
Zulu King speaks to the Nation

PLEA FOR PEACE AND UNITY

At a special convention "Imbizo" called by King Goodwill Zwelithini ka Bhekuzulu in Durban in November, the Zulu monarch invited the recently released ANC and PAC leaders to sit down with him and the Chief Minister of KwaZulu and President of Inkatha, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, to promote peace and reconciliation between black and black and between black and white in South Africa.

More than 75 000 people gathered at King's Park Stadium in Durban and unanimously applauded the King's call to his nation for peace and unity.

"Let us promote reconciliation between black and black and between black and white, as the time for negotiations draws nearer every day. If we are not reconciled now before liberation — I fear that we may have the terrible experience of black killing black going on even after liberation, such as we have seen in some countries in Southern Africa," he said.

"I put every Party political consideration aside when I say there shall now be black unity amongst my people. Anyone who wants to divide Zulu brother from Zulu brother, and Zulu sister from Zulu sister, husband from wife, parent from child and the modern generation from the older generation, shall henceforth be cursed amongst us. There will now be unity amongst the people . . ."

His Majesty King Goodwill Zwelithini ka Bhekuzulu, November 1989.

"It is heart-rending to me that this has already started in the areas of Natal/KwaZulu. As King of the Zulus, I call on all of us to commit ourselves to peace in the KwaZulu/Natal Region and in South Africa."

The King of the Zulu nation, which numbers seven million, asked all black leaders to hear his message and noted that his people were "spurned" when he was excluded from the public meeting held in the Transvaal to welcome the recently released political prisoners Mr Walter Sisulu, Mr Ahmed Kathrada, Mr Andrew Mlangeni, Mr Elias Motsoaledi, Mr Raymond Mhlaba, Mr Wilton Mkwayi, Mr Oscar Mpetha and Mr Jafta Masemola.

"I know of no single person who has campaigned for the release of Dr Nelson Mandela and all the Rivonia Trialists more than my Uncle, the leader of Inkatha," he said.

"Dr Mandela has acknowledged this fact many times, even in letters, yet when his fellow prisoners are released not a word is uttered to acknowledge the campaign for their release waged so relentlessly for decades by the Chief Minister of KwaZulu . . . The Zulu nation was spurned by this rejection. I was spurned in this ignoring of who we are and how we can be powerful friends and how we can add to everything that anybody is doing for any just cause."



"The more unity there is amongst Zulus as Zulus, the more Zulus can do what Zulus now have to do to bring about national unity and the final liberation of South Africa . . . there must be unity which is not disrupted by ethnic barriers . . ." His Majesty the King of the Zulu nation.

"Let me pause my father's people to assure you that I understand many things. I understand that you are oppressed. I understand the anger which throbs in every true Zulu soul because we are an oppressed nation. I understand that South Africa is a great country and that in its greatness, there must be national unity between all blacks and that any compartmentalisation of blacks is wrong. I understand that there must be unity which is not disrupted by ethnic barriers . . ."

"I also understand that black unity and black strength to finally rid South Africa of oppression cannot be achieved by people snapping and snarling at each other as though they were some mangy dogs fighting over a bone or a bit of skin. I understand the nation as it now is because I understand history. I understand that the more unity there is amongst Zulus as Zulus, the more Zulus can do what Zulus now have to do to bring about national unity and the final liberation of South Africa . . ."

"I say let no man, no woman, no leader, no Party or even no nation on earth, be deluded. We the Zulu people of South Africa have always drawn together as a nation and we now do so again. From today onwards, we are again a people who have come together to fulfill our glorious role in the outworking of black power in the struggle for liberation . . ."

**HIS MAJESTY KING GOODWILL
ZWELITHINI KA BHEKUZULU —
Address to the Nation, King's Park
Stadium, Durban, November 19,
1989**

King Goodwill said he was now inviting all those released to sit down with him and Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi to talk about numerous issues.

"Let us now put black divisiveness aside. Let us go forth as the black oppressed to scale the very heights of achievement as we put together a united South Africa which apartheid has so attempted to keep divided," he stressed.

Soon after the King's address, former ANC Secretary-General, Mr Walter Sisulu, was reported as saying that talks between KwaZulu leaders and newly released ANC leaders would be "highly welcomed". He said he would discuss the King's call with his colleagues.

The King emphasised in his speech that he was "not a Party political king". No Party could ever own the Royal throne of KwaZulu.

"The throne stands aloof and independent and it stands above all Party politics. Let me ask this though. How can I not condemn divisiveness amongst my people? How can I not condemn black killing black amongst my people? How can I not say enough is enough and call the people to resist those who come into our midst to divide us? I must say No to divisions amongst my father's people and I will say No to whatever political force comes into the midst of my people to divide them . . ."

"I am not talking about Party politics. I am talking about the proud role that the Zulu nation must play in the unification of South Africa and in the total eradication of apartheid."

