

What causes Black anger

Western decision-makers seldom paused to delve into the underlying realities which made Black South African politics so very complex, Chief M G Buthelezi told the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Commons in London.

Reassessing British attitudes in South Africa would be a formidable task, he said, while giving evidence before the committee in January.

The "broad mass" of Blacks in South Africa had remained remarkably constant in their commitment to time-honoured "and centrally-valued" political traditions.

They had always denied that they were faced with stark alternatives of accepting subjugation by Whites on the one hand and killing Whites to liberate themselves on the other hand.

They had always opposed apartheid in the country's day to day life and step by step had participated in the country's social, economic and political life — in such a way that apartheid had become, ever increasingly, unworkable.

It was not the ANC Mission-in-Exile which had brought South African society to the point where everybody now accepted that there must be a radical break with past National Party politics.

The Government had accepted the need for reform not because they had been frightened by the ANC Mission-in-Exile but because harsh realities in the economic sphere had made it imperative that they do so.

Apartheid society simply could not work because 72 percent of all Blacks rejected the waves of violent anger which had swept the country for the past 18 months had not been inspired by the political programmes of the ANC Mission-in-Exile or the United Democratic Front.

These organisations were attempting to capitalise on Black anger which they did not produce.

It was the "hideousness" of apartheid and the "deep suffering" of a disenfranchised and economically deprived people which had produced anger.

"It is the joblessness, hopelessness and above all, the South African gov-

Mission-in-Exile who rejected him, pretending to do so because he occupied the position of Chief Minister of KwaZulu, did so because of their propaganda campaign.

It was simple truth, and conveniently forgotten, that he had been encouraged to occupy his present position by no less than Nobel Prize winner Chief Albert Luthuli, a former President of the African National Congress.

By taking up his present position he blocked the South African government's plan to make KwaZulu a so-called independent homeland.

Had those in prominent roles now in the ANC Mission-in-Exile paid attention to Chief Luthuli, and set about mobilising Blacks in other areas like he (Chief Buthelezi) had been asked to do in KwaZulu, the SA Government would never have got as far as it had in its homeland policy.

Transkei, Bophuthaswana, Venda and Ciskei would, today, not be quasi so-called independent homelands.

It was also forgotten that he had dealings with Mr Oliver Tambo until 1980 and that until then he had never been criticised by him.

His only "sin" now was that he had refused to make Inkatha a surrogate organisation of the external mission of the ANC.

"They are politically naive," he said.

"Had I not accepted the challenge to lead in the way the people demanded, KwaZulu may well by now have been manipulated into the same positions as Transkei, Bophuthaswana, Venda and Ciskei."

The blunt truth of the matter was that those who rejected the free enterprise system, rejected Western forms of democracy and rejected the politics of non-violence and the politics of negotiation — which Western democratic principles demanded of Black South Africa now.



British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher with Chief M.G. Buthelezi and PFP MP Mrs Helen Suzman at 10 Downing Street, London.

ernment's talk of reform without backing that talk up with meaningful action, which has pushed Black anger beyond the boiling point."

Chief Buthelezi said the vast majority of Black South Africans demanded the normalisation of South Africa in which there was an equality of opportunity in a free enterprise system and a parliamentary democracy ...

Members of the Foreign Affairs Committee would be aware of opposing Black views about South Africa and what was needed to be done to eradicate apartheid and the "scourge" that it was.

He added that those in the ANC