

# Vendetta revealed

**B**ishop Desmond Tutu has rejected a Coca-Cola International offer of a R25-million trust fund for Black education in South Africa unless, among other conditions, Coca-Cola publicly supports the ANC, threatens disinvestment and excludes Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's involvement.

This was disclosed in Bonn, West Germany, by Chief Buthelezi in a February address on the role of donor agencies in South Africa.

He was illustrating the manner in which international donor agencies could, sometimes unwittingly, be manipulated for political ends.

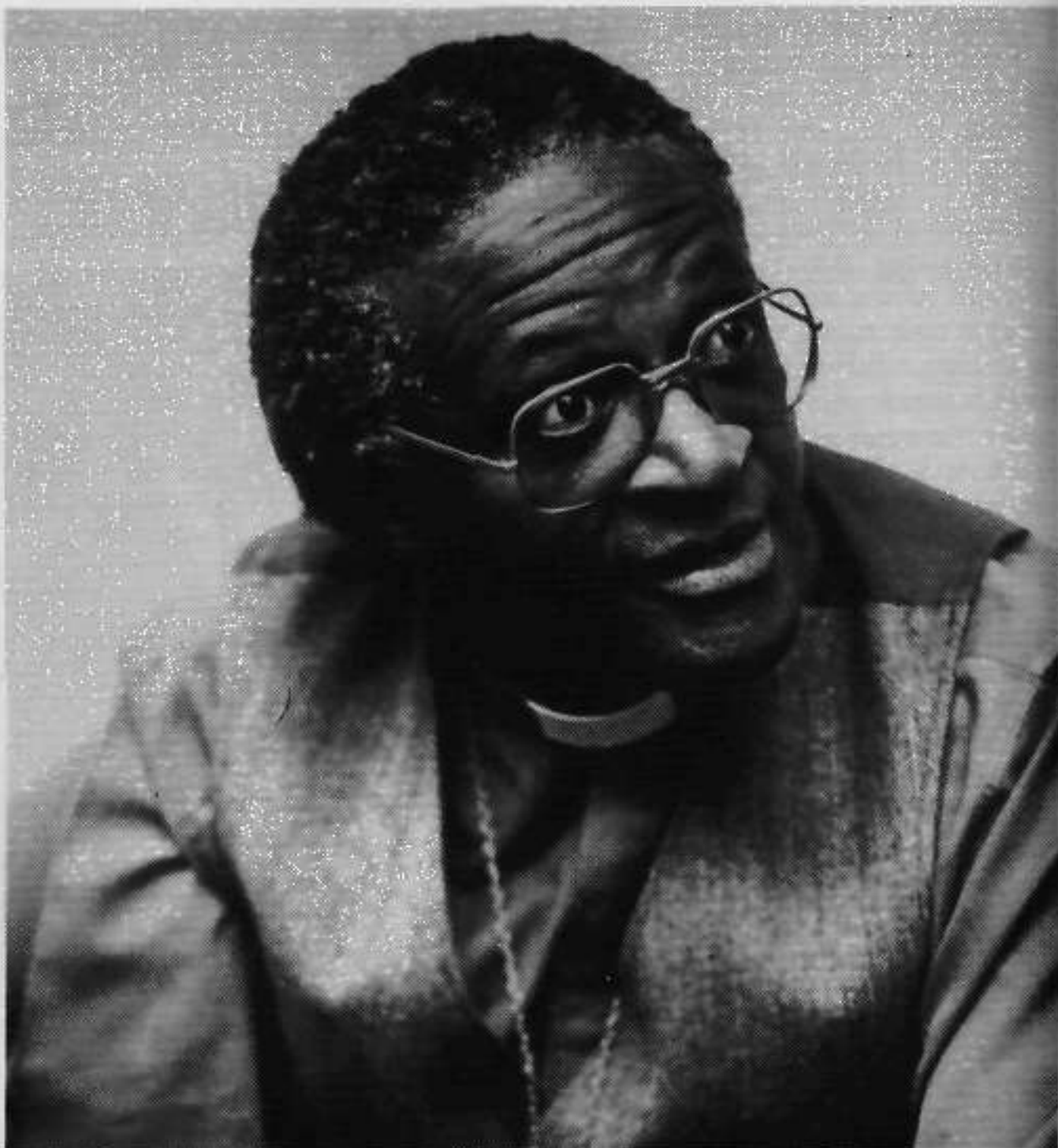
Chief Buthelezi produced a copy of a memorandum sent to senior Coca-Cola executive, Mr David Schneider, and signed jointly by Bishop Tutu, his SACC colleague, the Rev Allan Boesak, and by Prof. Jakes Gerwel, Rector-Designate of the University of the Western Cape.

