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# ***THOUSANDS HEAR INKATHA PLEDGE FOR PEACE***

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*Where does Inkatha stand on the central issue of the use of violence as a means to political ends? The record is clear. For 15 years, Inkatha has turned its back on confrontationist politics and the channelling of Black anger against apartheid into open violence. The tactics are set to pay off . . .*

**T**he firm stand against violence taken by Inkatha President Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi has been spelled out in a series of keynote

statements at home and abroad.

The KwaZulu Chief Minister has condemned violence as inhuman — as well as being a threat to the negotiation process to which

Inkatha is committed.

But he believes Inkatha's non-violent strategy against apartheid is about to reap dividends — through the use of negotiation politics and not the armed struggle.

In a statement released in Washington, shortly after his meeting with President Bush, Dr Buthelezi said: "I have campaigned for non-violent solutions to South Africa's problems throughout my political life. I reject the use of violence for political purposes. I will not use violence for political purposes and deplore the violence that is now taking place between black and black in KwaZulu/Natal!"

Dr Buthelezi welcomed the peace call made by Dr Nelson Mandela at his recent Durban rally, adding: "I too demand that Blacks throw



*Drenching rain did not deter Inkatha supporters turning up in their tens of thousands to hear Dr Buthelezi condemn violence.*

Photo: ILANGA

**“THE TACTICS OF NON-VIOLENT OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID LEADING TO THE POLITICS OF NEGOTIATION HAVE WON THROUGH TO THE END . . . THEY ARE NOW MUCH MORE POWERFUL IN SOUTH AFRICA THAN THE ARMED STRUGGLE COULD EVER HAVE BEEN.”**

*— Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi addressing the Thanksgiving rally in Durban.*

their guns, knives, pangas and other instruments of death into the sea.

“It is only in a situation of Black political stability that we Blacks will be able to come together in the kind of unity which can flow from a general acceptance of the need for a multi-strategy approach in the final dismantling of apartheid.”

And he warned: “Violence is not only disruptive of Black politics but the kind of violence that has taken place in KwaZulu/Natal is utterly deplorable because it is unspeakably inhuman on the one hand and because it could well jeopardise the whole peace process in South Africa and wreck the politics of negotiation.”

The Inkatha President’s concern over escalating violence was also one of the main themes in his address to the Thanksgiving rally in Durban, which was called to celebrate the release of political

prisoners and to commemorate the stage reached in progress towards peaceful negotiations.

Emphasising that the emerging victory against apartheid was a “peoples victory”, Dr Buthelezi

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added: "We in Inkatha are particularly joyful because victory is now finally coming the way we have always wanted it to come through the politics of negotiation. I think back over the last 15 years of constant Inkatha struggle to keep the struggle non-violent and to employ honest and noble means to achieve noble objectives. Inkatha was formed at a time just before the 1976 violence when anger was rising and some thought that the only expression of anger could be found in confrontation and violence.

"We in Inkatha said 'No'. Black anger must be employed in non-violent tactics and strategies and that was what we set out to do — and that is what we have been doing for 15 years.

"We were condemned because we did not enter the kind of confrontationist politics which almost inevitably led to hideous clashes and the kind of violence in which the youth suffered most and the women of South Africa, the mothers and the grandmothers, suffered with them. We were

**"I say that violence must now cease. I say that we must lay down our arms and deliver the victory to the people through the politics of negotiation, because this is now possible."**

condemned because we did not opt for the armed struggle and we were condemned because we did not opt for international economic confrontations with South Africa.

"Yet the very tactics of non-violent opposition to apartheid, leading to the politics of negotiation, are the tactics which have won through to the end . . . so much more powerful in South Africa than the armed struggle could ever have been."

As a result, Dr Buthelezi noted, people were gravitating towards the

political centre-stage which Inkatha had always occupied.

And he again warned that it will be almost impossible for negotiation politics to be given impetus while the present countrywide levels of Black-on-Black confrontation continued.

He told the massed thousands: "I say that violence must now cease. I say that we must lay down our arms and deliver the victory to the people through the politics of negotiation, because this is now possible."

## **VIOLENCE "BARRIER TO LIBERATION"**

*The wave of countrywide violence could jeopardise prospects for democracy.*

**S**peaking at the recent Thanksgiving rally in Durban to mark the release of political prisoners, he called on all Black leaders drawn into confrontation to act together to condemn violence wherever it occurred.

He urged Blacks to place South Africa first by putting an end to delaying tactics and getting on with negotiations for a new all-race constitution immediately.

Dr Buthelezi hit out at the intimidation and violence used to make workers stay away from work in the week preceding the March 25 rally.

It was not only violence against specific people

and groups, he said. It was violence against Black society, against people and their freedom to choose.

"It is violence against democracy and against the Black struggle for liberation," the KwaZulu Chief Minister and Inkatha President told the rain-drenched crowd.

"We therefore call for the cessation of Black hostilities because they are marring the very honour of Black South Africa and indeed Mother Africa herself.

Dr Buthelezi asked how it was possible for any leader — of Inkatha, the ANC or the PAC — to seek mandates to negotiate and then return to their people to negotiate while present levels of violence continued.

Chief Buthelezi offered the hand of friendship to all Black political organisations and called for acceptance of the fact that the only effective unity was that based on the general acceptance of a multi-strategy approach in which all organisations complemented each other.