

Mandela aware of opponents



CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — In an effort to ease tensions with right-wing opponents, President Nelson Mandela called Wednesday for negotiations on setting up a white-dominated region. He said he would consider an amnesty for white extremists, including those accused of bombings that killed 21 people.

Mandela, the nation's first black president, met separately with right-wing leaders Ferdi Hartzenberg and retired army Gen. Constand Viljoen in an effort to keep channels open with whites opposed to black rule.

Mandela said his government would move rapidly to begin talks with right-wing leaders seeking a homeland for Afrikaners, the Dutch-descended white settlers of South Africa.

Hartzenberg had sought an independent, whites-only state, an idea ruled out by Mandela's African National Congress. But after meeting with Mandela, the right-wing leader seemed to give up that goal in return for assurances that negotiations would begin soon on a white-ruled region within South Africa.

"At least we can now say that there is hope that we can accommodate our people," Hartzenberg said.

The promise of negotiations was the basis of an agreement signed by the ANC, the former white-led government, and Viljoen prior to last month's all-race election that brought the ANC to power.

Viljoen's Freedom Front took part in the election and won more than 400,000 votes and a seat in parliament. Hartzenberg and more extreme white leaders boycotted the vote and threatened to fight for a whites-only territory.

After meeting Wednesday with Mandela, Hartzenberg for the first time supported further talks with the ANC-led government, and said he would try to get Eugene TerreBlanche, leader of the neo-Nazi

Afrikaner Resistance Movement, to join him in the negotiations.

TerreBlanche has generally refused to meet with the ANC. A statement Wednesday said all members of his group who are political prisoners — whether convicted or awaiting trial — must be given amnesty before any talks with Mandela can be held.

Mandela and Hartzenberg discussed an amnesty for white extremists, and Mandela said cases would be considered individually, including those of 32 members of TerreBlanche's group arrested in connection with April terror bombings that killed 21 people and wounded scores.

It would be premature to consider those cases now, Mandela told reporters. But he said if the accused extremists were convicted, he would not rule out granting them amnesty.

"The sole principle is whether a particular decision will contribute to nation-building and reconciliation," Mandela said.

Former President F.W. de Klerk, now a deputy president to Mandela, granted amnesty for political crimes committed prior to Oct. 8, 1990. Those covered by the amnesty included ANC and other anti-apartheid activists accused of terrorism and plotting to overthrow the government, as well as white right-wing extremists. Mandela has said his government would study an amnesty covering political crimes after that date.

Mandela's statements Wednesday indicated no substantial shift in policy. But his pledge to act quickly on negotiations on a white-dominated territory showed his commitment to gaining the trust of groups that once labeled him a terrorist and rejected any form of black rule.

When Viljoen decided to take part in last month's election, he split the right wing, leaving Hartzenberg, TerreBlanche and other extreme-right leaders outside the government with little support except from die-hard members.

Vatican didn't try to stop Holocaust

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Roman Catholic Church is drafting a document that acknowledges the church fostered centuries of anti-Semitism and failed to stop the Holocaust, a report released Wednesday said.

The document will "recommend an express confession ... of co-responsibility and guilt for the Holocaust," the report said.

Rabbi David Rosen, an Israeli negotiator with the Vatican, said the Vatican gave the report on the draft document to Israel during talks this week in Jerusalem.

The negotiations are to resolve long-standing disputes holding up full diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel.

A committee of Polish and German bishops is preparing the draft document, called "Anti-Semitism, Holocaust and Church." If adopted by the church, it would significantly improve the credibility of the Vatican among Jews.

"It's not just important," said Rosen. "It's mind-bog-

gling."

"Even if they trim down the document, its essence is extraordinary," said Rosen, who helped set up ties between Israel and the Vatican in December. The two have yet to exchange ambassadors.

Vatican negotiators could not immediately be reached for comment.

