

An Alternative To Sanctions

The Path Of Peaceful Change

At a recent meeting in London with Britain's Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, both she and Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi agreed that change in South Africa was more likely to come about in an expanding economy and not through sanctions. Downing Street officials told *The Times* of London that Mrs Thatcher had emphasised her belief in the important role foreign companies could have in bringing down apartheid. Both leaders had agreed that the key to starting negotiations was the release of Dr Nelson Mandela and the suspension of violence. Andrew McEwen wrote in *The Times* that the Prime Minister's decision to meet Dr Buthelezi was a "pointed gesture, clearly meant to be contrasted with her refusal to meet Mr Tambo, President of the African National Congress, which she described last year as a terrorist organisation..." Mrs Thatcher, said *The Times*, had made it clear that she regarded Dr Buthelezi as the "leading voice of black moderation in South Africa" and the meeting had brought back into focus "the alternative path of peaceful change." In a memorandum to Mrs Thatcher, Dr Buthelezi said apartheid was

doomed and it was only a matter of time before it was dismantled. He expressed his "deep appreciation" to Mrs Thatcher for the quality of her international leadership on the South African issue and thanked her for her opposition to punitive economic sanctions. The battle lines were being drawn, he said, for what South Africa's antagonists hoped would be the final struggle to achieve

they were less clear - to the point of reticence - on a number of related issues. For example: ... How long would it take for the South African Government to be forced to capitulate or at least agree to a democratic power-sharing system? ... What were the consequences should the South African Government not relinquish control? In particular, what were the implications for the

"Mrs Thatcher has made it clear that she regards Chief Buthelezi as the leading voice of black moderation in South Africa... and argues that change is more likely to come about in an expanding economy. To destroy jobs in the search for freedom would be wrong and counter-productive."

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the total economic isolation of South Africa. While the exponents of this approach were perfectly clear about their aim of ridding the country of its present government.

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Britain's Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, greeting Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi at 10 Downing Street, London, on July 27.

country's economy and for the vast majority of the population who were economically vulnerable? The answer to the latter was that a situation would come into being far worse (in terms of human devastation) than anything ever caused by apartheid. The potential for conflict would increase dramatically - to the disadvantage of blacks. The country would be devastated economically, the worst possible setting for a non-apartheid society which might eventually

arise. He told Mrs Thatcher that people who championed sanctions often asked: "If not sanctions... what else?" This was a question to which there were answers which could not only influence opinion to a point where the disaster of the current course was averted, but could offer a course of alternative economic action aimed at bringing about a liberated and democratic South Africa.

