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EXCERPTS FROM LONG INTERVIEW GIVEN BY
PRESIDENT O.R. TAMBO TO ASSOCIATED PRESS
CORRESPONDENT MR NICKY HANKS ON 7TH JUNE
1980 IN LUSAKA.

..... But what Percy Qoboza and Motlana are doing now, could in way be detrimental to the interests of our people.

Question: Does the same hold true for a man like Gatsha Buthelezi who is the Minister of another Bantustan-to-be?

Answer: Now, Gatsha Buthelezi: if one takes into account his recent statements, they run counter to the positions of the ANC. First of all, the national leaders of our people are in jail for life, and the masses in our country call for their release in a most impressive manner, showing great unity behind this very just demand - a demand that is in the interests of all the people of South Africa. To fail to support or to refrain from supporting that, and to oppose it in any way, is contrary to the interests of the people of South Africa, especially the oppressed, and runs in a direction diametrically opposed to that of the ANC. That's one thing.

Then you have the school boycotts. Children who are coming out of the classrooms, propelled by grievances every parent has known for generations, draw attention to this iniquity which is peculiar to S.A.; to send stick-wielding men at these children, driving them back to the classroom by force, and being a party to their repression, in the course of which some are killed - to appear in this offensive alliance with the South African police cannot be in the interest of our liberation; because the South African police are not trying to liberate us; they are doing nothing to improve the quality of our education.

To take another instance: there is malnutrition in our country. There are hardly any doctors. There is no food for children. There is starvation. Statistics show these facts. Then someone wants to increase the busfares, wants to confound this poverty. People are perfectly

entitled to resist that. Again, to stand on the side of their repression, to take positions which favour their exploitation is, to say the least, not in the interests of the exploited and the poor, the hungry, the starved.

There is a whole list of positions in which Gatsha Buthelezi now seems to be inextricably rivetted in alliance with the fascist regime. From that point of view therefore if Qoboza or Motlana with their activities are advancing our cause, contributing to the liberation of our people, the same cannot be said of Gatsha Buthelezi.

We have said about Gatsha Buthelezi that his opposition to the Bantustan programme and the tactics employed to prevent this programme maturing in the sense of these regions becoming so called independent Bantustans - that was commendable. But those who are at the head of our people in these Bantustans should at least use their positions to advance, not to destroy, the struggle. To oppose armed struggle, which has brought liberation all around our borders, is to engage in attempts to perpetuate the domination of the majority by the minority.

Some of our people benefit from this system and can be expected to defend it. Indeed, some are being promoted to positions in which they personally benefit. So they turn against the majority and join the minority. The "Coloured" people and the "Indian" people are being enticed to do this, and they are refusing.

But those who oppose the armed struggle are opposing our liberation. They seek to perpetuate our enslavement. The least we expect of people in positions in which they may be vulnerable is that they allow or let the people go into the struggle. They can stay out and keep quiet, and leave it to the racists, fascists and the oppressors to engage in acts of repression. They should leave it to the South African police to kill the children. No Black man should join them. Let the South African army face the armed guerillas. No African should assist the oppressor and the repressor. And yet some will. Some did in Mozambique, some did in Angola, there were those in Zambia who stood firm with the Federation and so on. And their armies fought on the side of Smith's. It will be the same with us.

What I am saying is: at the moment our people are united in their support of armed struggle; they are united in their support of the struggle against Bantu Education and inferior education; they are united in their support of the strikers who go out to demand better conditions of work - higher wages. No matter who opposes they are united in their determination to liberate their own country, and rule their country as fellow citizens of it, Black and White.

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