
IFP stance on trade curbs is vindicated

"The tide is turning"

– Dr Buthelezi



The IFP leader with President George Bush and the First Lady, Mrs Barbara Bush.

The scrapping of anti-South African trade sanctions by the Japanese Government, the agreement at the recent Commonwealth Conference in Harare to drop "People to People" sanctions and the earlier removal of major sanctions by US President George Bush – including a lifting of the ban on investment – have all underlined that the ANC's international sanctions campaign is in its death throes. The lifting of sanctions is part of a wider recognition that the non-violent forces for change that will shape a multi-party democracy in South Africa need encouragement and support. The tide is turning – and the Inkatha Freedom Party's commitment to democratic alternatives to apartheid has been vindicated...

The keen interest which marked Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi's visit to the United States and Britain earlier this year was a clear indication of the new thinking on South Africa currently prevailing in Western capitals.

The World has recognised that apartheid is doomed. It is now preparing to play its part in the reconciliation and reconstruction that is necessary to build a non-racial democracy in South Africa.

In the process, there has been a re-appraisal of the Inkatha Freedom Party and its policies and acknowledgement of the consistent, pro-democratic stance taken by IFP President, Dr Buthelezi. Along with this, has come a growing realisation that the ANC/SACP alliance is a political wolf

Scrapping of sanctions a major blow to the ANC



Dr Buthelezi with British Prime Minister, Mr John Major and his wife, Norma, in London.

"The ANC is in South Africa at President de Klerk's invitation and not as a result of his defeat at the hands of revolutionaries" – Dr MG Buthelezi in a memorandum to the Editorial Board of the Washington Post.

in sheeps' clothing.

The ANC/SACP alliance is increasingly being seen for what it is – a revolutionary organisation still clinging to the outdated policies of Marxist-Socialism which the rest of the world has since rejected.

The way has now been cleared for a centre-stage place for the IFP as all political parties are herded to the negotiating table by South Africa's social, economic and political forces.

As Dr Buthelezi told US State Department officials in a memorandum presented during his recent visit to Washington: "The IFP really has triumphed. The strident call that apartheid was the same as capitalism and the call for the destruction of the very fabric of capitalist society is now no longer being heard.

"The IFP was virtually alone in Black society calling for the recognition that Socialism and Communism would lead to very ugly economic collapses. We have been the defenders of the liberal values which underpin multi-party democracy in its association with an enterprise-driven economy."

In addition, the IFP has always opposed sanctions, taking the view that they harmed

the very people (the Black majority) that they purported to help. Even ANC president Nelson Mandela, an observer at the recent Commonwealth's Conference in Harare, admitted that sanctions were hurting South Africa's Black population. The IFP believes the changes that have come about in South Africa would have been achieved without sanctions anyway.

The IFP's view is that these radical changes arose from internal, non-violent democratic opposition to apartheid, and not from revolution or international sanctions.

The scrapping of sanctions by the world's largest democracy is nevertheless welcomed unreservedly by the IFP.

The US sanctions to be lifted, along with the ban on new investment, include embargoes on iron, steel, uranium, coal, textiles, agricultural goods, computer sales and the products of parastatal companies.

In London, Dr Buthelezi told the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Chief Enyoaku, that President FW de Klerk had done enough in eradicating apartheid to justify the Commonwealth lifting sanctions long before its meeting in Harare later this year.

The IFP President pointed out that the ANC/SACP alliance was still drumming up



Agreement on the road ahead... Dr MG Buthelezi with British Premier, Mr John Major.

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international, diplomatic and financial support on the pretext that the negotiating process was still under threat. They were calling for continued sanctions, arguing that Mr de Klerk could still renege on his commitments and that pressure on him needed to be kept up.

Dr Buthelezi said this was patently not so. That Commonwealth and the EEC had been persuaded to accept the British (and the American view) on relaxing sanctions, "the ANC has been served notice that it must now stop the posturing and get on

with the involvement in the negotiation process. We need that pressure to be put on the ANC. The international community must now declare its support for the politics of negotiation."

He added: "The destruction of apartheid is not going to be automatically responsible for the introduction of democracy. We need the international community to come in now and give massive aid to the establishment of the democratic process.

"We have to undo decades of apartheid and we have to undo the consequences of decades of wrong responses to apartheid."

The IFP President said politics in South Africa was becoming entirely different to the politics that the ANC, the PAC and other revolutionaries had always dreamed of.

"Revolutionaries will have to fight elections and they are going to be tough elections. There is going to be no marching into Pretoria to take it over.

"We have to undo decades of apartheid and we have to undo the consequences of decades of wrong responses to apartheid"
– Dr MG Buthelezi.

"No one Party is going to take over to form a government. There will be a multi-party majority in South Africa which will block any one party's attempt to gain supreme power."

This is how Dr Buthelezi summed up the new political mood in South Africa in his meeting with US State Department officials: "The tide has turned away from revolution. It has turned away from war. It has turned away from a peoples' war and it has turned away from making South Africa

ungovernable through violence. It has turned away from seeking the introduction of the kind of governments which revolutionaries are in the habit of setting up whenever they take over a colonial or racist government by force.

"The Inkatha Freedom Party's day-in and day-out defense of multi-party democracy and the need for a Western-type democracy in South Africa is now being lauded. These are looming larger than life as the realities to come."

IFP involved in dialogue

Dr Buthelezi a "major player" in rebuilding South Africa – Hurd

The IFP President's growing stature as a national leader who is central to the negotiating process in South Africa was underlined during a visit by British Foreign Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd..

Mr Hurd described Dr Buthelezi as a "major" and "substantial" player in rebuilding South Africa after apartheid.

Their talks in Durban followed on an earlier meeting in London and the IFP leader brought Mr Hurd up to date with recent developments in South Africa.

The discussions included sanctions, constitutional matters and the problem of ongoing violence.

In a memorandum presented for discussion, Dr Buthelezi said the IFP was already assured of a major role at the

negotiating table. The Party was ready to begin negotiations immediately - but the two-fold problems were the unpreparedness of the ANC and the escalation of violence to levels which could inhibit the negotiation process.

Emphasising the IFP's willingness to negotiate, Dr Buthelezi said the Party was already involved in dialogue with the National Party, the Labour Party and other Parliamentary Parties - as well as the South African Council of Churches.

"We will talk to anybody and everybody about peace and we will do so very earnestly and seriously," Dr Buthelezi added.

He said the best antidote for those advocating right-wing politics in South Africa was success at the negotiating table.

"White fears revolve around disbelief that reform can work and can produce a democracy that is sustainable. The more evidence there is that reform will work, the less support there will be for rightwing developments," Dr Buthelezi said.