

INTERNATIONAL STAGE FOR DR BUTHELEZI

Bush, Thatcher, hear Inkatha views

KwaZulu leader Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi has personally told World leaders of his belief in a non-violent solution to South Africa's problems and the urgent need to get negotiations on track.

The Chief Minister met US President George Bush and other top US Government officials — at the request of the Americans — while on a pre-arranged informal visit to the United States recently.

This was followed up in London with a meeting between Dr Buthelezi and British Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

What the Inkatha President told the two influential Western leaders was clear and unambiguous.

In a statement released in Washington after his talks with President Bush, Dr Buthelezi said that if negotiations leading to a multi-party democracy in South Africa were not put on track, "violent solutions will almost certainly begin to dominate."

The South African Government had done all that was necessary to pave the way for negotiations. It was not a question of IF, or even WHEN, but HOW the politics of negotiation were going to get off the ground.

There were two fundamentally different approaches.

There was the one-off "big bang" type of approach in which, for example, the ANC was



The Chief Minister with President Bush at the White House.

advocating the need for the South African Government to hand over power to an interim constituent assembly which would supervise the transitional process from apartheid to a democracy. They wanted negotiations to lead to a constituent assembly in which there could be final constitutional pronouncements of the kind that have emerged from the Namibian constituent assembly.

The second approach recognised the need for negotiation politics to take the form of a political process. In this process, the South African government legislates changes into existence which will follow tough negotiations around the table — giving the Government no option but to legislate to make consensus decisions operational.

The first approach was pursued by those who believed in "winner-takes-all" politics — the second by those saying that fundamental compromises will have to be achieved if racial chasms in South African society were going to be

bridged.

Dr Buthelezi said that it was only through the second approach that fears could be allayed. White fears that Blacks would abuse majority rule had to be dealt with. Similarly, Black fears that a multi-party democracy in which there were entrenched minority group rights would be abused and turned into another form of racist Government, also had to be addressed.

The Inkatha President continued his theme of "give and take" negotiation politics in an address to city councillors in Los Angeles, where he was given the "key to the city" by Mayor, Mr Tom Bradley.

And in another address to the city's Jordan high school, Dr Buthelezi appealed to the US Government to lift punitive sanctions against South Africa immediately, so that the country's production capacity could be boosted to defeat the main enemy left over after apartheid — black poverty.