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EMBARGOED UNTIL
DELIVERY OF SPEECH
ONDER EMBARGO TOT
BELEWERING VAN TOE-
SPRAAK

EXTRACT OF ADDRESS DELIVERED BY DR. F. VAN ZYL SLABBERT MP. AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF NATAL, PIETERMARITZBURG, on MONDAY 25 MARCH 1985

The current wave of unrest is not just mindless violence perpetrated by unruly mobs.

It is the symptom of a government that has lost the initiative for reform; of a government that has lost the ability to identify both short and long-term grievances before they erupt into violence. It is the symptom of a total breakdown in communications between the government and a disenfranchised majority. It is a symptom of a government that can only rule through the coercion of its political opponents outside Parliament,

The ever increasing frequency of unrest is a sign that the strong arm response of Sharpeville of 1960 and Soweto of 1976 can no longer secure even temporary peace. It is a sign of determination on the part of Blacks that they will no longer suffer the system of Apartheid.

It is a sign of depth of leadership and organisation that will not be silenced by bannings, nor bluffed by vague statements of good intentions.

The worst response for the White electorate at this stage would be to rally into a laager behind P.W. Botha and a National Party that has lost control of the economic, political and security situation.

It is absurd to offer the release of Mandela in the hope of talking to the ANC while the accepted leaders of the UDF are detained and charged with treason, while they have repeatedly and before audiences of thousands, begged for peaceful change through negotiation.