

KWAZULU-NATAL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**Interview with Sam Chetty****conducted by Randolph Vigne****on 29 March 1995 and 10 April 1995.****(‘C’ shall indicate the Interviewee and ‘V’ the Interviewer)**

9 V: ‘Maritzburg 29 May, 1995 - what political activity were you involved in before you joined
10 the party?

11 C: I belonged to the - you know the Congress, ? after I left school in 1944, I must have joined
12 in ‘46 and ‘47.. I wasn’t a very active member - the thing that worries me is that the Natal
13 Indian Congress catered for Indian groups only - and at that stage I was always - wasn’t
14 speaking of one group that will be non-racial - where we had - could have other groups all
15 together.. And in 1953, or thereabouts, I left Edendale, we were living out at Edendale at that
16 time - we were visited by some of the members that had formed the Liberal Party - Peter
17 Brown and other people - at the Hall in Edendale, and we attended this meeting and we were
18 impressed by what was said there - they had an amalgamation - group of people talking to
19 us - and this I thought well, something that other people can’t do and I went home, talked
20 about it and immediately was touched by the sincerity of the people - Black and White - there
21 were African people that had spoken at that meeting and I then decided that I would join the
22 Party and we formed a branch after that at Edendale - I belonged to the ‘Maritzburg branch
23 but as we grew bigger, we formed a branch at Edendale and we had numbers of people there
24 - was one, I think, one or two White people, there were Africans, Indians, Coloureds, we had
25 - a - Selby Msimang was one of our main ? passive. Selby’s cousin, that was Vincent?
26 Msimang, we had Murphy Bogul, that used to be an advisor before - very important person
27 indeed there. So had a core of really hard-working diligent people that attended all meetings
28 and we were welcomed at Edendale - we formed a very nice branch and we’d always be in

1 touch with the 'Maritzburg branch. I wasn't an academic, I was a motor mechanic, farm ?
2 motor mechanic and I got very friendly with the 'Maritzburg branch and I was made the
3 organiser of - sort of the backroom work. And then when there was work to be done people
4 used to get in touch with me. We formed a very good relationship with Peter and group at
5 Edendale. Peter used to visit us quite often. And during '55 or something or thereabouts,
6 there was this - Peter stood for some election.

7 V: I think it was municipal..

8 C: Municipal election and then he municipal or ?

9 V: I don't know - perhaps it was provincial council that he had, ja..

10 C: It was something ja, because there was 'Maritzburg and sort of outside districts and Peter
11 stood for the outside districts and we had to quite a lot of ? work and this was my first
12 introduction into an election as such where we had to come into the offices and visit people,
13 get cards for married people, send out posters and we used to. The finer points about election
14 campaign. I knew nothing at all and then it was so intriguing because there was so much
15 work to be done. We used to post letters and we were given advice by Hans Meidner and
16 others..

17 V: He was a very organised person, indeed.

18 C: Ja, and he was - I learnt a lot from him. He was my chief and the postal work was done by
19 him and I used to do the distributing - putting them out all over town and then there was a
20 ? people that I met and his wife Jean. We used to go out putting posters all over 'Maritzburg
21 and we used to confront of course a lot of people that used to sort of deride us. Go up a
22 ladder, putting up posters and people used to you know sort of look at us there. But I knew
23 that this is the South Africa that we are looking forward to - that people of different race
24 could get together. Now besides this political organisation, we formed a very good
25 friendship, a friendship that was ? and even up to today, well I haven't lost the - you know -
26 not only political - but we meet then and we kept this relationship. I was a member of the
27 provincial - we used to go out to Beytenspruit? And Kloof - we used to go up once a month
28 to these?

