

First World Anti-Apartheid Newsletter

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Is deKlerk Dismantling Apartheid or Dismantling the Movement?

A Commentary

by Oscar Beard, Consultant in African Studies

One would rather think that the white racist fascist regime of South Africa might be tired of messing with The Mandela Family by now. But this does not appear to be the case. An all white court, i.e. white judge and white lawyers, sentenced Winnie Mandela to serve six years in prison for her supposed role in the death of a youth on her soccer team, a team which, a little over a year ago the international media had openly admitted was infiltrated by the South African Police.

Winnie could not have the benefit of a trial by jury, since juries were abolished by South Africa in 1969. At any rate, the jury would have been all white ("law" prior to 1969) and the verdict would have been the same. Winnie could not be tried by a jury of her peers. The white male writes the "law" in South Africa, and is its sole deliverer. If deKlerk, in his "omniscient benevolence" should so see fit to eventually pardon Winnie, that will be yet another ray on his already glimmering halo of white liberal facade. This will be sure to make even more "bucks" for South Africa.

One very important aspect of all of this, is that South Africa is an illegal "government". Unless, of course, one is simply of the viewpoint that they have a right to rule because they are white? But, how can a "government" that commits genocide against its people, rightfully judge? -Especially, since the Winnie affair has clearly been a political frame-up.

Our respected and proven African scholars have repeatedly warned us of our fatal flaws. Chancellor Williams in his, *The Destruction of Black Civilization*, Third World Press, Chicago, Illinois, 1987 and Cheikh Anta Diop in his "Two Cradle Thesis", have cautioned us against our gullibility as descendents of tropical and semi-tropical societies. They laid out, for our benefit, the mind-set of Indo-European-Asiatic whites. Ali Mazrui, *The Africans*, has explained that whites are pre-meditated pre-planners and that we have a "winter gap" where we never had to pre-plan for the winter. Yo, you know it, we tend to be laid back! Francis Welsing has documented the comparative psychological modes of whites and blacks, and has told us that its genetic, not Booker T. Washington's caste-down-your-bucket education/work ethic, DuBois' talented tenth" not Kingsian "civil rights". The 1990 Civil Rights Bill was defeated! Black Panther Militiaman Micheal McGhee has recently been on national television telling us that it isn't even Black Economics!

Nelson Mandela's release in February of 1990 was our greatest joy! It was virtually unreal seeing Nelson and Winnie parade down the streets of the USA, hand-in-hand. But, most of us gave the credit for Nelson's release to deKlerk! So now, we are having difficulty hearing that nothing has changed in South Africa, because we are consciously or unconsciously caught up in the white male's glowing moment of history. This is most likely because we

are afraid to face up to the true magnitude and ferociousness of what we really feel toward people, i.e. because it too overwhelming, so it becomes easier to rationalize and say, "There ARE some good white people!"

A correct thinking African or black person should formulate the Mandela release as follows: *IF WHITE PEOPLE HAVEN'T RELEASED NELSON MANDELA IN TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS, THEN WHY ARE THEY RELEASING HIM NOW, UNLESS THERE IS SOMETHING THEY ARE GETTING OUT OF IT FOR THEMSELVES!?*

In fact, the very first issue of First World Anti-Apartheid Newsletter, Jan/Feb 1990, discussed, in some length what whites were getting out of Mandela's release. The fact is that as little enforced and as looped as international sanctions have been since two Nobel Peace Prize winners, Dr. Martin Luther King and Albert Lutuli (ANC) jointly called for them in 1961, sanctions had finally begun to take their toll on South Africa's economy. South Africa had reported negative growth rates for 1988, 1987 and 1986. The European Economic Community had ended \$800 million worth of business with South Africa in the wave of public and international protest leading to sanction of 1986. The EEC, of course, has just reinstated that business since deKlerk has convinced us that everything is either OK in South Africa, or will be OK. This pattern of dismantling sanctions against itself is precisely what South Africa had in mind, by releasing Mandela and others and by announcing certain so-called "reforms". It was a perfect marriage. The international community was literally waiting for any excuse to renew business with South Africa, and to again get those bargain basement prices for raw materials based upon the subjugation of blacks, i.e. cheap black labor by forced "contract". On the other hand, South Africa was eager to renew business because its economy is 60% dependent upon its international trade. Since it has become customary to think of just black African nations as "dependent", we were not able to make the conceptual connection between South Africa's economic dependency and, on the other hand, its motives for releasing Mandela.

