Don't Believe the Hype!  
A Series on Miseducation: Bulletin No. 3

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SUBJECT: Who is Gatsha Buthelezi?  
Why does Jesse Helms Want to Give Millions of Your Tax Dollars to Him?

Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi of South Africa is seeking political support in the U.S. That's not easy, given that supporters of his Inkatha party are openly responsible for thousands of deaths in what the press and U.S. politicians call "Black on Black Violence" (see our separate briefing on this racist and reactionary terminology).

Buthelezi's backers in the U.S. claim he represents six million Zulu-speaking South Africans, and is a moderate anti-apartheid leader opposed to the "radical" Black South Africans and their call for sanctions and corporate divestment. It's not only in Washington and the White House that Buthelezi is received and touted as the savior of South Africa: take a look at the Daily Illini of Oct. 31st, where columnist Markus Funk spouts the same rubbish.

Meanwhile Jesse Helms and other Congressional conservatives want to give Buthelezi over $2 million to "support democracy" in South Africa. South Africans know better: when over fifty liberation organizations -- from the ANC to the PAC -- met to forge a Patriotic Front in late October they pointedly excluded Buthelezi and his Inkatha minions. They know all too well what side Buthelezi sits on: that of President De Klerk, his ruling National Party, and the preservation of white supremacy. In short: don't believe the hype, separate the myth from reality. It's time to fight against Helms and Buthelezi's U.S. propagandists, and for a democratic South Africa.

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**MYTH**

Gatsha Buthelezi is a moderate anti-apartheid leader.

He has the support of the Zulu people. His Inkatha party, with one million members, is the largest in South Africa.

Buthelezi believes in non-violence, while the ANC wants violent revolution.

Buthelezi and Inkatha believe in freedom and democracy.

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**REALITY**

As Chief Minister of the KwaZulu bantustan, one of ten tiny and impoverished reservations set aside by the white government for Blacks, Buthelezi is an integral part of the apartheid system. Last year alone he received $700 million in subsidies directly from the regime. There is overwhelming evidence of police collaboration with Inkatha fighters, and he has his own KwaZulu Police force led by whites. If apartheid ends, Buthelezi’s money and power will end with it.

Thousands of Zulu-speaking supporters of the ANC have been killed by Inkatha in KwaZulu since 1987. Bantustan officials demand that jobseekers, housing applicants and pensioners produce party cards, while students registering for school are automatically enrolled in Inkatha. In national opinion polls, Buthelezi’s popularity ranks below even apartheid President F.W. de Klerk among Black South Africans.

According to independent observers, almost all of the fighting between ANC and Inkatha supporters has been instigated by Inkatha. Hundreds of people have been killed by so-called "cultural weapons" -- spears, clubs, machetes and axes, carried to public rallies by Inkatha members; yet Buthelezi has threatened all-out civil war if these weapons are banned. In 1987 Buthelezi told Inkatha leaders that, "Going to war...is something we as Zulu leaders understand, and it is something that brings out the best in us."

KwaZulu authorities routinely ban and disrupt ANC activities in the bantustan, and, in places like Esikhimani Township, refuse the ANC permission to meet. Buthelezi rejects Mandela’s proposal for a freely elected constituent assembly to draft a democratic constitution.