

Are these the words of a moderate leader?



Mr Malcolm Fraser with Chief Buthelezi.

The former Prime Minister of Australia, Mr Malcolm Fraser, was told at a meeting in Johannesburg in September that Chief Buthelezi was often referred to in the media as a "moderate" Black leader.

Chief Buthelezi told him that he could not understand why because he asked for no less for Black South Africans than other Black leaders.

"The media frequently refers to me as a "moderate" leader and it frequently qualifies my leadership by calling me a Zulu leader and Inkatha a Zulu organisation. This is at the most polite level of distortion..."

Writers politically hostile to him went a step further and called him a "Bantustan leader" and a "tribal leader" and, even worse, a "sell-out" and somebody who was "working within the system..."

The facts were that he rejected the South African constitution and had campaigned vigorously against it. He and Inkatha had refused to participate in the State President's Black Advisory Council, the Special Cabinet Committee and Community Councils.

Chief Buthelezi said he had "served his apprenticeship" in the African National Congress under Chief Albert Luthuli and others.

It was Chief Luthuli (the Nobel Peace Prize winner) who had persuaded him to take up his hereditary position as Chief of the Buthelezi people. The Government had been vehemently opposed to him doing so and had done everything possible to make this impossible.

When he succeeded, the Government withdrew his passport and for nine years he was regarded as "a threat" and was persona non grata.

Pretoria hoisted by its own petard

The people of KwaZulu regard themselves as South Africans demanding one South Africa with one people under one government, Chief Buthelezi told Mr Fraser.

"It was the South African Government which created KwaZulu as a political arena and not the people of KwaZulu," he said.

He emphasised that, contrary to widespread misconception, KwaZulu was not the creation of apartheid.

KwaZulu existed as a sovereign State before the British occupation of Natal in the nineteenth century. KwaZulu had its origins in the Zulu kingdom which the full might of the British army defeated in 1879 at the Battle of Ulundi.

Parts of the original Zulu Kingdom had been cut off and added to the Transvaal and KwaZulu had been fragmented by apartheid.

Parts of it were now occupied as so-called White South Africa by Whites, Indians and Coloureds. However, KwaZulu as such was not a creation either of the National Party or of any White Government.

It was ironic, he added, that many of

those who called him names and denigrated him because he was an hereditary and an elected leader in KwaZulu, had failed to do what he had done in the areas to which they traced their ethnic origins.

"They have failed to stop the South African Government in making the Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei so-called independent States and for them now to turn to denigrating me as working within the system must be seen as malicious propaganda."

KwaZulu was the only so-called homeland where the Government had in the end to force the machinery of its homeland policy with the "full might" of the State.

"Just as it forces on the people of Soweto or Guguletu the townships and structures in which they have by sheer necessity to live..."

Because of his radical background and because of his success in mobilising the people of KwaZulu to reject the homeland policy, he was asked to lead them through "the political minefield" which had been established.

"Ever since then, I have used that same support of the people to reject apartheid and make the homeland policy unworkable.

"I have made the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly into a bastion of Black strength in opposition to apartheid. I have hoisted Pretoria with its own petard.

"The State tried everything to undermine my support and to remove me from power — even to the extent of getting the Bureau of State Security (as it was then) to mobilise opposition to me and to provide funds to establish an opposition party to me in KwaZulu/Natal.

KwaZulu was the largest so-called homeland in the country. Zulus numbered six million and, alone, they outnumbered Whites.

KwaZulu was the most politicised of the so-called homelands and had he succumbed to the tremendous pressure being exerted on him to accept the kind of quasi-independence which Pretoria was offering, the face of South African politics would be totally dif-

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