The spectacle of Nelson and Winnie walking proudly out of prison hand-in-hand in February of 1990, was too much black unity for the white supremacy system to withstand. Almost invariably, the black woman was destroyed off the throne of Ancient Kemet's colossal stone statues. The patrilinealism of Indo-European-Asiatic whites could not and cannot permit the black man and the black woman to share the throne. The male colossals that were permitted to stand or that could not be destroyed, often had their noses or lips blown off, in order to cover up their Africanity. In our black male-centeredness of today, we may forget that we are all under attack, and may view that attack upon the black woman as

somewhat bizarre, and are probably wondering that maybe Winnie is really guilty, for why should they be so focused on a black woman?

The attack against Winnie was imminent upon Nelson's release, because the power of their unity, a beacon of black light to the world, stood to eclipse deKlerk's white liberal image facade. South Africa has its embassies at several key spots throughout the USA Africa, including Washington, DC, Houston Texas and Los Angeles, California. It is therefore able to monitor the US political climate. Personality assassination of political and religious figures in the US has been quite prominent in recent years, perhaps beginning with Watergate, in a post-Hoover (J. Edgar) era. South Africa, as such, realized the propensity of the US media and publics to focus on personalities. Through an assault on the personality and character of Winnie Mandela, South Africa sought to eclipse the prestige of newly released Nelson Mandela, if not to discredit the ANC itself. At any rate, the Mandelas could not be permitted to steal the show from deKlerk. The attack on Winnie was, at base, an attempt to focus international attention on the so-called "evil" of the oppressed class, a projective displacement away from the systematic and cardinal evil of Apartheid.

The Talks About the Talks

Mandela emerged from prison in February of 1990 in an excellent bargaining position with the South African regime. At least, it appeared to be the case at the time. South Africa's economy was relatively weak from the decades of clumsily "enforced" sanctions. The ANC, SWAPO and the London Anti-Apartheid Committee had just given some momentum for the first time, in June of 1989, to an international boycott against South African gold, from which South Africa generates 50% of its overall income. Even so, South Africa's international gold shares had increased 60% between deKlerk's allusions to Mandela's release in the Fall of 1989, and the actual release in February, 1990. Mandela himself had made certain statements about deKlerk's being "a man of integrity", but, presumably, to spur deKlerk on to continue to respond positively to the increasing pressures of the Anti-Apartheid Movement. The fact is that the matter of the release of political prisoners, the unbanning of political organizations, the integration of the beaches and other public, and the ending of The State of Emergency, are all matters that were forced onto deKlerk's agenda and into the international eye by the Mass Democratic Movement of the oppressed people of South Africa, who seized the time by initiating mass protest in the midst of South Africa's presidential elections in the Fall of 1989. South Africa had just lost the war in Southern Angola, regional aggressions against the frontline Southern African States aimed at containing the ANC, SWAPO, FRELIMO and the MPLA, that had been costing Botha \$2 million per day, a bill South Africa could no longer afford. Whites were now doing road work, and other details previously reserved for blacks only.

At any rate, the timing seemed right to attempt a negotiated path, South Africa's already having been forced to the negotiating table for the independence of neighboring Namibia, a "celebration" Mandela would attend himself in March of 1990.

So that, in a "good faith" in the apparent climate of negotiation, the ANC called off its armed struggle against South Africa in the Summer of 1990.

With What to Bargain?