He added: "I say this, Zulus and all other South Africans present. Hear me. I say any organisation, and any political Party, which sets black brother against black brother in your midst is a black political party or black political organisation which must be thrust aside, spurned and trampled on if necessary.

"My people, let me say this to you. You are proud as a people because you were never crushed by white racism. You are proud as a people because you were never made party to your own subjugation. You are proud as a people because you were never

crushed in spirit even if you were conquered by armies and jailed by unjust laws. Why now, my father's people, must we stand aside and allow those who want to crush our dignity, trample our Zulu identity under foot and laugh at our Zuluness to succeed?

"There has been just too much mud-slinging in black politics and the swearing by blacks at blacks which causes black to kill black must now stop. My uncle, the Chief Minister and President of Inkatha, quite correctly calls for an end to killing talk."

"The King said he endorsed "wholeheartedly" the view that the Prince of KwaPhindangene, Dr Buthelezi, had expressed so frequently that reconciliation must be established now in the process of bringing about change.

"If we do not become reconciled now we must know that it will be a lot more difficult to become reconciled after apartheid has been eradicated," he said.

In the "great and important missions" that history had always allotted to the Zulu people, there had never been any Party politics.

"When we act as a people, we act as South Africans. When we act as a people, we act beyond Party politics. Party politics must not destroy our unity. Anybody who sets black brother against black brother is un-Zulu. They are destructive. They undermine Zulu strength. They undermine Zulu dignity and they interfere with the historic role that Zulus are playing and will continue to play."

The King said there was "nothing wrong" with a people with their own identity, having their own region in which that identity was forged by history.

"Let me say there will be no major change in South Africa which we as Zulus do not support. There can be no successful negotiations with the South African Government by any black group if they try to ride roughshod over us as a Zulu nation. The South African Government with all its might will not be able to translate any agreement with any black group in South Africa into action if the action rides roughshod over us as a Zulu people. The Government cannot move forward without us.

"There has been an ever-increasing attack against us as Zulus in more recent years. Let me say I despise those who attack us. KwaZulu, as it now is, is only a fragment of what our Zulu kingdom used to be. It is, however, ours. It is no creation of Pretoria and every hill has seen the march of Zulu feet.

Every part of what is now KwaZulu — and a great deal more — was in one way or another involved in the emergence of the Zulu people out of history itself. We the people of KwaZulu say the area known as KwaZulu is ours by traditional right and by inheritance. We are not ashamed of who we are. We are not ashamed of our history. We are not ashamed of the warrior blood that courses in our veins . . ."

" . . . Because we live and struggle in KwaZulu, we are sworn at when the word "Bantustan" is used to talk about the land which is so precious to our souls. Do you ever pause to think that of all the so-called 'Homelands' in South Africa, it is only KwaZulu which is a remnant of what was once a sovereign state. We are attacked when we do what we can do and what has to be done to keep body and soul together in this region of South Africa which is the region of our origin. When we struggle to keep our Zulu decision-making in the hands of Zulus, we are attacked by those who despise our culture and want to see it rot on history's rubbish heap . . ."

HIS MAJESTY KING GOODWILL ZWELITHINI KA BHEKUZULU —
Address to the Nation, King's Park Stadium, Durban, November 19, 1989



His Majesty King Goodwill Zwelithini and Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi greet the audience of more than 75 000 at King's Park Stadium in Durban.

"I say let no man, no woman, no leader, no Party or even no nation on earth, be deluded. We the Zulu people of South Africa have always been drawn together as a nation and we now do so again. From today onwards, we are again a people who have come together to fulfill our glorious role in the outworking of black power in the struggle for liberation."

