

“THERE’S NO SOCIALIST MAGIC FOR AFRICA ...”

IT HAD been “a sobering experience” watching, over the years, grand experiments in African Socialism, Chief Buthelezi told Senator Kennedy.

He had seen just how little socialism had done for so many people in so many parts of the continent.

“Thus, when I seek wisdom from Africa and when I draw on African experience, I am cautioned by other people’s experience of revolutions striving for a socialist future ...”

“As a Black leader faced with the realities of South Africa here and now, I dare not take models of liberation from elsewhere and apply them simplistically to our own circumstances.

“The fundamental lesson I have learnt is that the process of bringing about radical change is the very process which lays the foundation for the future.

“So when I, like other Black South Africans, have time and again examined the utility of revolution and the desirability of rejecting capitalism in favour of socialism or communism, I have done so soberly ...”

Chief Buthelezi said 50 percent of all Black South Africans were 15 years old and younger. There was vast unemployment and it was Blacks who were unemployed or under-employed.

There were vast backlogs in essential services — in housing, medical care and in education. It was Blacks who suffered because of these backlogs.

Rural areas were desperately overpopulated and agrarian revolutions would only alleviate suffering. They would not bring about any real change in the quality of life of the people.

“There is no socialist magic and no communist magic which will feed the hungry and house the poor,” the Chief emphasised.

After looking around Africa and the Third World, he had become convinced that the free enterprise system held out more hope for “people in our circumstances,” than any other system.

“The free enterprise system is the most potent development agency at our disposal,” he said.

“I therefore find myself unable to commend an idealist socialist future to my people — no matter how attractive the trappings of socialism appear to those who have suffered so desperate-

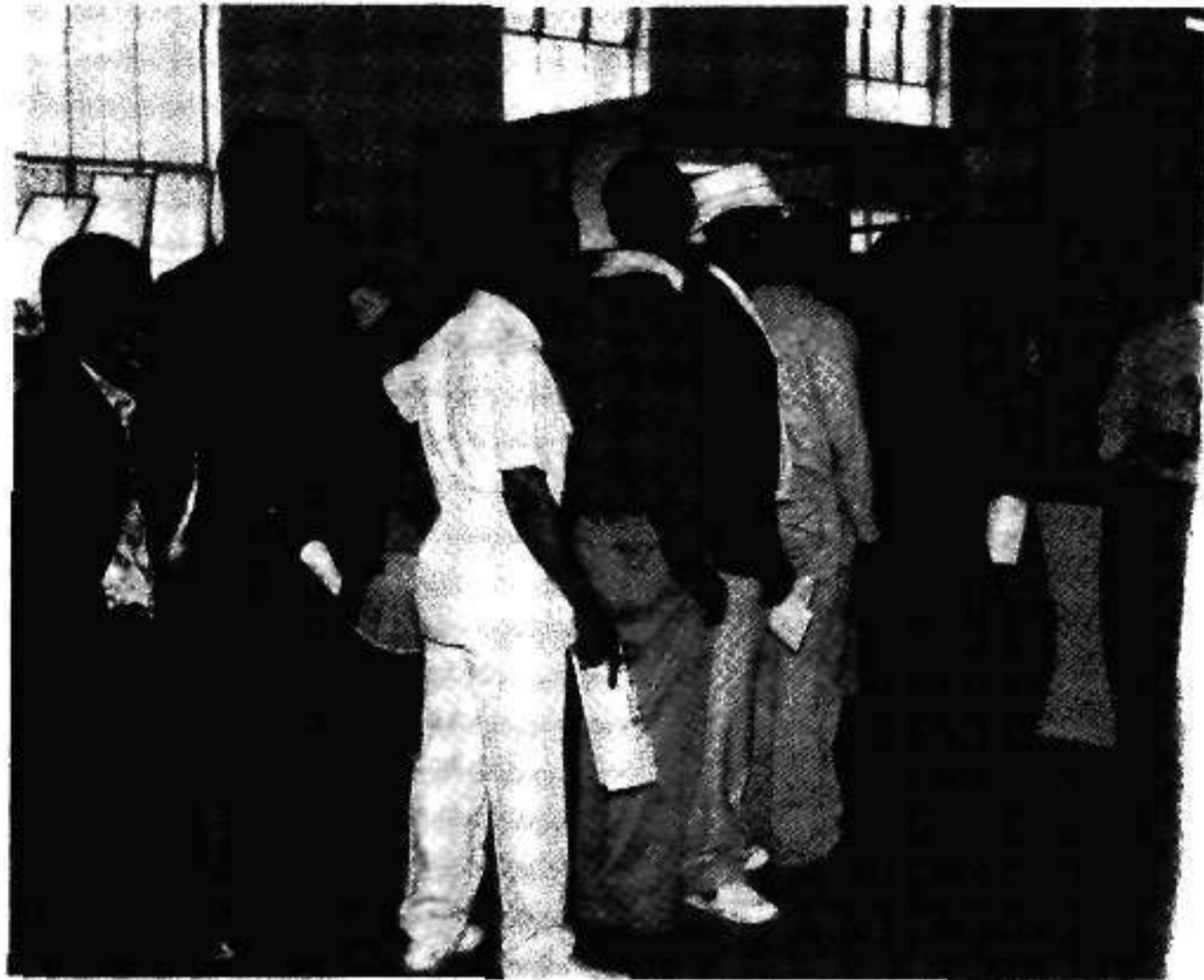
ly and for so long from oppression which has been inspired by the West and supported by the West ...”

Senator Kennedy’s reaction to these remarks, made after he left Durban and had arrived in Cape Town, somewhat stunned Chief Buthelezi and

those who attended the breakfast.

Senator Kennedy said that “nothing” Chief Buthelezi had to him had “... convinced him of the validity the homelands system ...”

This subject was not discussed at a



Queueing for work at a labour bur

DECISIVE ISSUE IS THE VOT

SENATOR Kennedy reminded South Africans time and time again that the decisive political issue in the country was full and equal citizenship for Blacks.

“It is disheartening to hear it said so often and with such confidence that progress is being made in this country — only to learn that the basic question of political participation for Black South Africans is hardly ever raised, and never really taken seriously, in the dominant precincts of White power. Even the talk of reform stops before it touches the ballot box.”

Senator Kennedy said Whites in South Africa feared the possibility of violence and chaos.

“Yet, State-spawned and State-sponsored acts of violence only nurture the reality behind the fear and draw the chaos closer.

“The repression which reaches across the years, from the labour rebellion at Rand when 700 people died in 1922, to the jails and pass courts of 1985, has killed the yearning of Black people; it renews itself with each generation.

“And with each cycle of disappointment, of hopes dashed and beaten down, of children imprisoned and protest struck down, surely the ultimate danger grows greater.”

The course of resistance was the one most likely to “make the worst fears true ...”

He quoted his late brother, President John F Kennedy, who said in 1962: “Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevi-