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his ostracisation because he elected to serve his people being the Chief Minister of KwaZulu as well as the President of Inkatha.

"Surely Western Churches can see how wrong it is to attempt to hold me to ransom by blocking humanitarian aid to the people of KwaZulu?" he told the churchmen.

"Does the Church really judge me as incapable of rendering humanitarian aid in partnership with them? Does the Church really wish to penalise local congregations and communities because some oppose me politically?"

"It is simply a fact that my people suffer because my political opponents

"Does the Church really judge me as incapable of rendering humanitarian aid in partnership with them? Does the Church really wish to penalise local congregations and communities because some oppose me politically? I appeal to Western churches ... to respect the wishes of ordinary people ... and to avoid being drawn into Black/Black South African conflicts"

successfully persuade many Western donor agencies not to render humanitarian aid here among us.

"I appeal to Western Churches as a leader and as a Christian to respect the wishes of ordinary people and I particularly appeal to them to avoid being drawn into Black/Black South African conflicts."

Chief Buthelezi said he had never asked for exclusive support for Inkatha. He had never claimed that Inkatha was the only liberation movement in the country. He had never asked Western churches to assist him to annihilate his political enemies in South Africa.

"I and Inkatha accept a multi-strategy approach in which there is a multiplicity of tasks which can only be formed by a multiplicity of organisations.

"All I ask of the West, and Western churches in particular, is to assist Inkatha to pursue those things in its aims and objectives with which the West agrees."

Governments may change — but policies remain

The policies of Western Governments towards South Africa are largely determined by national interests.

It was for this reason that he had to be a "practical politician" and deal with whomever was in power in Western countries, Chief Buthelezi told the former US Secretary of State, Mr Cyrus Vance, and former Defence Secretary, Mr Robert McNamara, during a meeting in July in Durban.

At a dinner with members of the Ford Foundation, Chief Buthelezi said he had, over decades, been made "painfully aware" that Western Governments national policies towards South Africa remain remarkably constant whoever is in power.

"The same thing applies to the United States. And the real American indignation with apartheid will express itself whoever occupies the White House and express itself roughly in the same manner.

"Foreign policies in the West are determined by national interests and powerful lobbies which do not change with change in government.

"As a practical politician I must deal with whomever is in power in Western countries.

"I must accept the best they are doing and reject the worst they are doing.

"I know that the best and the worst that they can do will continue to leave the South African Government as a law unto itself until internal developments dictate otherwise..."

Chief Buthelezi said that beyond those in South Africa who postured about wanting to bring about a Marxist and Socialist state, there was now a deep yearning across all race groups for the normalisation of the country.

If there was any hope at all for South Africa, it was that this normalisation would actually take place.

If there was any role that the West could play in the country, it was a role which supported the normalisation of South Africa as a civilised industrial democracy.

Ultimately that support would have to be for the options which Blacks elected to serve within the country and for the tactics and strategies which would produce the kind of society which Western democracies upheld.

"All too frequently foreign govern-

ments, government agencies and church and private organisations seek to take sides in Black/Black political disputes in South Africa," he added.



Former US Secretary of State, Mr Cyrus Vance

"But there is something very wrong when foreign forces aid and abet those who want to turn democratic disputes into internicine strife and blood feuds."

Chief Buthelezi said he believed that Americans should back up what they believed in...

And he believed that it was in the interests of South Africa and the whole of Southern Africa that all Americans avoided heightening Black/Black confrontation in which Blacks were now killing Blacks for political purposes.

Whenever he took issue with some Americans, he did so with an "underlying faith" that in the end the great principles on which America was founded would emerge triumphant over pettiness and over party political considerations.

For him the future would hold close ties between South Africa and the United States because the only thing which would ultimately work in South Africa was an open, democratic system of government — within the framework of a free enterprise economic order.