

ECSA



EPISCOPAL CHURCH PEOPLE for a FREE SOUTHERN AFRICA

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18 August 1989

SOUTH AFRICA: The Tension Mounts...

The Defiance Campaign of the Mass Democratic Movement in South Africa continues this coming weekend with large rallies planned on the campus of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, in Cape Town and in other cities around the country. Sunday, 20 August, is the crucial day.

The Defiance Campaign has under its belt a successful action whereby black patients appeared at whites-only hospital seeking treatment. The Campaign will move on to other acts of non-violent civil disobedience against the apartheid system, its laws and applications. A 'swim-in' at whites-only beaches, entering whites-only restaurants, movies, other facilities. Leaders of the MDM who have been under Pretoria's restrictions are breaking their bannings and are speaking out and attending public meetings, actions exposing them to crackdown.

Pretoria's acting President P. W. De Klerk has warned sternly against such actions and now faces the prospect of slamming down with his security apparatus and thus causing international reverberations and enhancing efforts for total sanctions against the Pretoria regime; or of doing nothing, thus providing ammunition for those even to the right of him - the Conservative Party and others to claim he is 'soft' - with national white, Coloured and Indian elections three weeks away. There is every indication that the Mass Democratic Movement will not be stopped, whatever the crackdown on Sunday.

Today, a prominent MDM leader Mohammed Valli Moosa was again detained under terms of Pretoria's State of Emergency. Other leaders are sure to follow.

Three weeks ago, the US assistant secretary of State for African Affairs, Herman J. Cohen, visiting South Africa, had dinner with two people whose bannings were temporarily lifted. One was Govan Mbeki, a stalwart of the African National Congress. Another was Ms Joyce Mabudafasi, a mother with several children, connected with the banned National Education Conference Committee, who was released from detention and placed under severe restriction. Three days ago, South African security police broke into her home in the middle of the night and arrested her.

There have been telephoned death threats against two prominent white anti-apartheid activists: the Rev Dr Beyers Naude and Dr Max Coleman, both are trustees of the Kagiso Trust striving to improve education for black South Africans and both long involved in campaigns for human rights.

YOUR SUPPORT FOR ALL THOSE CHALLENGING THE APARTHEID STATE. MESSAGES TO:

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