29 V: Natal?

- 1 C: Natal meetings and we took part in some exhibition that took part in 'Maritzburg Supper
2 Room. We did quite a bit of postal work and getting things done. But as I said, I used to
3 open eyes and be in charge of local organisational work, catered for people at these functions.
4 And to get the family - my family were all very cooperative. My dad was a member and he
5 used to come and help me and I used to get a group of ? of Edendale old members and who
6 were all very keen on coming and helping the Party and getting things going and we used to
7 work ? you know - everything used to be done so meticulously and people used to talk about
8 our posters in town - that it was the only Party that put up its posters - took off its posters -
9 the night when the meeting was over - we used to go that same night and take them all off.
10 You never seen one of our posters lying ja tattered and all.
- 11 V: Yes, I've been through that poster thing in Cape Town too - the 1958 elections. In the
12 morning - you know - before - they couldn't stop you. So in fact it was the vote - you find
13 the kind of companionship as well as the other - the political experience and feeling that the
14 Party was getting somewhere. What ..(.the tape goes blank.)..
- 15
- 16 V: **Chetty - Pietermaritzburg, second interview, 10th of April 1995.**
17 Sam what do you recall of Liberal Party connections with the South African Indian Congress,
18 the ANC and the Congress of Democrats. Were they cordial or non-existent or how did it go?
- 19 C: I think in Pietermaritzburg the relationship was luke warm. Cordial, but not overly - to a
20 certain limit we got on quite well and I think the person you can thank for is Peter that always
21 was very friendly with these people - even some of the members of the Communist party or
22 ex-Communist party who were members as such. We got on with them. Whenever there
23 was meetings of the Group Areas Act and things like that we partook - you know - we -
24 members and others always went together and we were very cordial in 'Maritzburg.
- 25 V: You mentioned Harold Strachan last time - didn't he go - didn't he leave us and join the
26 Congress?
- 27 C: He did leave us and joined I think the Congress of Democrats, or some other movement after
28 that. You know Harold had left 'Maritzburg and then gone up to I think Rhodes University.
- 29 V: Oh, was that when he was in Grahamstown? Ja.

- 1 C: Grahamstown and that's where he was implicated in that manufacturing of that ...
- 2 V: That's right..
- 3 C: postal? or something...
- 4 V: I hope to see him actually. Talking about that - do you remember - you remember the time
- 5 when Peter, Hans and others were locked up?
- 6 C: I do.
- 7 V: And also of course from '62 onwards there were a number of banning orders started
- 8 happening. Did you - how do you think this affected the members?
- 9 C: Well I think this put a very great strain on the Liberal Party in 'Maritzburg - Peter was the
- 10 kingpin of the organisation in 'Maritzburg and him being banned we didn't have that sort of
- 11 Chairman that we could go to and ask for help. But we found it very difficult without Peter's
- 12 presence.
- 13 V: It didn't intimidate people you'd don't think? You don't think people were frightened that
- 14 they were all going to - so they better leave the ..
- 15 C: Well, I think certain people would have - you recall now what's happening - there was this
- 16 continual saying 'He's a Communist.' These are people that are you know going completely
- 17 out of the norms that's going on..
- 18 V: Ja, okay - rounding up. So but it didn't seriously affect it in that way?
- 19 C: I don't think it seriously affected people - it hindered the Liberal Party from working as it -
- 20 sort of openly as it could.
- 21 V: Ja, ja. Changing the subject, did you attend any of the Party Congresses - you remember the
- 22 National Congresses?
- 23 C: I attended the one - I attended the Durban one...
- 24 V: Was that in the early days - or there was one in about '62 I think.
- 25 C: I think the one in '62.
- 26 V: ..that was the sort of last big one..
- 27 C: The one before that - the first one I attended was in Cape Town - that was the ?
- 28 V: Ja, ja, that's right - I think that was before - was that at the Tafelberg Hotel?
- 29 C: That was in the Tafelberg area.

