

# P W BOTHA'S CALL FOR ALL-RACE TALKS

*In signed full-page advertisements in South African newspapers, the State President, Mr P W Botha, has made a personal plea for talks with "all leaders who reject violence."*

**M**r Botha said the white electorate had given him an "overwhelming mandate" to negotiate with representatives of "our black communities and groups about our common future . . ."

The negotiations would not be a struggle for domination and power, he said.

"It will be an honest meeting of men of peace and goodwill — a meeting that must and will produce solutions to our problems.

"I say this with confidence because I am well aware of what the needs and desires of all our peoples are.

"I am also well aware of the specific questions for which we must find answers — questions about education, unemployment, housing, personal security and many more.

"But above all, the question of our political future must be answered.

"My government and I have the power, the will, the desire and the mandate to work out the answers to these questions with all leaders who reject violence.

"A few days ago in Parliament I stated that I will now personally become more involved in this search for peaceful answers.

"That is why I am now extending my hand of friendship to all South Africans of goodwill.

"Join me in talks and negotiations. We will find the

answers to our questions together."

The Chief Minister of KwaZulu and President of Inkatha, Dr M G Buthelezi, has responded in-depth and his views in this regard are expressed throughout this issue.

**M**eanwhile the Central Committee of Inkatha, which is essentially the national executive of the movement, has called on the Government to declare a moratorium on the introduction of Regional Services Councils (replacing Provincial Councils) — which have been set up without black consultation.

The Government must provide a "breathing space" for the politics of negotiation, the Central Committee noted in resolutions following a recent day-long meeting. (Central Committee meetings are held regularly.)

The committee "yet again" urged the State President to make a declaration of intent with black leaders to establish a common purpose for negotiations.

It further called for the release of Dr Nelson Mandela so that "black democratic forces could then mount their full strength in favour of negotiations."

In a preamble to the resolutions, the committee noted that there was recognition throughout the country that the present South African constitution and its Tricameral Parliament did not provide constitutional arrangements capable of surviving for any length of time.

The Central Committee expressed its "deep concern" that despite this the Government was elaborating

the idiom of the present constitution by developing the reconstituted Provincial administrative systems and going ahead with the Regional Services Councils.

This meant that national negotiations — which were going to get going only with great difficulty — would now "face the added burden of having more to undo each month that passes."

The committee said it was aware that history was poised to bring about change and that, once the process really started, it would move with "awesome rapidity" and that the pace of change would be beyond party-political control.

The Central Committee therefore resolved to call on the South African Government to state clearly where it was attempting to lead the country.

Dr Buthelezi told the Central Committee that he believed the release of Dr Mandela would put victory through revolutionary violence further out of sight than ever before.

Blacks now stood with whites at the South African crossroads.

He said that the ANC could not mount what it called a "people's war" without fanning violence among blacks.

All those involved in supporting the ANC in the pursuit of its kind of success were, whether they liked it said or not, working to further the cause of killing.

There has been a kind of totality to the left of Inkatha which had done everything possible to escalate violence and make the country ungovernable.

Dr Buthelezi said the ANC and those who worked with it had not heard him when he warned of the "extreme tactical stupidity" of attacking the SA Government where it was strongest — on the military level.