

Chief Buthelezi visits West Germany and speaks on:

# THE TWO TYPES OF BLACK POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN SOUTH AFRICA AND...

The

role

of Donor

Agencies

**INFLUENTIAL** West German academics, businessmen and politicians were told by Chief M G Buthelezi that the West should recognise that Black leaders in South Africa would fail to harness anger constructively unless they provided realistic projects which would succeed.

In a brief, unofficial visit to West Germany in early October to participate in a television debate on South Africa, Chief Buthelezi was guest speaker at a luncheon in Bonn.

He said Black leaders had to give people something constructive to do now which in some way would alleviate their suffering.

"I must give my people something which will enable them to mobilise their anger and direct it towards both increasing power advantages and being meaningful in their daily lives," he added.

He found that donor agencies in the West, generally, were more concerned with identifying with suffering than with being constructively involved in the medium and long-term future.

"There are donor agencies which support the notion of an armed struggle and do what they can to enhance the prestige of those committed to it," he said.

"They may direct their donations to aid humanitarian projects, but they lend considerable support to the forces of destruction.

"Other donor agencies, both Christian and non-Christian, identify with suffering by rewarding protest politics aimed at expressing opposition

through confrontationist tactics..."

Anybody who doubted what he said should look at what money went where during the period 1976-1978.

Millions of rands flowed into South Africa to support what was then Black Consciousness-type organisations who were mobilising anger in the streets of townships where people gave vent to anger by using stones, petrol bombs, knives, hatchets and pieces of iron as weapons of destruction.

"I knew then that we were witnessing an extravaganza of violence which would yield few if any results in the crucial process of bringing about change..."

If donor agencies looked at the motivations of those who applied for funds, if they now went back in time and looked at the reasoning which was given to them... they would find that this reasoning and motivation was riddled with misconceptions about the nature of the South African situation.

Millions of rands were poured into "this extravaganza of violence" with no medium or long-term gains.

Chief Buthelezi said he did not think the West realised that there were two distinct brands of Black political leadership in South Africa.

"There is the leadership which is goal-orientated where goals are the nature of the society in which people will have to live for better or worse.

"This leadership adopts tactics and strategies now which will generate the forces of change but will also generate the powers necessary for social, economic and political reconstruction after liberation."

The second kind of leadership looked at immediate gains of power advantages as the only things that counted.

"Black political leadership, I think, should be a compromise between these two leadership orientations," he said.

"On the one hand it is no use having beautiful blue-prints for the future and

no means of generating the power to bring about change.

"And on the other hand, there is no point in having the power to bring about change which is unsuitable for the purposes of restructuring the future."

Chief Buthelezi said he preached that Blacks would get nothing for nothing. They would not be salvaged from their destitution by marching armies from across South Africa's borders. After liberation they would have to grapple with poverty, disease and ignorance for at least a generation.

He preached that whether Blacks liked it or not, after liberation they would only survive if they had deeply ingrained ideals of self-help.

Chief Buthelezi said he believed that "for better or worse" South Africa was locked into a north/south axis.

"If I am right and we can bring about radical change in South Africa without destroying the foundations of the future, crucial and vexing questions which have plagued Third World development will be soluble in South and Southern Africa..."

"This will have far reaching implications for Central and East Africa.

"Radical changes in South Africa which establish a just society capable of sustaining economic growth and technological development will open doors for the future which both Africa and the West need opened..."

The West needed to reinforce positive Black political developments in South Africa. It needed to do so now as a matter of urgency in their own self-interest as well as in the interests of South and Southern Africa."

Chief Buthelezi added that if Inkatha's leadership ceased to provide people with tactics and strategies in which to harness their anger into achievement-orientated goals, their anger would become destructive.

He repeatedly warned of the real possibility that the future may well see things settled in South Africa through wide-spread violence.

"I warn that should this happen, that violence will not be controlled by anybody," he said.

"I warn of both Black and White adopting scorched earth policies and saying to hell with the future, let's settle things now.

"I do so not because I am afraid of what the ANC's Mission in Exile can do. I make these warnings because I am intimately in touch with Black anger through Inkatha and know how vital it is to employ Black anger constructively."