

DA 80

'Press Statement - Nobel Peace
Award - Tutu'

(Acc. 20)

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PRESS STATEMENT

MASTER

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In 1960 Chief Albert Luthuli became the first Black man to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in recognition for his part in the struggle for justice and peace.

Last year, twenty-four years later, Bishop Desmond Tutu stood where Chief Luthuli stood in 1960 and received the same prize. It was in recognition for his courageous stand against Apartheid before and while he served as General Secretary for the S A C C.

On both these occasions the award brought floods of joy to progressive South Africans, especially the oppressed Black sections. Songs were composed around the name of Luthuli when he went abroad to receive this honour. This was appropriate because the recipients had been acknowledged as symbols of the people's daily struggles against racial discrimination, appallingly low wages, high rents and, above all the struggle for the right to vote and influence the government and laws of the country.

It was in this spirit that the UDF, the churches, music and drama groups plus interested people found it proper to organise a thanksgiving day and celebration of Bishop Tutu's Nobel Peace Award.

By this gesture we also want to assure the international community that, in spite of the government's propaganda to the contrary, what Tutu has said about the repugnance of Apartheid enjoys the full support of the people of S Africa.

P LEKOTA

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