are entitled to appropriate 87 percent of the country and all its wealth as their own and, therefore, all final decision-making both in the realms of internal and external policy."

"In recognition of these harsh realities, and out of a deep sense of South African patriotism, I express the love of my land by taking the first steps in the politics of negotiation."

"At great cost I take the step towards the politics of negotiation by saying to White South Africa that I am prepared to talk about power-sharing, without insisting that we talk about one-man-one-vote, in a unitary state..."

Chief Buthelezi said the South African Government had grasped the need to bring about reform with "... a very shaky White hand..."

Its lack of courage in doing what simply had to be done boldly, expe-

"I am against a unitary state in the form either of a federation or of a union..."

"We believe in the principle of one person, one vote as long as it is not in a unitary state..."

"What we are working towards is to create a system for the broadening of democracy in South Africa to see to it that everybody has a vote as far as possible over his own interests..."

"I am not prepared to do anything to destroy the present character of South Africa..."

— President P W Botha in a British television interview with Brian Walden.

"The State President misleads South Africa and the world when he says he has had frequent discussions with me. We have only had one formal and one informal discussion in four years..."

"Mr Botha wants to pretend to the world that I am working closely with him and that we have cosy discussions, despite the fact that we have differences of opinion..."

"Within the framework of what Mr Botha said in his television interview, there is nothing I can talk to him about..."

"The world must be told that he refuses to discuss even the possibility of power-sharing in a unitary state and that he regards my goodwill and that of Inkatha as an expendable item which he does not really need..."

"I will only speak to President Botha about power-sharing ... to keep alive the prospects of negotiation..."

— Chief M G Buthelezi, Legislative Assembly, Ulundi.

diently and with determination could well put President Botha "on the skids..."

In brief Chief Buthelezi asked for the following:

● The amendment of the South African Constitution to make it acceptable to all groups.

● The abandonment of apartheid.

● The provision of a political system in which universal adult suffrage is expressed in constitutional terms acceptable to all.

● The use of first, second and third tier levels of government to "fashion national unity by deepening the democratic process..."

Chief Buthelezi said the only point in his declaration that was "totally non-negotiable" was that South Africa was one country, and there should be one citizenship for one nation.

He criticised Mr Chris Heunis, Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, for his statement recently that he was not prepared to talk about a federal solution.

"Whether or not we end up with a federation of one kind or another, or whether or not we end up with an alternative constitutional model, negotiations cannot even begin if the Government rules out discussions about the merits of a federal formula," Chief Buthelezi emphasised.

He went on to threaten to close down the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly if the Assembly is "pushed too far" on the question of constitutional development.

Chief Buthelezi said he would "resist the dramatic" in politics as long as he was able to. However, he might have no choice but to go back to the people for a mandate for a much clearer focus on strategies and tactics which would have to be adopted to nurture democratic decency in South Africa.

President Botha had ruled out the possibility of the Government making a declaration of intent about power-sharing.

"If the President's statements reflect all that there is in him, I would rather go to the people for a massive endorsement of my opposition to him," he said.

"If we in this House are pushed too far, we will have no choice but to prorogue the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly..."

"I ask simply that the Government declare its intention of talking about an alternative to a one-man, one-vote unitary state with Black South Africa."