- 1 V: In District Six - District Six...(They speak at once)
- 2 C: .. European - Constitution Street and all that..
- 3 V: That`s right, yes, I attended part of that.
- 4 C: We had come there with John Ngubane at that stage - that was the very first one.
- 5 V: Then you had a big one in Cape Town in 1960 as well.
- 6 C: I didn`t go in 1960.
- 7 V: ? for a lot of people, from Natal.
- 8 C: Then there this one in Durban at the - at the - at the ...
- 9 V: Some big building - there was an Indian wedding going on at the same time.
- 10 C: No, but this was what you call International Club I think.
- 11 V: Was that where it was?
- 12 C: Ja, International Club in Durban.
- 13 V: Yes, yes, I remember that because I think that used to get quite a lot of spirit going -
- 14 particularly that one - I remember the - a lot of you came up - we even had people from
- 15 Namibia - you know the SWAPO people who joined us - that was a very good gathering that
- 16 one in Durban. And the Party was fairly united I think at that time - do you recall?
- 17 C: Yes, they were very united.
- 18 V: Ja, we didn`t have ?
- 19 C: In fact the Congress in Durban - Paton would have played a very important part there in
- 20 organising and because he was a Durban-based man - finding accommodation for people and
- 21 putting up people and the reception and all these things.
- 22 V: Than of course from `67, `68 - finally ending up in `68, the Party had to come to an end -
- 23 with the Improper Interference Bill - were you involved in those days at all - do you
- 24 remember? I mean we mentioned the thing about that ? and that was the final meeting - but
- 25 do you remember the discussion about what we would do about that?
- 26 C: Well there was talk at that stage - before that you know. Various people suggested that we
- 27 should you know - in sort of disbanding we should have an Indian one and a Coloured, you
- 28 know White one and we all felt strongly that we - this was ...
- 29 V: ...destroyed the whole point of the thing - yea, yea..

- 1 C: .. This thing and I said if we've got to disband you know some people said we should go
2 underground and I think Peter, Paton and others said - and I think - we all felt - if we are
3 going to do anything it should be open and nothing underground and it's - and things were
4 getting tough you know. The Congresses were being tapped, you know the congresses were
5 being tapped, people were being left right (they talk at once)
- 6 V: Well, we - nearly fifty members - nearly fifty - I think it was forty-six Liberals were banned -
7 mostly from the top layer - so..
- 8 C: Ja, they were. they were, ja...
- 9 V: All the various provinces - so the Party was very much weakened.
- 10 C: We were very much weakened, very much weakened.
- 11 V: I don't think we really had much choice. Though some people have said to me - not Liberals,
12 why didn't you defy the government? Why didn't you make them ban the Party? But at the
13 time that wasn't even an option, I think it seemed pointless. Or do you - it would cause a lot
14 of hardship to a lot of people without any result - was that the feeling ? you think?
- 15 C: Yes, I'm sure that ...
- 16 V: Yea, yea, and of course there was the Communist Party did the same thing in 1950 - they
17 disbanded...
- 18 C: Ja, ja, there was no alternative and how long are you going to - you know - we found it
19 difficult to carry on with the leading members...
- 20 V: Exactly..
- 21 C: ... all being decimated..
- 22 V: It wasn't an option. I mean - in Contact we had five Editors in succession.. Pat Duncan,
23 Peter, Hugh, Harold Head, Ann Tobias, Mike Francis - actually there were one or two in the
24 middle - who got - who left the country - and those were all - so anybody could come in and
25 sort of contact anyone of them - so what do you do. And they didn't want to ban the paper -
26 because of that obviously abroad - so that was what they did. So in fact there wasn't really
27 any option - can you - we were talking a minute ago about this business of Pat ? and - can
28 you go through that incident again - about that final meeting - how you recall it..?
- 29 C: Yes, the last and final meeting one was held in just before the Party disbanded - one was held

