

Call to Archbishop Tutu "Consult the Black masses..."



Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Glebelands Stadium, Durban: "Am I right in telling the world that you reject sanctions and disinvestment as a strategy?" Roar from the crowd: "YES"

More than 50 000 Black South Africans packed the Glebelands Stadium at Umlazi, near Durban, at a rally in May where they unanimously rejected economic sanctions against South Africa.

The prayer meeting was called to pray for Black unity and to focus on the issue of economic sanctions.

The meeting condemned the campaign for world economic isolation of South Africa by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and other church leaders, and called for increased Western economic involvement in the country which would increase the bargaining power of Blacks and strengthen Black opposition to apartheid.

Inkatha's President, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, told the audience, who often drowned his address with roars of approval: "I say to foreign Governments: Drop this disinvestment issue; stop dragging the suffering of Blacks in South Africa into West European and North American party politics. Do you agree with me?"

The reply: "Yes."

He said it was a tragedy that the West accepted and believed the argument by Archbishop Tutu and other clergymen that all other means of achieving the end of apartheid had failed as

sanctions created untold suffering for Blacks.

Other sanctioneers such as US Senator Edward Kennedy dismissed and ignored Black rejection of sanctions to make political gains at the expense of Blacks. Black workers themselves had rejected the support for sanctions and disinvestment by the Congress of South African Trade Unions and had formed the United Workers' Union of South Africa to represent the aspirations and opinions of workers wanting to retain the free enterprise system.

It was time foreign Governments let Black workers fight for one South Africa with one Parliament resting on universal adult franchise "without dividing them one from the other by feting celebrity spokesmen who have no constituencies."

The exponents of sanctions were having a "field day" telling the world that disinvestment was the only non-violent means left of achieving change in the country. This was not true.

He asked the crowd: "Am I right in telling the world that those who call for disinvestment the loudest do not call for it because they want to avoid violence? They call for it because they are violent. Do you agree with me? Tell the world what you think." The crowd roared its approval.

"I tell the world that Black workers know that those who most argue for disinvestment are already committed to the politics of confrontation or are already committed to the politics of violence."

The crowd again roared its approval. "My brothers and sisters, these people tell the world that you have chosen to support disinvestment and you will willingly suffer more when many thousands of Black South Africans lose their jobs. Is this true? Reply: "NO."

Dr Buthelezi continued: "I tell the world that Black workers in South Africa reject anything that loses jobs. I say that the more jobs there are for Blacks the stronger opposition to apartheid becomes. I say that Black bargaining power grows when there are more Blacks in more jobs in more cities. Am I right?" Reply: "YES"

Dr Buthelezi said the issue which was "confounding" the whole Black struggle for liberation was that "Black spokesmen who represent nobody and who are answerable to nobody" postured as Black "saviours" and spoke on their behalf.

This was particularly the case regarding disinvestment. Archbishop Tutu,

Dr Allan Boesak, Mr Elijah Barayi, the President of COSATU and the Rev Frank Chikane, the Secretary-General of the SA Council of Churches, "stomped" the world speaking on behalf of Blacks calling on foreign companies to withdraw from South Africa.

"These spokesmen say they realise that these things which they advocate will

cause you to suffer. The argument which my Archbishop uses so often in response to this, is that Blacks have always suffered and Blacks would not mind suffering a little more for their freedom.

"If we were going to get our freedom immediately, this would be an entirely different matter. The facts are that we would suffer indefinitely for years without achieving freedom.

"I, as an elected leader, cannot prescribe this for you unless you yourselves tell me that this is what you yourselves want.

"Do they speak on your behalf? Do they represent you when they speak? Please tell the world what the answers to these questions are."

Reply: "NO, THEY DO NOT REPRESENT US."



Black demonstrators at Jan Smuts Airport, Johannesburg protesting at Archbishop Desmond Tutu's arrival after a month-long trip to the United States where he called for increased sanctions and disinvestment. They said Archbishop Tutu's title afforded him a wide audience of "ill-informed Americans who labour under the misconception that Tutu has the support of the majority of South Africans in his call for yet further punitive sanctions."

THE MEETING PASSED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS:

We Black South Africans at this mass prayer meeting know that no power on earth can make us accept apartheid. We know that apartheid is doomed and we know that a final victory over apartheid can now be achieved if Blacks draw together in unity as the sons and daughters of Africa should draw together.

We therefore resolve:

- To appeal to all Black organisations to close ranks against the hideous injustice of apartheid and to develop a united Black national force capable of dealing the final blows necessary to eradicate apar-

theid forever.

- To appeal to every Christian leader in South Africa to consult with Blacks at a congregation and parish level and at the Synod level to ensure that statements they make on behalf of Black South Africa are representative of mass opinion and are not divisive.

- To reject Archbishop Tutu's appeal for economic sanctions against South Africa and call on him to consult with Blacks before he talks on their behalf.

- To reject the approaches of the delegation of church leaders led by Archbishop Hurley which includes leading dignitaries of the South

African Council of Churches which made representations to Sir Geoffrey Howe and is busy making further representations to West European governments to impose sanctions against South Africa.

- To inform the whole world that the Black masses in South Africa reject disinvestment as a strategy which they wish to support.

- To call on West European and North American Governments in particular to assist Black South Africans to maximise economic development in South Africa to ensure maximum possible growth of life-giving and life-saving employment opportunities.