



Buthelezi se drie stellings

DIE politiek van assosiasie en momentum bou steeds op.

Dit beteken dat gemeenskaplike doelstellings blank, bruin en swart al hoe meer saambind. Dit sny weerskante toe: in die UDF kom al dié groepe saam om konfrontasie af te dwing, maar die ideaal van onderhandelings en konsensus trek ook alle kleurgroepe na mekaar toe.

'n Berig in vandag se Rapport bevestig hierdie saambinding rondom onderhandelings.

Die Buthelezi-verhaal is 'n sprekende voorbeeld.

'Most Whites agree with the essence of what Buthelezi is saying...'

Dr W. de Klerk

Responses to my letter are beginning to flow in and the love for my country is being justified by the kind of responses I am getting. Amongst others, I wrote to every member of the Tricameral Parliament we reject so vehemently. I wrote to Professors of all our universities, to our chambers of commerce and industry. I wrote to churches, to the Urban Foundation, to the Institute of Race Relations, to City Councillors and to businessmen. This letter has gone far and wide and even the Editor of the Afrikaans newspaper "Rapport" on the 19th May 1985, which is known to be a mouthpiece of the National Party, had this to say:

The politics of association is rapidly building up in momentum. This means that communal interests are increasingly uniting White, Black and Coloured people. This cuts both ways: in the UDF all these groups unite to force confrontation, but the ideal of negotiation and consensus also draws people of different colours together.

A report in today's "Rapport" substantiates disunity around negotiation.

The Buthelezi story is an eloquent example.

He — Chief Minister of the largest South African nation and leader of the influential Inkatha movement — has spoken to the State President (and other influential people) on a number of occasions. In an open letter to influential South Africans he made the point that we in South Africa must get together.

In a television programme on Thursday night he once again made his point. In essence he said:

- He is against violence and revolution as a political strategy. In the place of that negotiation is the only alternative.
- During the negotiations a compromise model will have to be found, because both a one-man-one-vote state and an apartheid state are equally impossible in South Africa.
- He can only officially enter negotiation once the Government has made a statement of intent on power-sharing with Black people.

Now a couple of questions. Are Buthelezi's three proposals isolated from the opinion of the mass of Black South Africans? No. In addition to the Zulus and Inkatha who stand firmly behind him, he also represents the large group of Black moderates of all ethnic origins. Identified Black leaders in national and independent states support his standpoint. Other elected leaders at local level support him. The silent majority — informed opinion suspects — will unite under the banner of his three proposals.

Is the White electorate willing to support his three propos-

als? Yes. "Rapport's" opinion poll (that has proved its accuracy over the years) says that 75.5 percent agree with the essence of what Buthelezi is saying.

Will the Government issue a statement of intent and in so doing draw Black support for co-operation and negotiation? This I cannot answer. The Government has, however, compromised itself enough in this direction. It has been said in almost as many words, as long as self-determination is not subjugated by communal determination.

Yet, a further clear indication from the Government that it is willing to put this matter firmly on the agenda will do no harm.

Naturally there will be people who are very unhappy with the course of events. These are the revolutionaries who will do all in their power to stop this initiative. Consequently industrial unrest and unrest in Black townships will continue to smoulder and break out.

There will also be people that will say that these proposals of Buthelezi's are not tame enough. They must know that these three proposals are the tamest that will ever be made by Black South Africans.

To associate with so-called sell-outs is a dangerous waste of time. But the Chief Minister of KwaZulu is no sell-out. He stands firm on his proposals and is consequent about his demands. Good for him: if he allows himself to be taken in tow by the Government, he will face increasing rejection from his own people.

Association does not mean bed-mates and back-scratching. It means putting standpoint against standpoint and hard negotiating to reach an acceptable compromise.

The less negotiable the Chief Minister makes his proposals, the greater his chance of success in negotiation. It is not only Whites with whom Buthelezi must associate. No, the most important is that he wins over a considerable body of Blacks to his position.

And to get that, he has to stand firm."