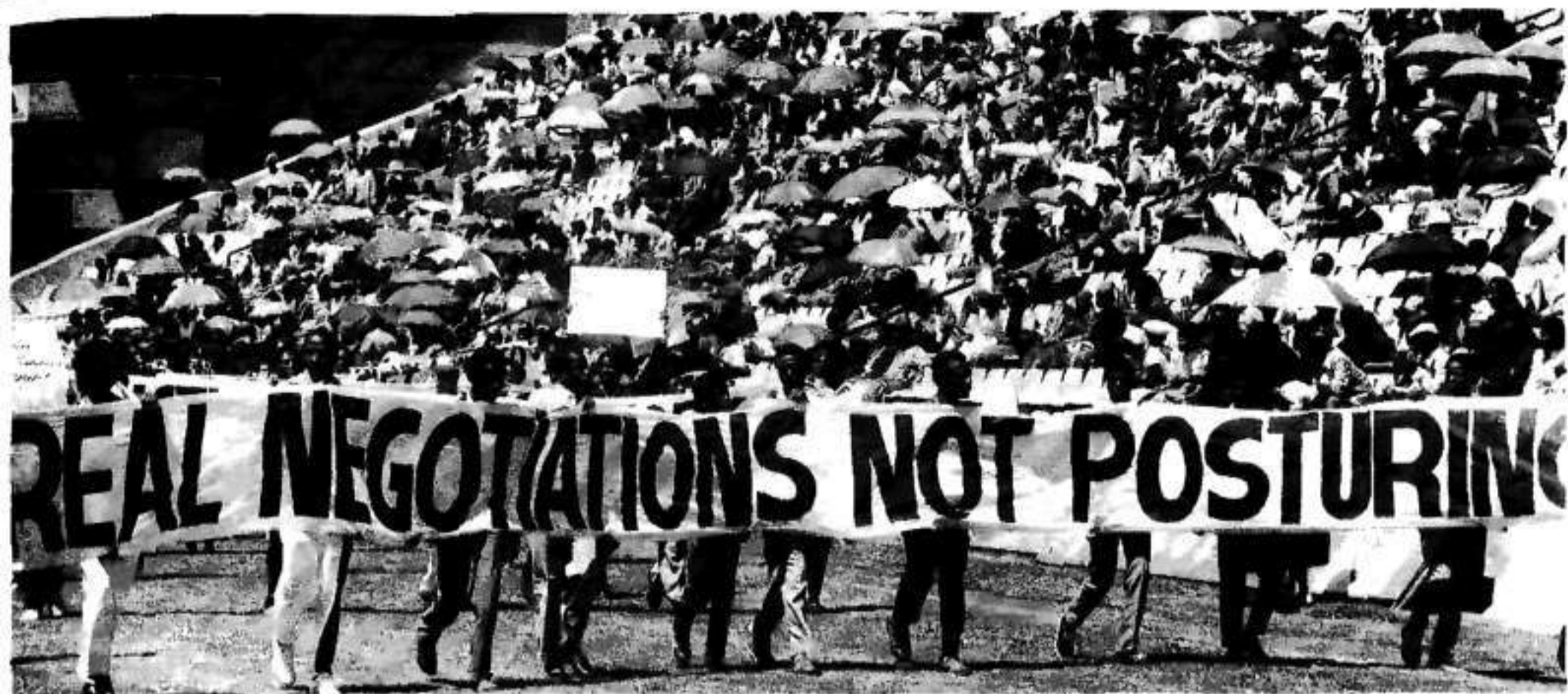
"Let me give you the total assurance that it is not only the Government which cannot proceed without us. No revolution could succeed without us. We are a people thrust into South Africa by history, moulded into a nation by history, forged into a powerful force by history, made a building block of a new South Africa by history."



Part of the huge crowd that gathered to hear the King address the nation.



"The Royal family will continue to deepen its concern about black unity in general . . ."



"MEASURE ALL POLITICAL PARTIES AND ALL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AGAINST THE CRITERIA OF WHETHER THEY UNITE ZULUS OR DIVIDE ZULUS FROM EACH OTHER. DON'T ASK WHAT OTHER PEOPLE SAY. ASK WHAT YOU IN YOUR OWN HEARTS ACTUALLY KNOW . . ."

PUT SOUTH AFRICA FIRST

"His Majesty has talked outside of Party politics because there is such an urgent need to put the good of the State now before the good of the Party. I join His Majesty outside of Party politics to make a serious appeal for the cessation of all black-on-black confrontations leading to violence . . . the conflict between ANC/UDF/COSATU on the one hand and Inkatha on the other hand must be contained.

"Let all sides add to whatever we say that we put the good of the State first, that we put the struggle for a just society first and that we will do everything in our power as leaders and as organisations to discover the things that we have in common and pursue them together.

"I have always called for national unity on the basis of the general acceptance of the principle of accepting the need for a multi-strategy approach. Clocks have turned; time has marched on and there is now a great re-shaping taking place in the whole of

Southern Africa. It is now hideously wrong — in fact treacherously wrong — for black to continue killing black because there are political differences between them.

"I appeal to the ANC/UDF/COSATU to drop all wars of words that lead to wars of death. We must stop the talk that precedes killing. We must stop the decimation of black power to change South Africa. We must stop destroying black power capable of bringing about a just society . . .

"The preparation of the youth for war makes them soft for peace. Hear me when I say this. Let every educator, whether it is at a school, at a college, or at a university, become part of a vast effort to make our new generation strong enough to maintain peace. Do not weaken them by preparing them for war . . .

"And then there is the extreme urgency in the need to prepare ourselves for participation in the politics of negotiation . . . There will be no one-off national conference that will solve all South

Africa's problems. This country's problems will have to be solved by a process. There can be no process which is not a process rooted in the people. We need national unity because that process must get underway among the people of South Africa — the people of all race groups in the country . . .

"Our highest priority is to get rid of apartheid once and for all — get rid of it in part and in whole. All history now wants to culminate in the removal of apartheid and the establishment of a just society in South Africa. I appeal to every one of you today to walk with history to enter the new era of a non-racial democracy in South Africa. Let there now be a massive movement amongst all South Africans to bring about a fair and just society . . ."

DR MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI, CHIEF MINISTER OF KWAZULU AND PRESIDENT OF INKATHA, IN HIS VOTE OF THANKS TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE ZULUS.