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Interview: Jacob D. Nyaose

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## For a nonviolent solution to South Africa's exploding crisis

*Mr. Nyaose is the exiled founder of the liberation movement in the Republic of South Africa. He is president of the Federation of Free African Trade Unions of South Africa (Fofatusa), was founding chairman of the Pan-African Conference of South Africa, and was a founding member of the Inkatha liberation movement, which is currently led by Chief M.G. Buthelezi. He was interviewed by Nicholas F. Benton, on EIR's Washington, D.C. radio program.*

**EIR:** Mr. Nyaose, you are the founder of the liberation movement of South Africa. Please tell us a bit of the history of this.

**Nyaose:** The liberation movement in South Africa was born on March 21, 1960, by the Pan-Africanist Congress and Fofatusa. We launched the liberation movement; all other movements in the country had refused to join hands with it. The founding of the movement today is known and honored by the United Nations as the Sharpeville massacre of March 21, 1960.

**EIR:** Bishop Desmond Tutu is in Washington, D.C. this morning. He has been given a lot of publicity, as a spokesman on the anti-apartheid struggle in the Republic of South Africa. He was asked on a number of occasions, what are his real solutions to the problem of apartheid—solutions which will not make the Republic of South Africa simply ungovernable. I don't think he really answered that question. Since your credentials as a founder of the liberation struggle in South Africa go back a lot farther than his do, what is your view of this? What are your current efforts to achieve a rational solution to the current crisis? We can also discuss, of course, the fact that this occurs in the context of very dangerous Soviet designs upon that part of the world.

**Nyaose:** We have said it time and again, that the time is right for finding a solution to the South African dilemma. The South African dilemma cannot be solved by violence, disinvestment, and in-fighting between whites and blacks, and between blacks and blacks. It is a colonial dilemma; it is a system introduced in South Africa by the British government. And it will be solved by no other authority, with power and legality, except the British government. As long as South Africans, white and black, are still shirking their responsi-

bility of asking the British government to give the country a constitution that will enable the communities of South Africa to forge a new South African society themselves, we will go on exterminating one another.

**EIR:** So you're saying that the solution lies in the direction of creating a constitution that would allow a peaceful transition to a majority-rule government?

**Nyaose:** Mr. Benton, I have been involved in solving disputes all my working life. I solved the dispute between Swaziland and the British government in 1964; I played a leading role in finding a solution to the Zimbabwe problem, which had plagued the United Nations for 14 years. When the death rate in that country increased, I was touched by it, as a citizen of a neighboring state, and offered my services and helped the British to find a solution. We did it—we did it in one year. And I say we will do it again in South Africa, given time and opportunity, and assistance.

**EIR:** You seem to represent an optimistic view. Do you think that a move toward a black majority-rule government in South Africa is under way, with your efforts, those of Chief Buthelezi, and the organizations that you represent? Are the efforts of the African National Congress, the ANC, really disruptive, are they undermining this capability?

**Nyaose:** We are certainly going to solve this problem by peaceful means, by a negotiated settlement, with Chief Buthelezi and all other movements that will support a peaceful settlement. I have been attacked before, by people who had heard rumors, and to be specific, by some officials in the ANC, for advocating a peaceful solution in South Africa. They said they don't want any negotiations. But I am glad that their leader today, Mr. Oliver Tambour, has actually said that they want negotiations. But, unfortunately, he says nothing about the leaders of the South African liberation movement, who created the liberation movement in South Africa when all other parties were still engaged in a struggle for concessions from the Pretoria government.

**EIR:** So now we have the situation, in which the Soviet Union has a massive military buildup in Angola, with Cuban troops and Soviet personnel and equipment. There is Soviet

influence within the ANC—we can note the role of a Joe Slovo, a Lithuanian who is a card-carrying communist, and who was in Angola on Dec. 9, speaking at an MPLA party congress about backing the Soviet struggle to take over all of southern Africa. He is, perhaps, the top man controlling the ANC at this point. How can the threat that is represented by this Soviet strategic designs on southern Africa, be fended off in the current situation?

**Nyaose:** The Soviet Union is involved in southern Africa, because there is the liberation movement, among others, which has invited them, to assist them. Those who have invited them, now have to be asked to ask them, *not* to get involved. They are not our problem. They are a problem of superpowers. They say they are involved, because South Africa is assisted by other superpowers; therefore, the solution here is that the Western powers, and, in particular, the United States, should offer the Soviets a solution, that they as superpowers should both withdraw. And the people of South Africa will continue and solve their problems.

**EIR:** In other words, you are calling for the complete and total withdrawal of all superpower involvement in the southern African situation? And under these conditions, you are confident that the majority of black South Africans will support the program that you are talking about, that is, a constitutional reform that would bring into power a black majority-rule government?

**Nyaose:** I want it to go on record, that I was the first South African to denounce apartheid; in January 1949, I denounced apartheid in South Africa. I prophesied that apartheid would eventually lead to bloodshed between blacks and whites in South Africa, and I called upon the whole world to oppose apartheid. And I have a duty to the international community, if I think I have a solution to apartheid now, to say, yes, we have a solution. And indeed we do have a solution. Our movement, with Chief Buthelezi, has a solution. We need the backing of the international community.

**EIR:** Since Bishop Tutu just held a press conference here a couple of hours ago, what remarks do you have to make to him, as he begins his tour in the United States?

**Nyaose:** My message to Desmond Tutu is that the problems of the people of South Africa will be solved by themselves, provided they talk among themselves. And when I say, talking among themselves, I mean that they should know what is the cause of the struggle in South Africa. The struggle in South Africa was over apartheid, but apartheid can only be solved when the colonial cause of apartheid is solved. It will not be solved by demonstrations; it will not be solved by disinvestment; all these are side issues, as beneficial to others, but not to the people of South Africa, who are now dying for the cause. And we detest the idea that the struggle should be sabotaged, by the newcomers into the struggle! We want them to honor those who started the liberation movement for them. And the struggle must be solved now—not tomorrow.

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**EIR:** You say that the solution to apartheid is to solve the cause of apartheid in the first place, which is British colonial policy? And that that can be done by creating a truly autonomous, sovereign nation, with its own constitution, which reflects the actual conditions in that country—that is, a black majority-rule government?

**Nyaose:** Exactly.

**EIR:** Bishop Tutu did not address the question of an actual solution. In fact, he has been on record saying that the only role that he would support, for the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, is to make that country ungovernable. What is your reaction to this, and to the fact that he asserted in the press conference this morning, that Chief Buthelezi, as he put it, is simply part of the “system,” and therefore not qualified to really comment on this struggle?

**Nyaose:** Those who know the implications of the phrase, “making the country ungovernable,” would have never made that mistake. Who will negotiate with the black South Africans the new system, an agreed system for a new South Africa—when the white society itself has become ungovernable?

**EIR:** What about his comment that nobody should pay attention to Chief Buthelezi, because he plays too close to the hand of the government there?

**Nyaose:** The stage of fighting homelands is over. Because leaders in South Africa, particularly the liberation movement, did not oppose effectively the creation of the Bantu homelands. Even the government in South Africa today knows, that the homeland system will not work; but the question is, the government expects *us* to say what will work. The government says it is doing the things it is doing, because it has got no alternative. And it is prepared to talk to the leaders, if they have got an alternative. But you don't talk by violence!