1 in Northern Natal somewhere..in Hambrook - a place called Hambrook and there was quite
2 a good group - the African people - they were very disappointed. We had explained to them
3 we had no other option but to disband and one group of theirs - just before that there was talk
4 about Pat Poovalingham ? and Maimie ? with the South African Indian Council and we were
5 very disturbed about that and we had some students in Durban that were Party members that
6 had contacted us and said that Pat shouldn't be given this privilege of attending our last - or
7 talking at our last (the 'phone rings and the tape is switched off)

8 V: .. Shouldn't be given the privilege of talking at the last Party meeting - so what one did you
9 do?

10 C: There was two other Indian members here at Masi? Who felt very strongly about this and we
11 decided that we'd send him a telegram. Our main purpose here was that we didn't want this
12 meeting to be interrupted, heckled, or disrupted - especially being the last meeting. We
13 wanted it to - had a good sort of a depth - you know final - nicely done - without any
14 disturbance and people walking out.. So we had sent a telegram to Pat to recuse himself - to
15 save him the embarrassment of being one of the speakers that was going to be heckled at and
16 finally he didn't turn up at the meeting. The meeting went off very well - it - the hall was
17 full, people were outside and we were all very moved at the last Paton was one of the main
18 speakers and he had spoken about his whole life with the Party and how he was followed by
19 the Special Branch where ever he went, where we came. Then there was singing and out into
20 the street and it was a very joyous occasion, although it was very sad.. But we departed there
21 and that was the ...

22 V: And that was really the end. I mean, ja there was nothing else to be done..

23 C: To be done ja.

24 V: But just going back to that a moment, you say he was making overtures, these people had -
25 this was just for information - people had - there wasn't something in the newspapers?

26 C: I'm not too certain, but I think there was something in the newspapers - there could have
27 been something in the newspapers but now hearing from you - that you know you say that
28 Pat..

29 V: Well, he says there was an announcement that he had joined it - he said it wasn't true, but

- 1 then you say he was making overtures - so maybe he was, I don't know. Anyway, we - I
2 don't think ? too much detail on that - but you were making the point that didn't want the
3 meeting disrupted.
- 4 C: Well, I think that was one of our main aims that we - we were given to understand that this
5 meeting would - would become unmanageable - you know that - that - and we never had sort
6 of a meeting like that where people came and disrupted the meeting - we had - we used to
7 have heckling in our meetings - one of the meetings that we had in 'Maritzburg - it was a
8 very orderly. If people heckled or booed, it was you know - it didn't overtake the meeting -
9 but we didn't want the whole meeting to be - you know all of us getting down to Durban and
10 being the last of meetings ...
- 11 V: You wanted a - some ..ja, ja..
- 12 C: Sort of a - peaceful..
- 13 V: ...dignified..
- 14 C: Dignified sort of meeting - dignified ? that's what I would call it.
- 15 V: That's right, yea, quite, yes, yes. Ja no, it was - it was - which it was - it was - I don't know
16 whether you know - there was a very distinguished journalist from Britain who happened to
17 be in Durban and went to the meeting and gave a wonderful report in the London papers
18 actually - so it got a very good coverage there as well.
- 19 C: Ja, and you know it's a long time ago I couldn't remember everything you know but I think
20 at that stage we thought it was a very dignified, very well ordered meeting.
- 21 V: That was the thing, yes. I think it was the only closing meeting - there was a National
22 Committee meeting in Johannesburg wasn't it - before that? I was talking to Marie Dyer but
23 this was the only - this was the final public meeting that the Party had. You were talking
24 about not having hecklings. I asked about the connection also with the Congresses - you
25 didn't have the Unity Movement - wasn't active here?
- 26 C: The Unity Movement was in 'Maritzburg but we always treated them as harmless? that didn't
27 have anything that they could offer - but always..
- 28 V: Everybody else was always wrong.
- 29 C: ...wrong and ...

