

ATTENTION!

"ANC BLACK SLAVE LABOR CAMPS"

FINALLY -- a "smidgen" of black
ANC reality.

It appears that sanctified NELSON
MANDELA, and colleagues, were treated
more humanely by the abhorrent, re-
pugnant, heinous, evil white Afrikaner
tribe and central government of South
Africa. (?)

WHY were the ANC comrades fighting
along-side the communist forces in
Angola? Democracy? One-man, one-vote?

NOW -- how about some 5-years of
unrelenting reporting and objective
harassment of the "real" ANC.

When will the American people be
honestly told the "whole story"
about black tribal apartheid as
practiced by black governments?



KARA NICHOLS

No angels: Ex-prisoner Sibongile

"Tales" of Pain and Torture

The ANC admits "abuses"

The camp's name was "Quatro"; its location somewhere in Angola is a secret. Its inmates were routinely beaten "like cattle," with fists and the branches of coffee shrubs. Warders commonly trampled on prisoners as they lay on the bare concrete floors. Failure to fulfill the day's work quota led to more beatings. Prisoners Jackie Molefe and Amos Maxongo saw two cellmates taken away for such punishment. One never returned. The other died on the cell floor the next morning. Warders at another camp dripped hot plastic on at least one prisoner, Valdez Sibongile, scarring him for life. Altogether, inmates at Quatro believed about 60 people died after beatings and torture. The crime: disloyalty to the leaders of a political group. The torturers: the African National Congress.

For years the ANC's chief strength has been its occupation of the moral high ground in its fight against South Africa's apartheid government. But recently ANC leader Nelson Mandela was forced into a damaging admission. Facing allegations about actions that occurred while he was in prison, he came clean. "Unfortunately, it is true that some of the people who are com-

plaining were, in fact, tortured," he said in Johannesburg. The ANC was against coercion to extract information, he added, and had taken "immediate steps" to discipline those guilty of abuse. In 1985 the ANC adopted a Code of Conduct stating that "any form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of a detainee... is forbidden." It was a code many ANC field commanders ignored, the torture victims claim.

In any case, it came too late to help Molefe, Maxongo, Sibongile and other ANC fighters who mutined during the ANC's long bush war against South Africa-backed UNITA rebels in Angola. It was a time of disillusionment for the ANC. Its forces were making no headway. Supplies of food and weapons were chronically short. Eventually more and more ANC guerrillas refused to fight. Molefe, one of five ex-prisoners interviewed by Newsweek last week, said that "horrific stories" were circulating about summary detention in cargo containers for anyone who opposed the ANC leadership. In 1984 a mutiny occurred at Viana camp outside the Angolan capital of Luanda. The Angolan Army helped put down the rebellion, and the mutineers disappeared into various bush camps, including the secret labor camp Quatro, where they were held for years without trial. Says one prisoner, who later fled to Kenya from an ANC camp in Tanzania: "Whoever is supporting the ANC should know they are not supporting angels."

Extreme conditions: The Quatro detainees are not alone in their allegations. In Sweden, at least 10 ANC dissidents with similar complaints were granted asylum last year. But ANC supporters, while not condoning torture, believe the organization needed to use extreme measures to deal with extreme conditions. Scores of ANC members are said to have been imprisoned or assassinated by South African government agents who infiltrated the system and worked alongside ANC turncoats. In 1988 the group moved to end the abuses and released most of the detainees it was holding. Steve Tshwete, a member of the ANC's National Executive Committee, says the organization is now preparing a dossier in response to the charges.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who met with the ex-prisoners in Nairobi, last week urged the ANC to allow an independent inquiry. The ex-prisoners themselves hope that Tutu can help repatriate them to South Africa. "We feel the people the whole world over and at home should know that when the ANC is making so many cries about democracy, it is not democratic inside," says Ronnie Masango, one of the former ANC detainees. An internal inquiry may pose the group's hardest test.

JEFFREY BARTHOLOET in Johannesburg and
TODD SHIELDS in Nairobi