

BRAVE DIALOGUE ATTEMPT RUINED BY ROWDY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

A Cape Town University conference which should have brought together Inkatha, Black church and community leaders, the UDF, PFP, and the National Party for open discussion was recently wrecked by student protest.

Waving placards saying "We don't need no Gatsha" and "Gatsha is a killer", the students were, according to the convenor of the seminar, Prof HW van der Merwe of the Centre for Intergroup Studies, aggressive and excited.

"They were in no mood to allow anybody to speak," he said.

The final evening of the "workshop on conflict accommodation and conflict management in South Africa" had to be cancelled.

The irony of what happened was noted by Chief Buthelezi who was to have addressed the seminar on Inkatha's views on pragmatism in South African politics.

Others who were also denied a platform because of the students' action included Progressive Federal Party MP, Dr Alex Boraine, National Party MP Mr Wynand Malan and Soweto Community leader Dr Nthatho Motlana.

Immediately after the students forced the closure of the meeting Chief

Buthelezi said the incident was "another orchestrated incident in the dangerous battle the United Democratic Front is waging against Inkatha..."

At the time some commentators questioned Chief Buthelezi's assertion of UDF involvement.

A week or so after the incident, United Democratic Front supporters won a majority in the University of Cape Town's new Students Representative Council.

The first nine places went to candidates who campaigned on a UDF and Freedom Charter ticket.

In an editorial The Natal Mercury commented that Chief Buthelezi hardly needed it to defend him from the University of Cape Town "yahoos" whose behaviour prevented him from giving his address.

It went on: "What is of greater concern is the way in which some of those who are supposed to grace the groves of academe — and who incidentally are subsidised by the public to the tune of R24 000 each as they study for their degrees — react when they are confronted by someone who might actually differ from them..."

"... these are some of the people who trot out all the catch phrases and

cliches about academic freedom, democracy and liberty — as long as it's theirs..."



The protest that closed the conference.

ANSWERS TO THE KWAZULU "CONSOLIDATION" ISSUE

THE question of the "consolidation" of KwaZulu crops up from time to time and the UDF, in particular, has incorrectly alleged that it is going ahead.

Clarion Call reports that the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly passed a resolution at a special session (some time ago) stating that it would have nothing to do with the Government's plans for consolidation — whatever they were.

This resolution still stands.

Chief Minister is adamant that "... we will not have anything to do with the consolidation plans of the Government."

He said: "If they add any land to

KwaZulu it will be done without any negotiation with us..."

"Our people are short of land and on that basis we would not refuse any land given to us without any strings attached. But we will not let the land issue draw us to compromise our stand in any way.

"Nothing, absolutely nothing, will lure us into taking so-called independence. The government can put as much land bait on as many hooks as it likes but we in KwaZulu won't bite..."

Chief Buthelezi emphasised that his Government was totally opposed to any removals of people "... because in KwaZulu there can be no consolida-

tion into one geographic block..."

The Buthelezi Commission was set up for this reason and its finding clearly showed that Natal and KwaZulu were interdependent on all levels.

He said the SA Government had so far shown "extreme reluctance" to pass on farms that it had already bought for KwaZulu.

Some of these farms were now being leased to Whites.

"We believe that they do so in order to use these farms as a bait of sorts as far as acceptance of "independence" is concerned or in the hope that one day they may be able to use them as part of a deal with us.

"In the light of the extreme overcrowding and hunger in KwaZulu this is viewed by us as a further example of the insensitivity of the SA Government."