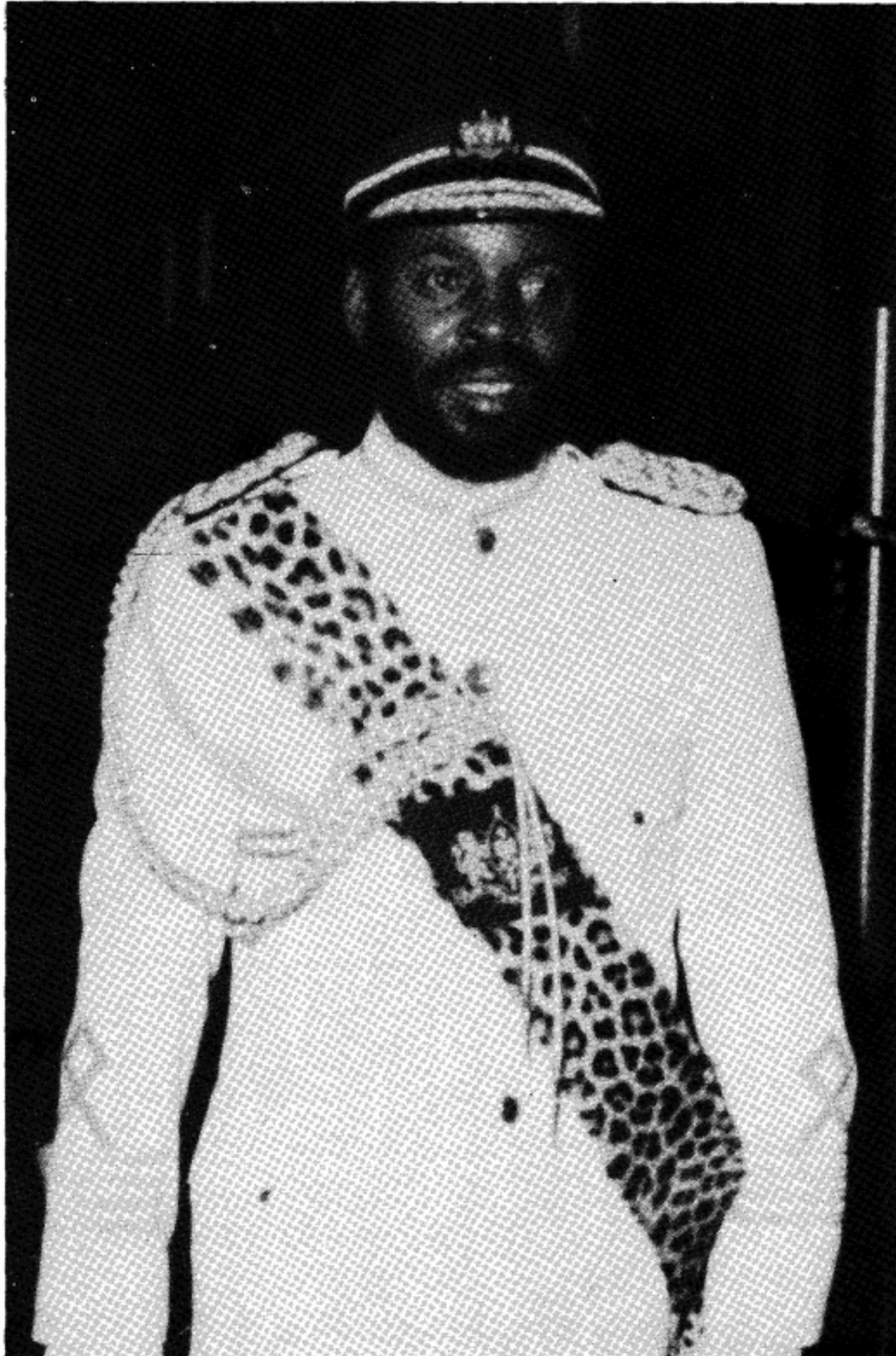


THE CHALLENGES OF A KING

Excerpts of an address delivered by His Majesty King Zwelithini Goodwill ka Bhekuzulu, King of the Zulus, at the International Human Unity Conference -- Boston, Massachusetts, July 22.



"I came to participate in this conference as the descendent and successor of the founding Kings of the Zulu nation...."

"The inclusion of the Zulu Kingdom and other Black Kingdoms in South Africa took place with none of the Black people of the country being consulted."

"The foundations of the policies which are known by the name of 'apartheid' which have made our country the polecat of the world were laid by the British Imperial Forces. What was then called segregation is now called apartheid."

