

Mandela Shares Nobel Accolade With De Klerk

By **BILL KELLER**

October 16, 1993

JOHANNESBURG, Oct. 15 — Nelson Mandela and President F. W. de Klerk today shared the Nobel Peace Prize for negotiating the end of the apartheid state and collaborating in the quest for a nonracial democracy.

The Nobel Committee said Mr. de Klerk and Mr. Mandela, almost universally regarded as the last white President and the first black President of South Africa, had displayed “personal integrity and great political courage” in finding a middle ground in the bitterly polarized politics of South Africa.

“South Africa has been the symbol of racially conditioned suppression,” the committee said, announcing the \$825,000 award in Oslo. “Mandela’s and de Klerk’s constructive policy of peace and reconciliation also points the way to the peaceful resolution of similar deep-rooted conflicts elsewhere in the world.”

The two men accepted the joint award with the strained grace that has become characteristic of their complex relationship as leaders of mistrustful camps who now depend on each other to complete their work.

In a news conference at the headquarters of his African National Congress, Mr. Mandela declined to repeat his much-quoted 1990 assessment of Mr. de Klerk as a man of integrity, and, when asked what he thought the white President had done to deserve the prize, snapped: “Just ask the Nobel Peace Prize Committee.”

The 75-year-old patriarch of the anti-apartheid movement brushed aside repeated questions about his opinion of the 57-year-old white President, focusing instead on the elections scheduled for next April 27.

“When those elections take place we will stop worrying what Mr. de Klerk does or does not do, because the democratic forces will be in power,” he said.

Mr. de Klerk, meeting reporters in Cape Town, was equally sparing in his praise, insisting that the prize was bestowed not on leaders but on a process.

The public reaction was subdued by the feeling that whatever the two men have brought to South Africa, it is not yet peace. An estimated 10,000 people, mostly blacks,

have died in political violence since February 1990, when Mr. de Klerk ordered Mr. Mandela released after 27 1/2 years in prison.

In South Africa, the honor for the two leaders competed for public attention with two other stories more typical of the country's troubled passage.

As Mr. Mandela met reporters this afternoon, elated black crowds 10 stories below danced through the streets of downtown Johannesburg, celebrating not the Peace Prize but the death sentence handed down today against two white men convicted of murdering the popular black Communist leader Chris Hani.

A white judge, who on Thursday found the men guilty of conspiring to shoot down Mr. Hani last April, said they should be hanged for the crime.

With executions suspended until a new government is elected, the fate of the two men and 170 other Death Row inmates may depend more on Mr. Mandela than on Mr. de Klerk.

The sentence presented Mr. Mandela with a tricky moment at his news conference, since his followers were hungry for retribution but the congress opposes the death penalty.

He handled the issue with diplomatic dexterity, heartily applauding the death sentence but declining to say whether it should be carried out.

At Mr. de Klerk's news conference, the distraction was last week's army raid on a suspected black terrorist hideout in which five teen-agers were riddled with bullets without firing a shot in resistance.

Mr. de Klerk, who said he authorized the raid, contended that the weapons and documents seized at the house justified the suspicion that the men were connected to a militant guerrilla group, but the army has been fiercely condemned for apparently making no attempt to arrest the men.

"My hands are not dripping with blood," Mr. de Klerk retorted to reporters. "I am using my hands and my mind and my energy and I am giving everything I have to work for peace."

The Norwegian committee evidently anticipated such controversy, but decided it was outweighed by the progress the two men have made by setting an election date and agreeing to let a multiracial council oversee the government during elections.

"These are not saints," Francis Sejersted, the chairman of the committee, said in Oslo, according to the Associated Press. "They are politicians in a complicated reality and it is the total picture that was decisive."

Two other South Africans have won the Peace Prize, both for nonviolent campaigns against apartheid.

The Zulu chief Albert Luthuli won in 1960 when, as president of the African National Congress, he led passive resistance against racist laws. That same year Mr. Mandela took charge of a campaign of sabotage and limited guerrilla insurgency. The Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu won in 1984 for braving the wrath of authorities with his fierce speeches against apartheid.

Archbishop Tutu said he felt the joint award was justified.

“I hope that it will work to weld us together as a people,” he said.

The award is unlikely to have much effect on negotiators racing to draft an interim constitution in time for parliamentary approval in late November.

Already weeks behind their timetable, they took the day off to debate last week’s army raid. The pace of transition is also threatened by a new alliance of white separatists and Zulu nationalists who demand powerful enclaves of their own in the new order.

Mr. de Klerk said this week that before holding elections the country may need to hold a multiracial referendum to prove that the public supports the transition, but Mr. Mandela said today that the elections must remain on schedule “whoever is opposed to it.”

The former prisoner and his former jailer have never become friends, although the younger men who serve as their chief negotiators — Roelf Meyer of the government and Cyril Ramaphosa of the Congress — have a close relationship.

Mr. Mandela and Mr. de Klerk blame each other for failing to curb the violence. And while they are partners in negotiations, they are simultaneously rivals in the forthcoming elections.

Mr. Mandela said today that the congress leadership would decide how his share of the prize money should be used. Mr. de Klerk said he had not given any thought to the money, but “inasmuch as there is money, I will do my best with it.”

The Nobel Peace Prize, endowed by the Swedish inventor of dynamite, Alfred Nobel, has been awarded since 1901. There have been 19 years in which no prize was given. The award will be presented in Oslo on Dec. 10, the anniversary of Mr. Nobel’s death.