

WHAT DOES HE WANT TO TALK ABOUT?

"When the State President one day informs us what he is prepared to negotiate about, I will then and then only know whether there is anything I can negotiate with him about. South Africa dare not produce another constitution which needs a State of Emergency to keep it intact. We cannot fail again at the national political level and fuel the hideous flames of violence." — Dr M G Buthelezi

"homelands" and "independent" states.

Until the State President outlines his plans, there can be no utility in Dr Buthelezi participating in what he terms "pseudo-political activity" which clearly will not represent the desires of the majority of black South Africa.

The Chief Minister of KwaZulu and President of Inkatha, Dr M G Buthelezi, is obviously recognised as a key figure in any negotiations about the future of South Africa.

He is a fervent proponent of negotiations but, to date, has been unable to consider various South African Government proposals for him and others to participate in so-called initiatives which have all had a monumental flaw: none have spelled out what the Government wants to talk about.

Dr Buthelezi has made it quite clear that he and his vast constituency will not be a party to any negotiations which fall within the framework of existing apartheid legislation.

He will not, for instance, discuss the future of South Africa if the Government insists on talking within and around the parameters of law such as the Population Registration Act and the Group Areas Act. The present constitution and tricameral parliamentary system is vehemently rejected as is the balkanisation of South Africa into so-called



In numerous speeches and statements, Dr Buthelezi has emphasised: "I will not be a party to further the suicidal activity (of the Government) in which blacks are expected to seek their political destiny to the exclusion of a destiny in the country's central parliament.

"We need to know what Mr P W Botha has in mind for a negotiating agenda. He must tell the world what his intentions about negotiations are. There will be no negotiations until he does just this."

Dr Buthelezi emphasises he is not turning his back on negotiations, he is merely speaking for black South Africa when he says that to

"My greatest political advantage is that while I fold my arms and do nothing, Mr P W Botha will not be able to take South Africa into yet another constitutional cul-de-sac. He can virtually make no change of any magnitude in the constitutional field unless blacks help him make it. He now sinks or swims on his ability to gather blacks behind what he is doing. That is the bed that he himself has made and it is the bed that he himself now lies in." —

Dr M G Buthelezi

"WE DARE NOT FAIL ..."

to go a little further than he had with the tricameral Parliament but there are no indications that he is prepared to negotiate the acceptance of a universal franchise system in the circumstances which would be created by the scrapping of the Population Registration Act.

"Mr Botha will either be eclipsed by history or he will catch up with me and do the things that simply have to be done and do the things which will gather massive black support."

Dr Buthelezi notes that he is "under pressure" to negotiate with the State President by those who think that Mr Botha "really is earnest in his reform intentions."

He adds: "To them I say I am willing to negotiate with an agreed agenda. I would negotiate with him today if negotiations were about the implementation of the KwaZulu/Natal Indaba-type proposals.

"I would negotiate for the direction which the Indaba proposals indicate and I would do so because however they are finally formulated, they are an idiom of what we should be looking for.

"I am therefore not unwilling to negotiate but, as I have said, I will not negotiate in circumstances in which it is patently clear to me that negotiations will fail.

"There is no need for me to enter into desperate negotiations which will fail when I believe so strongly that there are courses of action open to us which can succeed."

Dr Nels

Dr M G Buthelezi's position regarding Dr Nelson Mandela, the imprisoned leader of the banned African National Congress, has never changed.

For more than 20 years he has consistently attempted to apply pressure on successive South African Governments to unconditionally release Dr Mandela, PAC leader Mr Zeph Mothopeng, and other political prisoners. He has also called for the unbanning of political parties.

A the same time Dr Buthelezi's political platform has always been one of advocating peaceful change, national negotiation and reconciliation. He has made it quite clear that black South Africa will settle for nothing less than a multi-party democracy in a free and united South Africa in which power is shared by all.

Dr Buthelezi, the KwaZulu Government and Inkatha have therefore blocked all efforts by the South African Government to foist so-called "independence" on KwaZulu which would strip seven million Zulus of their South African citizenship.

They do not believe that the majority of black South Africa desires the violent overthrow of the Government but are, in

fact, committed to the politics of non-violence and reconciliation through negotiation.

As far as any future constitutional negotiations within the framework of the country's parliamentary system are concerned, Dr Buthelezi is adamant that his participation would be conditional on Dr Mandela's release along with other imprisoned leaders. (See boxes)

"Dr Mandela would not have expected black politics to have come to a standstill during his period of incarceration. That is why I am prepared to be involved in negotiations following the KwaZulu/Natal Indaba. That is why I was involved in negotiations with the Natal Provincial Council to establish a multiracial executive authority in the KwaZulu/Natal region of South Africa. I did not demand Dr Mandela's release before I did so. I make the demand for his release at the level of national negotiations for a new constitution for the country . . ." —

Dr M G Buthelezi

In the meantime, Dr Buthelezi has asked the State President, Mr P W Botha, to spell out what his intentions about negotiations are.

In a recent Press statement Dr Buthelezi said: "When one