

Should Nusas talk to the ANC?

The ANC has said that their armed retaliation will end in 1986. For many white students, the questions of how the ANC justifies its use of violence and the terms on which they will accept peace are the most burning of all.

There are two sides to the story of the civil war in South Africa, and we now need to hear the one that doesn't get airspace on SATV.

● Part of the fear for the future in the white community is a concern that an anti-white backlash after years of apartheid is inevitable. Many whites are leaving the country for this reason. But we need to know how the ANC sees the role, position and potential contribution of those whites committed to staying in a democratic South Africa?

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**WHAT
WOULD YOU
LIKE TO
ASK
THE ANC?**

~~Stop the~~ **compatriots, fellow citizens. ~~Do~~ look at the ~~anti-apartheid~~ ~~that~~ ~~is~~ fighting to drive the Whites out of ~~South Africa~~**



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**Time to
hear the
whole
story**

Why we should speak to the

● Our futures are in the balance. As students, we have skills and commitment to offer to a future South Africa. But the many unanswered questions about what the future holds leaves us faced with fear and uncertainty. And some of these questions can only be answered by the ANC.

● Political surveys show that if all South Africans could vote, the ANC would be a likely future government. Nelson Mandela as an ANC leader has widespread popular support. The ANC flag is flown at funerals and mass meetings across the country and speakers openly support its aims. Many western governments recognise the ANC as the official opposition in South Africa. The ANC is widely recognised as the key political force to be reckoned with in resolving conflict in South Africa. This is why many groups, including business leaders, Afrikaans theologians, the PFP, Stellenbosch students and COSATU (the Congress of South African Trade Unions) have already made the trip to Lusaka.

South Africans have a right to know what the ANC stands for. Yet the ban on the organisation and the weight of censorship laws means we only have access to a fragmented version of what they say. Nor are we ever able to pose the questions we want answered.

● The Nationalist government's record of broken promises and their use of violence are jeopardising all our futures. South Africans have little basis on which to believe in the government's intention or ability to bury apartheid. Yet until apartheid goes, conflict will continue.

For this reason, more and more sectors of our society, from the trade unions and the UDF to the Chamber of Commerce are trying to find alternative solutions on their own initiative. But the success of any solution depends on the support and the participation of the leadership in the townships. These are the people most hardhit by government repression. Any representative voice that the government sees as a threat is immediately silenced. In the Eastern Cape UDF leaders who were involved in negotiations with the Chamber of Commerce about the consumer boycott have just been banned.

We believe that all political forces have a right to be heard. And if we are to move away from a society based on "baaskap", then white South Africans need to



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NUSAS is launching a campaign to find out whether students support NUSAS representatives going to meet the ANC. This was decided on Friday at an emergency NUSAS executive meeting, called after NUSAS SRC's around the country voted in favour of student representatives meeting the ANC. The NUSAS executive unanimously supported the proposal, but felt that on an issue of this importance, there should be wider consultation with students. If students are in favour of the meeting, NUSAS will canvas on all the campuses to find out what questions students have to ask the ANC. There will be reportbacks on all the campuses.

listen to what representatives of the black community are saying. But the government systematically silences any voice with mass township support. Of the forces acting on the South African political stage today the ANC is one of the most powerful and the most silenced.

● Violent death has become part of everyday life in the townships. Stories of torture and brutality have ceased to shock people and detentions are hardly news anymore. But the level of anger in the townships is increasing with the level of repression. However hard we might

find it to accept, the fact that apartheid is maintained through force has led growing numbers of people in the townships to see the use of force to end apartheid as justified and necessary.

Violence in the townships is sparked off and perpetrated by the presence of troops in the townships. Many students are conscripted into the army to perform this task. As such the violence in the townships directly concerns us.

● Since the State of Emergency many youths have fled over the borders to receive military training from the ANC.