

'MK must have armed role in SA'

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THE ANC's armed wing Umkhonto we Sizwe must have a defined armed role inside South Africa in the wake of the violence in Tokoza and the increased threat of right-wing violence against liberation movements.

This message was delivered to ANC president Nelson Mandela yesterday by the ANC Youth League, during discussions lasting four hours.

Unbanned

The contents of the discussion were revealed by ANCYL President Peter Mokaba yesterday, when he addressed a rally of more than 2 000 people at the Medical University of South Africa organised by the South African Students Congress to pay tribute to the late ANC leaders Chris Hani and Oliver Tambo.

Also speaking at the rally were Transkei leader Major-General Bantu Holomisa, Winnie Mandela, and Natal Midlands ANC leader Harry Gwala.

Mokaba said since the ANC and MK were unbanned, MK soldiers should be armed and return fire with fire when under attack. He said his call did not mean that the ANCYL

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was against negotiations. Negotiations were a product and reflection of struggle.

It was the pressure of mass struggle, with the youth at the forefront, which has led to the negotiations currently in progress, and these should not be allowed to be delayed by puppet leaders, Mokaba said.

He said his application for a firearm licence — made in the wake of assassination threats against him — had been denied.

He called for the arming of those threatened, legally or illegally, for MK numbers to be increased and for ANC marshalls to be trained.

Mokaba said he would not be told by the enemy what songs to sing and how to fight them. He ended his speech with the now well-known "Kill the boer, kill the farmer" chant, to thunderous applause and toy-toting by the thousands gathered to listen to him.

Holomisa told the crowd the Transkei Defence Force was opposed to the integration of armed formations with the SADF before a government of national unity was elected.

He said they were not opposed to joint control of the security forces, but would only agree to it under a transitional executive council.

Responding to allegations that he had dispatched hit-squads to Natal, Holomisa said newspapers and Military Intelligence must be ready to deposit large amounts into his banking account in the Transkei because "they have defamed the good name of Holomisa".

The forces fighting for change in South Africa must concentrate their efforts on the National Party — "the mother of all adversity, affliction, woes and tribulation", he said.

Concerted action among the "oppressed people", along with sustained international pressure against the South African Government, would remain of crucial importance throughout the negotiation process.

Holomisa told his audience the NP was delighted with the right wing and its flaunting of lethal weapons in public and provocative marches.

"And when pressure is exerted on the Nats to yield to the majority demands, it cites the white Right as a principal reason for its intransigence to concede."

The NP alluded to the white right wing's capacity to unleash violence on a vast scale that could be matched by its rivals in the liberation struggle, he said.

"The right wing does not act only on its own ... They are switched on and off like a tap by the Government through the department of Military Intelligence," he said.

Winnie Mandela said it was high time the contributions of the youth and students were acknowledged by all those who have benefited from their "sweat and blood".

Defend gains

Harry Gwala said when Hani had called for the formation of a peace corps, this did not mean people should not defend themselves.

He said the masses must be ready to defend the hard-won gains of the liberation struggle, and they must not think when they vote the congress alliance into power the struggle would be over.

He said the people must make sure the country was not engaged in endless negotiations which would not mean a transfer of power to the people at the end of the day.