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"Mr Mandela's voice from prison needs to be a strident voice. The people serving life sentences for political convictions do not normally talk with the voice of quiet moderation.

"We must also understand that it is the State President who set this ball rolling. Instead of heeding the advice of leaders who really know what they are talking about, the State President chose to make it diplomatically very difficult for Nelson Mandela...

"It was the State President who attached conditions to the release of Mr Mandela ... and it was not very brilliant of him to do so.

"In idiom, this made Mr Mandela consider having to escape from prison through an act of public submission to apartheid. If I were in Nelson Mandela's position I would find it extremely difficult to meet the State President's requirements.

"The State President was playing to

conservative and right-wing White galleries when he made a conditional offer to Nelson Mandela".

These were the kind of perspectives, said Chief Buthelezi, within which one needed to look at the much publicised statements of Nelson Mandela.

Having refused to renounce violence and having backed up that position by going on to state that there was no room for a peaceful struggle, Mr Mandela would also "necessarily" also reject the notion of a National Convention, Chief Buthelezi emphasised.

"National Convention go hand in hand with non-violent, democratic struggles. There is sometimes confusion about this...

"The Lancaster House talks did not amount to a National Convention. In these talks, parties at war decided to meet with each other because no one could win.

"Mr Mugabe would have had no reason to go to Lancaster House if he was at the very point of a military take-

over of Zimbabwe. A stalemate had developed and what ensued was not a National Convention".

A National Convention was a "people's thing" and it was a place where people's representatives went. It was a place where all voices were heard and where those who sought the politics of national reconciliation met to sink their differences.

Chief Buthelezi said he had always called for a National Convention and would continue to do so.

"I am calling for one in which my brothers and sisters in the ANC and PAC Missions-in Exile are as free to attend as I am.

"That freedom is not divisible. If some leaders and some political groups elect not to participate in deliberations at a National Convention, they must be granted the freedom to stay outside the negotiations.

"If, however, we make it impossible for any group to attend, then we strip the concept of a National Convention of its real meaning."

Govt. must be bold — Solarz

Chief M G Buthelezi told US Congressman Stephen Solarz that apartheid would be eradicated — he was not concerned that it would survive.

What did concern him was the nature of the society South Africa would end up with once apartheid had gone.

Mr Solarz has introduced a Bill in the United States Congress aimed at sanctions against South Africa.

He visited South Africa recently and had a series of meetings with a wide range of leaders and spokesmen of various organisations.

In an interview with the Weekly Mail he said: "I think the real problems now have to do with the pace of change and the willingness on the part of the government to enter into a genuine dialogue with the legitimate Black leadership..."

"I think that with each passing day the prospects for a constructive accommodation between Black and White will become more difficult.

"But if the government can seize the initiative and be bold enough to move quickly, I think there is still a very real possibility that a formula will be found."

Mr Solarz according to the Weekly Mail, "made it clear" that he did not support disinvestment.

He had, he said, opposed this in Congress in favour of the Bill that opted for limited sanctions against South Africa.

However, he added that in the absence of "real progress towards the elimination of apartheid", his country would move towards sanctions over the next few years.

He also told the Weekly Mail that if the "right steps" were taken, he would reconsider his views on sanctions.

"I think there are a lot of people who think there is nothing



US Congressman Stephen Solarz and Chief M G Buthelezi after their meeting in Durban

that South Africa can do that will ever satisfy members of the legislature like myself. That is flatly untrue," he was quoted as saying.

Moves such as the release of political prisoners and an agreement to negotiate with recognised leaders, the repeal of the Group Areas Act and influx control or an acceptance of a common citizenship for all would be significant enough to bring a rethink on sanctions.

In his meeting with Mr Solarz, Chief Buthelezi said he appreciated the rising tide of American indignation.

However, disinvestment was non-issue.

"We think it is important to conduct our struggle in such a way that it won't destroy foundations for the future," he added.