"My country is regarded as one which is struggling more than any other to achieve human unity. Race and skin colour have been made determinants by policy-makers in South Africa."

"Policies of successive White Governments of my country ever since the Act of Union have treated men and women of colour as being less human than Whites. South Africa and all its people need this 'Healing of Nations' more than most nations in the world."

"It is all too easy these days to explain away moral degeneration and man's brutal inhumanity to man when individuals confront individuals, groups confront groups, and nations confront nations. It is all too easy to deny the need for individual, group and national moral responsibility."

"Man was created with the ability to distinguish between right and wrong which cannot be distinguished by using a microscope, and which cannot be calculated scientifically."

"It is tragic that this fact is not sufficiently recognised. It is tragic that man's moral responsibility has been downgraded in the analysis of where we are, what we are at, and where we are going....."

"Black South Africa has to generate the kind of internal forces which will transform the country into an open, free, and democratic society."

"It is Black opposition to oppression and it is the Black demand to be able to rise to the full stature which God intended for all mankind which will forge the primary forces capable of generating a new South Africa."

"This is not a racist statement it is simply a recognition that our suffering will have to generate the wisdom

which is so lacking in White South Africa. We thank God that he moulded suffering as a vehicle for wisdom."

"As Black South Africa responds to inhuman oppression we have not only to generate a power sufficient to bring about change but we have to generate the kind of power which will be transformational and not destructive."

"It is our responsibility not only to mount the forces which will win a long and gruelling struggle for liberation but we have to make sure that we also generate the wisdom and the high record for the humanity in man which the White rulers of the country have so long lacked."

"Politics in South Africa is not the genteel choice between one policy or another; it is a blood and guts thing about life and death issues."

"It is politics in a polarised society, it is politics in a society torn apart by racial fears and antagonisms which fear generates."

"Politics in South Africa releases violent emotions and generates powerful forces and attempts are constantly being made to turn the politics of anger into the politics of violence...."

"As a King of a conquered and subjugated people who are constitutionally rejected and deprived socially, economically and politically, I face very particular problems. I suffer with my people, their aches are my aches, and their tears are my tears."

"As difficult as it is to fulfil the demands of my Kingship I would far sooner die than abdicate. I have seen the politics of anger around me work towards dehumanising Black people."

"I have seen people around me pushed beyond human endurance and leave the country to seek training in the field of killing efficiently. I have also seen people around me seeking training in killing who themselves have not been pushed beyond their limits of courage and endurance. I see people around me broken in body and spirit by the terrible burden of poverty, ignorance and disease...."

"Above all other things I know my role is to be with my people and symbolise their unity in my person, and to instil in them both a belief in the future and the courage to struggle through these dark days before liberation."

"The richness of a future South Africa is not going to be assured by White benevolence and a White change of heart. The richness of the future will be

the interweave of the best in Black society and the best in White society."

"As King, ensuring the quality of the Black weave in that future tapestry of human satisfaction is very dear to my heart. Somehow I must find ever increasingly effective ways of preserving my people and of ever increasingly effective ways of encouraging their values."

"It would be far easier for me to resort to participation in the politics of anger, and it would be far easier for me to give vent to my frustrations as a Black King of a subjugated people than it is to accept the role that history has thrust on me."

"If we Blacks lose our humanity, the victory which will be ours sooner or later, will be an empty victory....."

"I have a personal purpose in the life of my people and the purpose I serve can simply not be served by politicians. Kings through the ages in many parts of the world have had to meet the challenges of changing times and this is in fact what my people expect me to do."

"When I look at my people I marvel at their humanity. Even if some have resorted to violence, the vast majority of them remain deeply committed to a non-violent struggle and they remain committed to non-violence as democrats seeking to establish a race-free society in which there will be equality of opportunity for all."

"We have experienced racist terrorism in the guise of Christian administration. We know what it is like to be on the receiving end of a vast array of dehumanising forces...."

"I must necessarily stand aloof from politics. The Western world continues to be witness to those who ridicule my Kingdom and attach to it the dirty White racist appellation 'Bantustan.'"

"However, my Kingdom is an arena in which more is at stake than people that use such words could ever understand."

"I must pursue my personal purpose as a King whatever White politics has done to demean Black society. I must rise above my people to stretch out my arms across the spans of time which the Zulu Kingdom has encompassed."

"And I must glean from those spans of time the wisdom that my people need. For all those forces in the West which strive to uphold decency there is something to do in my Kingdom."

"There is a noble struggle to join there and there are issues to be faced which all mankind needs to face."