In it, the two clerics and the academic stipulate, in an indirect but obvious reference to Chief Buthelezi and his anti-violence Inkatha movement, that "the involvement of any homeland functionaries or persons connected to organisations with official homeland links would preclude our participation."

And they urge Coca-Cola to threaten to consider pulling out of South Africa unless the Government takes significant steps towards change within a prescribed time."

They stipulate that such steps must "at least" include the lifting of the State of Emergency, the abolition of pass laws and influx control, the release of all political prisoners, the repeal of all discriminatory legislation, the establishment of one single ministry for education and the official end of the homeland policy.

Messrs Tutu, Boesak and Gerwel say in the memorandum to Mr Schneider, a top legal executive of Coca-Cola from Atlanta, Georgia, that, while being "fully appreciative of the great benefits that could derive from your donation, we also accept that you will appreciate the larger political context within which our participation is (sic) such a scheme occurs."



**Bishop Desmond Tutu**

They concede that Coca-Cola's donation is intended as support for progressive initiatives seeking non-violent change in South Africa. But they stipulate that such support needs to address also the "political environment" of their efforts to effect non-violent change.

And, they say, "A crucial element in that environment is the recognition of the African National Congress as an important participant in the political process.

"Our decision to participate in the proposed trust would therefore be greatly facilitated by Coca-Cola adding its voice to the growing public call for the South African Government to start talking to the ANC.

"The establishment of the proposed trust cannot be divorced from the divestment debate and we would desire that it be abundantly clear that we are not lending support to any effort aimed at relieving pressure for change on the

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*'The involvement of any ... persons connected to organisations with official homeland links would preclude our participation'. — Bishop Desmond Tutu*

South African Government.

"This could be accompanied by Coca-Cola publicly informing the South African Government that it shall reconsider its continued presence inside South Africa unless steps towards change are taken within a prescribed time, such steps towards change are taken within a prescribed time, such steps to include at least ..." They then give the minimal steps listed above.

In his address in Bonn, Chief Buthelezi pointed out that Coca-Cola, one of the world's largest companies,

had been persuaded that they should as foreign investors make the very substantial contribution of about R25-million towards the process of change in South Africa by way of Black education.

He accused Bishop Tutu, the Rev. Boesak and Prof Gerwel of trying to use the proposed educational scheme as a political stick with which to beat him.

It was preposterous that they were demanding party political support for

the ANC Mission-in-Exile as a precondition for the establishment of a trust in South Africa.

"They are blackmailing Coca-Cola with the well-being of Black South Africans," he said. "They are gambling with the futures of South African students on the outcome of their political vendetta against me.

"The euphemism they use in their language fools nobody, and everybody knows that it is my own leadership and Inkatha that they are referring to."

*'This vendetta against Inkatha by some of the Churchmen who play a prominent role in the SACC is also evident in their dealings with donor agencies and corporations who want to contribute to the development of Black South Africa'. — Chief M.G. Buthelezi*

*Coca-Cola has subsequently announced that it intends to go ahead with the Trust in spite of Bishop Tutu's stand. A copy of the letter sent to Coca-Cola is shown below.*

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMO

TO: MR. DAVID SCHREINER [sic] (COCA-COLA)

FROM: ALLAN BOESAK  
JAKES GERWEL  
DESMOND TUTU

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1. We note your invitation to us to participate in administering in trust the sum of money you so generously wish to make available to education and development in South Africa.
2. While fully appreciative of the great benefits that could derive from your donation we also accept that you will appreciate the larger political context within which our participation is [sic] such a scheme occurs. We consequently have to tender the following comments describing the political parameters of our participation.
  - 3.1 The involvement of any homelands functionaries or persons connected to organisations with official homelands links, would preclude our participation.
  - 3.2 We accept that your donation is intended as support for progressive initiatives seeking non-violent change in South Africa. Such support, however, needs to address also the political environment of our efforts to effect non-violent change, and a crucial element in that environment is the recognition of the African National Congress as an

important participant in the political process.

Our decision to participate in the proposed trust would therefore be greatly facilitated by Coca-Cola adding its voice to the growing public call for the SA government to start talking to the ANC.

The establishment of the proposed trust cannot be divorced from the divestment debate and we would desire that it be abundantly clear that we are not lending support to any effort aimed at relieving pressure for change on the South African government. This could be accomplished by Coca-Cola publicly informing the South African Government that it shall reconsider its continued presence in South Africa unless significant steps towards change are taken within a prescribed time, such steps to include at least -

- the lifting of the state of emergency
- the abolition of pass laws and influx control
- release of all political prisoners
- repeal of all discriminating legislation
- establishment of one single ministry for education
- official end of the homeland policy

We would be glad to discuss this with you further.

Sincerely,

BISHOP DESMOND TUTU  
DR. ALLAN BOESAK  
PROF. G.J. GERWEL