

INKATHA AND VIOLENCE

The conference applauded Chief Buthelezi when he pointed out: 'I think it is important for every member of Inkatha to realise that violent confrontations, of whatever nature, do a great disservice to the struggle for liberation....'

He added many of Inkatha's members felt the movement was often 'apologetic' in its stance and leaned 'too far over backwards' to be inoffensive. The thought was again and again conveyed that what Inkatha was doing was defensible and should be defended.

Inkatha would from now on insist on its right to do what it was doing and would not be 'lily livered.'

Inkatha was committed to non-violence and avoided violence wherever it was possible to do so.

The Chief said he was 'saddened' by the provocation on the part of the UDF and its affiliates. 'They are virtually flirting with death itself,' he said.

Inkatha members would have to spread the message that the movement would continue to be goaded by people working for the cause of black disunity.

He illustrated his point by adding: 'If you remember the tragedy of the University of Zululand last October (when deaths occurred after a clash between students and, it is alleged, members of Inkatha) you will understand exactly

what I mean.

'Some of the students are agents of the National Intelligence Service who wish to divert the attention of Black people from their struggle for liberation and instead to engage them in Black on Black confrontations.

'I have information from some of our brothers in exile on some of the student leaders at the University of Zululand. That is why I say even if we face so much provocation, and have to act to defend our lives and our honour, we have to do so with great restraint owing to the extent to which some of these 'agents provocateurs' are in the pockets of our political enemies who oppress us.'

APARTHEID AND CULTURAL VALUES



Picture by Mark Peters

The vital importance of cultural values was stressed by Chief Buthelezi who said: 'Apartheid drums up the spectre of tribal clashes.....'

'The bosses of apartheid tell the world that if they did not separate us into separate homelands, we would be at each other's throats. The bosses of apartheid inform us that apartheid is good for us and stops us from ripping each other apart.

'We know just how twisted and distorted these assertions are. Cultural values guard against our dehumanisation.

'I will go so far as to say that the extent to which we are culturally divided is the extent to which we are politically divided.'

'We will remain divided unless we are healed by our own cultural values. The new Black South African is not a culturally colourless being.

'The new Black South African is a Black South African standing proud in his own culture, grasping the hands of others who also stand proud in their cultures. No two homes are ever really alike. The distinctiveness of one home does not make guests in that home feel alienated.

'The struggle for liberation in this country will be immensely enhanced if each cultural group in South Africa experiences a veritable cultural renaissance.

'White political unity was not achieved by dividing people culturally. Whites

sought and found a common South Africanism across cultural barriers.

'We black South Africans have cultures which have evolved over eons of time and which have never been used to the destruction of man. The guiding spirit of Ubuntu-Botho in my own culture is a guiding spirit in other Black cultures. In a very real sense it is a common denominator of our Blackness.

'I pursue the inculcation of cultural values because it is inherently good to do so and also because we need a veritable cultural renaissance in Black South Africa to give our struggle for liberation an invincible drive towards success.'