

Israel to take tough SA stand

Following a meeting with Chief M G Buthelezi, the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, pledged that his country would take a tough stance against South Africa.

"Israel should never support discrimination," Mr Peres told reporters after meeting Chief Buthelezi in August.

"It goes to the depths of our tradition, our convictions. We shall surely express our views, in ways that are open to us..."

Chief Buthelezi said he believed Israel had "something vital" to offer in support of the politics of negotiation.

Israel knew the horrors of racism and no Israeli would tolerate "the inhuman circumstances in which millions of Black South Africans have to live..."

In a memorandum to Prime Minister Peres he said that Israel was committed to the "free enterprise system and to an industrial way of life" — which South Africa desperately needed.

"Not only this, But Israel is also versed in the techniques of developing self-help schemes for those who are not fully utilised in the country's industrial way of life."

Chief Buthelezi said he was in Israel because the Jewish community in South Africa had made its own very distinctive contribution to the development of the country — to its industrial base and to its growth potential.

However, they now needed to make a very distinctive contribution towards the rapid inclusion of Blacks in the free enterprise economy and in the democratic institutions of the country.

He stressed that the Black population of South Africa was now increasing at an annual rate of three percent.



Mr Shimon Peres, Prime Minister of Israel, with Chief Buthelezi

Already over half the total Black population was 15 years and younger.

"A huge population bulge is moving towards the market place and the prospect of there being a sufficient number of jobs is slight or non-existent..."

Chief Buthelezi also met Israeli's Foreign Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir. Israeli officials later reported that Mr Shamir would be working on Chief Buthelezi's requests for agricultural and other assistance for his people.

He told Mr Shamir that too frequently Western observers only saw the extremes of the South African political spectrum.

In fact, the mainstream of White politics and the mainstream of Black politics were grappling with the question of reform.

There would be no Utopian leap into

the future which the far left dreamed of. And there would never be a return to the Vervoerdian era that the right dreamed of.

"There will be no victory for those committed to the armed struggle and the ANC's Mission-in-Exile will in fact never return to form a Marxist government," Chief Buthelezi continued.

The left and right did not command the forces of change. He was, however, not underestimating the forces they did have.

"They do command forces of destruction and unless there is meaningful change, the forces of destruction will be strengthened..."

"The politics then generated by the extreme left and the extreme right could result in a conflagration of violence..."

"Israel is a very distinctive country and the fire that burns in every Israeli breast would never tolerate the inhuman circumstances in which millions of Black South Africans have to live..."

"The Jewish community in South Africa has made its own very distinctive contribution to the development of South Africa ... they must now make a very distinctive contribution towards the rapid inclusion of Blacks in the free enterprise economy and in the democratic institutions of the country..."

"The State President knows that there will be no negotiation with me unless he makes a declaration of intent with Black leaders — and unless we have an agenda within which Blacks could find it possible to negotiate. The statement I am calling for will not tie hands but open doors..."