The document asserts that "the Church as a whole offered no effective resistance to the Nazi persecution and extermination." The report also says the document will declare that "the tradition of theological and church anti-Judaism was an important element on the way toward the Holocaust."

Since World War II, the church has described anti-Semitism as a sin and has called for its repudiation several times.

But Rosen said the report marked the first time the church acknowledged its own guilt for preparing the ground for the Holocaust through centuries of church-sponsored anti-Semitism.

Deadly flesh-eating strain of strep ravages victims' bodies

STROUD, England (AP) — They've seen gruesome news reports of a deadly, flesh-eating strain of strep that has killed at least two of their fellow townspeople. But for the most part, residents of Stroud kept their traditional British cool Wednesday.

"I think you should worry if your leg is going to disappear in a couple of hours — you don't know what other parts you might lose," said Steve Adair, the 40-year-old landlord of the Fleece Inn pub outside the small town in Gloucestershire, western England.

"We reckon it's the beer that keeps it away," he joked.

Adair's wife, Cheryl, was more concerned about the toxic strep bacteria because her daughter, an elementary school teacher in London, was anxious.

"With all the kids with sore throats she was really worried," Cheryl Adair said. "There's not a lot you can do. You either get it or you don't."

There have been seven confirmed cases of necrotizing fasciitis, a potentially fatal illness triggered by strep, in and around Gloucestershire. Two of the victims died at Stroud General Hospital.

Headlines like "Killer Bug Ate My Face," and "Dither and You Die" spread across the tabloids Wednesday morning. Television news carried updates throughout the day, tallying the number of people reportedly afflicted by the bacteria.

Government Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kenneth Calman issued a statement Wednesday evening saying there was "no firm evidence" that all the cases reported in the news media were necrotizing fasciitis, and that there was no evidence of any increase in the normal incidence of the illness.

A 25-year-old man who said he'd had the disease appeared on television Wednesday to show the result — a large patch of scarred skin stretching from his

abdomen across his back.

"I can't tell you, I was in pain, severe pain," said Stephen Smith on Independent Television News.

Smith said it took three operations for doctors to cut away dead bits of fat and muscles, ravaged by toxins spewed by the virulent form of strep, a common throat germ.

"I suppose if I had a sore throat I'd worry about it," said Greg Norman, a 26-year-old landscape gardener who stopped at the Fleece Inn pub.

But his twin brother, Kevin, an engineer, called it "a lot of scare-mongering."

"It doesn't bother me," he said. "I think people blow most things like this out of proportion."

Stephen Smith is one of at least 12 people in Britain who have come forward in the past few days saying they have suffered from necrotizing fasciitis.

A surgeon of another reported victim, a

woman in her 20s, said his patient "was at death's door."

"The whole of the muscles down one side of her back were virtually digested," said Dr. Ralph Antrum, of Bradford Royal Infirmary in northern England. "If we had not got rid of them she would have been dead within 24 hours."

Doctors have confirmed that toxic strep killed two in Gloucestershire. A third patient with strep died but doctors said the death was due to another underlying illness. All these cases have occurred since February.

In recent days, news reports have said 10 others have died from the germ this year. But public health officials said they need to investigate each case.

"I think it would be highly speculative for anybody to jump to any conclusions at the moment," said Dr. Jeff Norwood, one of the doctors at Gloucestershire Health Authority investigating the outbreak.

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A former Assistant Dean at the University of Oregon School of Law, Ms. Peggy Nagae Lum will return to the U of O to give a feature lecture on Asian/Pacific American issues. A graduate of Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark (J.D.) and Vassar College (A.B.), she has been involved with many organizations such as the Asian-Black Coalition, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, Japanese American Citizens League, Oregon Women's Political Caucus, among many others. She served as the Lead Attorney for Yasui v. United States, a very important federal case that proves to have great precedence in Asian-American history. Ms. Nagae Lum has also been the recipient of various awards, including the Outstanding Young Women of America honor in 1984.

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