

COOPERATE OR ELSE!

"Negotiate with nobodies and you get nowhere ..."

The SA Government is determined to go ahead and negotiate with whomever it can about the future of South Africa and leave out leaders including Dr Buthelezi. This was revealed recently by Dr Buthelezi who said that a member of the ruling National Party had told one of his colleagues that the Government was determined to negotiate with those who were willing to negotiate and leave him (Buthelezi) out of these negotiations. The reason for this was that he insisted on the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners and that the Government believed he was "wasting time" with the KwaZulu/Natal Indaba. Dr Buthelezi made these remarks while addressing guests at the annual dinner of

the OFS-Goldfields Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Welkom in May. "The Government is prepared to leave me out of negotiations ... this is because I have stated that, if the Government is serious about negotiating, then the first thing they must do is clear the decks for this by unshackling Black democracy. "People like Dr Nelson Mandela and Mr Zeph Mothopeng must be released for real negotiations to take off. "It is not possible to talk meaningfully during a State of Emergency, when some leaders are detained. Therefore, if what this member of the ruling party stated is true, that I am to be left out, so be it. "I prefer to be left out of anything ... that just cannot take off in these circumstances."

Dr Buthelezi said he did not believe that there would be a successful revolution in South Africa but there would be no normality until properly representative talks started. "There are just no prospects of any dialogue at present," he said. "When we are invited to Pretoria or Cape Town for any talks, we are invited for a series of monologues where we are expected as Blacks to accept the prescriptions of the White man. "The attitude of the Government towards the KwaZulu/Natal Indaba proposals says it all. Their rejection of the proposals of the Buthelezi Commission was simply vulgar, as they rejected them without even reading them."

KWAZULU/NATAL INDABA

Grassroots democracy in progress

At another speech, to the Germiston Chamber of Commerce in May, Dr Buthelezi said the implementation of the KwaZulu/Natal Indaba proposals would bring enormous economic growth, leading to the creation of a second Witwatersrand in the area. In contrast, the State President's latest reform proposals would come to nought without the participation of credible Black leaders. "Negotiate with nobodies and you get nowhere," he said. Referring to the KwaZulu/Natal Indaba proposals, he said KwaZulu was the most densely populated part of South Africa. One of the reasons for convening the Indaba (for a democratic, non-racial, regional Government within South Africa in the area) was the central government's lack of progress. It was felt that it would be an advance if a framework was devised

for a settlement of constitutional problems for at least this area.

Unless employment was found for the people of KwaZulu/Natal, there would be a combination of poverty and unrest plus a wholesale migration to existing centres like the PWV and greater Durban, with immense attendant strains on society. Dr Buthelezi said that his extensive travels overseas and talks with leaders there had convinced him that, if the KwaZulu/Natal proposals were implemented, international money would pour into the area. Such a dispensation would be a great contrast with "the present obsessive centralisation of power." He hardly needed to remind leaders of commerce and industry of the negative cost-effectiveness of apartheid -- "a mushrooming of bureaucracies" all over the country. In KwaZulu/Natal there were no less than six education depart-

ments operating!

"The Indaba would build something in KwaZulu/Natal which would be the envy of the African Continent and the third world -- a logical second phase to what has already happened on the Witwatersrand," he added.

"It is quite possible that our sugar quota in the United States and elsewhere would be restored because sugar is a product coming almost exclusively from the KwaZulu/Natal region and this could be a reward for regional progress away from apartheid."

Market research had shown the Indaba proposals were overwhelmingly supported by those affected by them -- Nationalist voters included.

"Certain National Party MP's in Natal -- not necessarily elsewhere -- may not like it, but this is grassroots democracy in progress. You have not heard the last of the Indaba."

(The Indaba wishes to negotiate for a single legislative authority for all the peoples of the region. The Indaba document represents the acceptance of compromise proposals by the majority of 37 organisations represented. The proposals are a draft constitution for non-racial government in KwaZulu/Natal at second tier level. A Bill of Rights accepting the democratic principles of freedom, equality, justice, the Rule of Law and access to the law has also been accepted by the Indaba. Detailed information regarding the Indaba can be obtained from the Indaba offices: PO Box 2925, Durban 4000. Tel: (031) 304-1932 - Editor).

Dr Buthelezi said he tended to agree with the many political scientists who saw the pattern for a future Federal South Africa in a series of Indaba-type regional settlements across the entire country.