

Getting Rid Of The Third Force

The following are excerpts of taped interviews with Mr Cyril Ramaphosa and Mr Sanjiv Motuenyane published in A Question of Survival by Michel Albeldas and Alan Fischer (Jonathan Ball Publishers).

What are your views on disinvestment and sanctions?

"Our position on that is that with disinvestment we are able to immediately get rid of a third force in this country. As soon as foreign companies come in here and begin investing, they become a third force. Let us first examine this politically and then economically. On a political level, as soon as a foreign country invests in another country, you introduce a third force, in that the government of that country obviously has to give approval for that company to invest in another country. Now when it does give approval, that government, by proxy, immediately starts having a vested interest in that country. When it begins to have a vested interest in the international political arena, it starts looking all over the world to see where its companies have invested and where its citizens are. And when a political blow-up

occurs in a place where that country has investments, it is not going to remain neutral. Let's take a very good example. The Americans, for instance, invest in South Africa and they have billions of rands in this country. The American government is aware that IBM and all the other companies have invested here. If, for instance, there was a revolution in this country, which would be

fought against the South African government, the American government would never remain neutral. They have to protect their interests, namely the assets of the companies which are American. Now it introduces that third force and it becomes problematic, particularly for our country. I have had conversation with people from the State Department in the US, and the Assistant Secretary of



Cyril Ramaphosa, Secretary-General of the National Union of Mineworkers.

State, Chester Crocker, sent me as far as to say: "We will not sit by and watch our country's assets go up in smoke when there is a revolution in this country. We will be compelled to protect those investments." Now that causes a problem for me. We would rather prefer disinvestment on the political level because then the third force is completely eliminated. We then start dealing with the South African government on our own, knowing that there is not going to be another force intervening, purporting to be protecting its assets..."