The two key points of leverage of the oppressed people of South

Africa at a theoretical bargaining table with South Africa had been 1) the fact of the protracted armed struggle, and 2) the power/economic pressure of international sanctions. A third factor might be domestic unrest. But, over the years, South Africa has become astute at converting, even social chaos into a profit. By building upon a pre-existing international fears that the price of gold will go up due to social unrest, South Africa has been able, during periods of greater social upheaval, to get international customers to buy South African gold NOW at a lower price, rather than to wait to see if the price will rise. This is the Catch-22 for the buyer, because as more customers buy now at a lower price, the price of gold is pushed upwards anyway, due to the increase in demand for gold. This also tends to suggest that there is an economic incentive here for South Africa to maintain a certain level of social unrest, or at least, to cultivate periods of relatively greater social upheaval. Violating the Arms Embargo against South Africa, US companies have shipped more than twenty tons of shot guns, including sawed-off shotguns and bullets to South Africa in the past ten months (see The Africa Fund for full report). While Nelson and Winnie were parading the streets of the US, eight tons of shotguns left New York harbor for South Africa. These shipments have all gone to Capetown, South Africa. So that, now deKlerk is ready to ban so-called "traditional weapons" of Buthelezi's Inkatha Militia, because they won't need them anymore.

In a letter to deKlerk on April 9, 1991, Nelson Mandela stated, "There has been a startling increase in the use of automatic weapons, assault rifles and other firearms in Natal since September, 1990." Perhaps he needed to tell deKlerk something he didn't already know. The January 17, 1991 issue of The Washington Post states, "In November, reports surfaced of an attack by white extremists on black mine workers near Johannesburg. The white used a variety of weapons, including shotguns" (from "Are US Guns Ending Up in South Africa?", by Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta).

The armed struggle has been called off. International sanctions have effectively been dismantled through a propagation of deKlerk's/South Africa's reformist image. Yet, none of the so-called "pillars" of Apartheid deKlerk has "outlawed" have made any difference for the everyday life of the oppressed masses. This is because these laws were put into effect when South Africa was attempting to establish certain kinds of controls over the black majority. Now that control has been achieved, getting rid of the law is immaterial!

The hated Pass Laws were eradicated during Botha's administration. But, the new so-called I.D. card serves the same purpose, with a system of codes at the upper right side of the card which

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Oscar BeardPublisher
Virgistine LockettBusiness Manager

identifies race, ethnicity, employment status, etc., thanks to IBM technology. If you are scuffling just to eat and feed your family in Soweto, and busy either fighting or dodging Buthelezi's Inkatha with their US sawed-off shotguns with their South African Police and Military counterparts, you don't have time to go to the newly "integrated" beaches anyway, which are really quite a distance. The white cities control the coast. Black townships have been constructed at least some ten miles away from the white cities, in order to provide for spacious killing grounds in the event that the blacks should attack in mass.

deKlerk may change various Land Acts. But, in a white-controlled modern day slave economy, 98% of the blacks will not be able to buy land. They will need running water first. The scenario goes on and on, meaning that the South African white is not going to willingly concede anything that truthfully makes any difference in the balance-of-power.

South Africa's "Total Strategy" has involved the repeated bombing of the frontline newly independent African States in order to keep them from ever truly becoming self-sufficient. This has included training, supplying and fighting alongside counter-revolutionary forces in Angola and Mozambique. The courageous newly independent Frelimo Government of Mozambique, which defeated the Portuguese colonialists, has all but been brought to its knees by South Africa's Renamo, which the South African Special Forces participate in directly, and that includes African and non-African mercenaries. Mozambique, a rich country if it were permitted to extract its own resources and grow its own crops without attack, is presently existing 100% on international aid. It has been forced to negotiate with Renamo, South Africa having, early in its regional destabilization gotten Mozambique to sign the Nkomati Accords, by which they agreed not to house ANC guerillas. Due to its destabilization, Mozambique had not been able to establish its own electrical supply, and was dependent (by force and bombing) upon South Africa for light. South Africa had already pulled the socket, blacking out Mozambique, to prove its point.

The ANC's regional base has been systematically eliminated over the decades by South Africa's long range pre-planning. So that, even if the ANC were to attempt to return to armed struggle due to the failure of the so-called talks-about-the talks, it would appear to be a impractical move at this juncture. Namibia, though "independent", is still being run by the Nazis and Boers. Botswana is tired of being bombed. They just want hands off....no ANC.

