

INKATHA AND THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

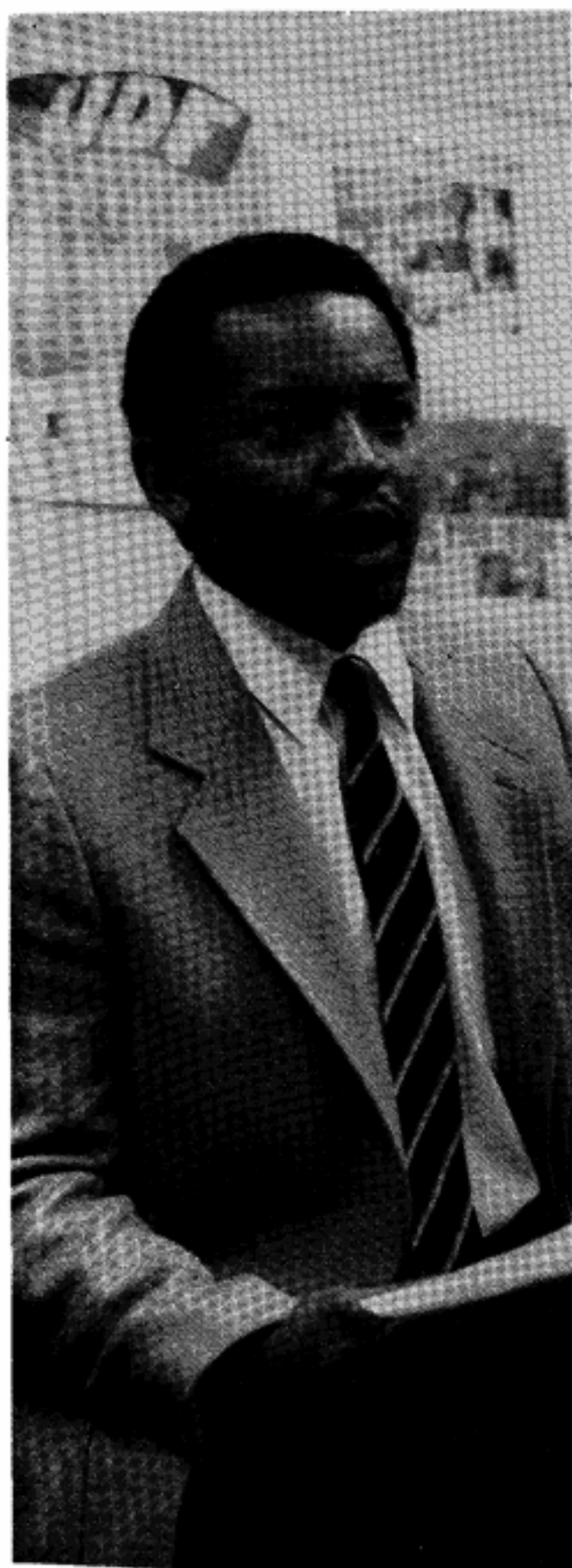
When Inkatha was formed in 1975, it was clear that the external mission of the ANC entertained hopes that it could use Inkatha as a surrogate liberation movement inside South Africa which would employ its massive organisational network to advance the ANC version of liberation struggle.

While these hopes were still entertained the leadership of the ANC always received Chief Buthelezi as a hero during his overseas visits, and no ANC publications were allowed to vilify him and call him a "sell-out", "a puppet" or "stooge" as is the case today.

This attitude of the ANC reached its climax in 1979 when Mr Tambo and the ANC Executive Committee invited Chief Buthelezi and other top Inkatha officials to London for mutual discussions.

It was this meeting in London that finally exploded the myth that Inkatha could be used as some kind of internal wing of the External Mission of the ANC. Clearly, the ANC had totally underestimated Inkatha's policy of self-reliance and its determination to maintain its political independence and be nobody's political bag carrier. Inkatha is not prepared to accept that the external mission of the ANC is entitled to claim the status of a self-appointed sole and authentic political representative of Black South Africans.

Black people themselves have a sovereign right to democratically decide in a free and fair election who their authentic representatives are and anybody who tries to usurp this people's right is acting undemocratically. **Dr OD Dhlomo.**



IS THE ANC BACKING THE UDF?

The Secretary-General, Dr OD Dhlomo, gives his views on the UDF;

The External Mission of the ANC has continued its desperate search for an internally-based surrogate movement that would play that role that Inkatha vehemently refused to play in 1979.

Some political observers believe that the external mission has now found that movement in the United Democratic Front.

This view is further strengthened by the fact that most senior officials and patrons of the UDF are former ANC members and also that the ANC has gone out of its way to lend full international diplomatic support to the UDF.

The UDF spokesmen have, however, denied the existence of any links between their movement and the External Mission of the ANC.

However the association that binds the affiliates of the UDF is too weak to be meaningful.

The movement itself does not appear to have a clearly defined long-term political programme other than its stated opposition to the Koornhof Bills and the new constitution (which is already law).

Also the movement is manifestly weak at the grassroots level from where the real struggle is normally waged. Many of its affiliates do not even subscribe to the Freedom Charter.

It is doubtful that the UDF will ever achieve the necessary internal discipline and cohesion that the liberation struggle demands.

Picture left: Mr Terror Lekota, UDF Publicity Secretary.