Based upon the perceptions that South Africa would not meet the April 30, 1991 deadline for the release of some remaining 2700 political prisoners, Nelson Mandela appeared on international television, giving South Africa to May 9, 1991 to meet all prerequisites for the "talks". Well, deKlerk missed the new deadline too! Mandela was then to meet with the ANC to determine their reaction to deKlerk's snobbery, but couldn't make the meeting because he was tied up with his wife's court proceedings. According to a South Africa doctor recently spoke at the Southern Africa Study Group in Atlanta, Dr. Barry Kistnaswamy, "the thrust against Winnie had always designed to make Nelson less effective."

deKlerk has recently attempted to sift out even more clout for himself by shooting at some white farmers who set up a tin-roof shantytown on "their" (the white farmers) land. This was the first time in over thirty years that the South African Police had shot at the Boers. Many of us on this side of the globe were impressed. But, what deKlerk needed to do was to forcibly remove the Boers from the land, and give it back to the Africans. Instead, he was just jerking on another Public relations stunt.

In Conclusion

AntiApartheid Activist Tande Gcabashe states that black South Africa

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and anti-apartheid activists worldwide, need to face up point blankly to the fact that deKlerk has turned out to be more clever than we thought. "Our new beginning will be to admit this straightforwardly," she continued. Tande states that black South Africans who try to rationalize the April 30th deadline for the release of political prisoners by saying that, though not releasing prisoners, deKlerk has made an important "concession" by agreeing to end the hostel system of the so-called "Contract Labor System", are simply fooling themselves. The hope here is that by reuniting women and children in the reservations with their husbands/fathers near the townships, that men who presently live in hostels, working at various mines, etc., would be too busy caring for their children and wives to just get drunk on the weekends and kill ANC sympathizers. Tande states that should never been done to begin with, then we call it a concession. Mandela never should have been jailed to begin with; it is South Africa that is criminal! Releasing Mandela was not deKlerk's concession, but the result of our long decades of hard work in the Anti-

Apartheid Struggle.

The workers hostels are breeding grounds for tuberculosis, alcoholism, homosexuality, AIDS and hopelessness. They should never have been constructed. Families should never have been ripped apart and starved to death on plantations to begin with. At any rate, so far, undoing hostels is still just another talk, but will certainly be no concession at all! "Will deKlerk build respectable housing for these re-united African families?" Tande asks.

It seems that, once again, history may attest to the fact that the African doth trust the white man too much. Nor does the African pre-conceive of the depth of the white man's possibilities and tactics.

We need to face the **TRUTH**, and re-build the movement. The enemy now feels so very self-assured and pompous. Buthelezi ambled into Atlanta on June 17, 1991, MANDELA STYLE?

We are still calling for comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa, **NOW MORE THAN EVER BEFORE!**

Letters to the Editor

Oscar,

Your newsletter article dated Dec/Jan 1991 titled *Coping Strategies for the Afrocentric in an Eurocentric World* was just what I needed for positive, forward motion. Its great knowing I'm not alone and others understand.

The struggle goes on.

Robert L. Watley
Birmingham, AL

Dear Publisher,

Let me know how I can subscribe to the *First World Anti-Apartheid Newsletter* and also get back issues. It is very difficult getting information here in Dallas regarding what's going on in the continent.

Thank You,
Brother T

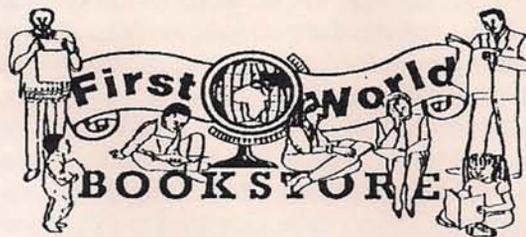
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From The Publisher:

First World Anti-Apartheid Newsletter extends its sincere thanks and gratitude to Atlanta's fine Mayor Maynard Jackson, SCLC's Joseph Lowery, Coretta King and The King Center for somehow being unavailable to receive Ngatsha Buthelezi on his recent ill-fated excursion into Atlanta. And with the progressive reporting of T.V. Channels 2 and 11 and major print medias Buthelezi most certainly got the message that he is not loved here in our progressive City of Atlanta. Only two people met Buthelezi at The Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport. He looked like The Lone Ranger at King's tomb.

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