- 1 V: ...except them - they didn't do anything - but they were actually first group to run a meeting
2 in Cape Town in '53, they were broken up - they had to abandon the meeting, in Landow
3 Location? because of the group of people who just shouted and made such a noise and
4 everyone was wanting to hear but we did have that one broken up.
- 5 C: We didn't have much trouble here - you know we had meetings in Bulwer where it was
6 predominantly African - but we had meetings in Hambrook, we had meetings in - small
7 meetings you know where the local sort of people used to come - at Edendale we used to
8 have quite a few meetings with the local teachers and others and we didn't have people that -
9 well, I didn't know if they didn't think that we were ? at all to them you know - it was just.
- 10 V: Well, maybe you didn't meet the biggest enemy, I mean for instance there was another
11 meeting in Pretoria, that a lot of Pretoria University students - young Afrikaners came to that
12 and rallied up, you know..
- 13 C: Ja..
- 14 V: They just came there for the purpose of wrecking the meeting. There is nothing you can do
15 with that sort of thing - it's a well-known tactic, a tactic in Afrikaans politics. So anyway,
16 we were talking about the personal - previously about the personalities - like Hans Meidner,
17 Peter, Alan and so on, Selby - were there any others that you remember particularly as being -
18 leaders in this part of the world?
- 19 C: I think we had Dr Cassim, that was - was a member from the executive right until the time
20 of I think Lorry was very active - very helpful, we had a few Indian teachers in Edendale at
21 schools, and a Geography teacher, a Maths teacher, they'd always come to our meetings..
- 22 V: Ja, ja..
- 23 C: We had quite a few notable African leaders in Edendale - that used to go to the Local ?
24 Commission - the - I think two very important people - the one was Selby's relation - that
25 was - his name was - I forget now, but he was quite a prominent person in Edendale.
- 26 V: Was he a Minister of Religion?
- 27 C: No, no..
- 28 V: It was another one - it wasn't Zano Ntloko, I think it was - I was wondering if that's Selby's
29 relations. Of course, E.V. Mohammed was a well-known Liberal, but he didn't come here -

- 1 that was Stanger I think.
- 2 C: He was from Stanger but we used to meet here quite often in Durban and whenever there was
3 a Congress or something in Durban, we knew him quite well.
- 4 V: And Elliot Mngadi, of course.
- 5 C: Elliot Mngadi of course was very - a staunch member of the Party from Ladysmith -
6 Roosboom, he was one liked by everybody.
- 7 V: Absolutely, yes.
- 8 C: Absolutely..
- 9 V: A really outstanding chap wasn't he?
- 10 C: We went once to the Berg - just for the weekend - we went to Peter's cottage and on our way
11 back we said we would visit Elliot Mngadi - we'd just - Swartkops? We just go and we went
12 there to some ? and he was in and after about two weeks or something we were visited by the
13 Special Branch.
- 14 V: Oh really?
- 15 C: They wanted to know...
- 16 V: They were unpleasant..weren't they?
- 17 C: That's why I say - unbelievable.
- 18 V: Incredible, yes.
- 19 C: In fact that meeting in Cape Town that we had come to with - Peter had hired a car - one of
20 the taxis to transport some of the people and I had come with Peter and that car number was
21 taken down in Cape Town - early as that - and we were followed and they visited me at my
22 home..
- 23 V: Really - that was early days too..
- 24 C: Early days. It was early.
- 25 V: Ja, later when they grew into a very considerable number of men I suppose they had to justify
26 their existence by making difficulties all the time..
- 27 C: Ja, but early days they were - the - you know - watching your car - whatever - what were you
28 doing in Cape Town? In fact the chappy, he followed me up from town - I went past Peter,
29 of course, and I said 'Look the Special Branch came up to my house and I wasn't there for

- 1 the weekend and they asked me to call on Monday, at the Loop Street Station. And then I
2 said "Oh, I got lost."
- 3 V: Is this because you were an Indian do you think?
- 4 C: Well. I think they wanted to know - you know I think intimidating me...
- 5 V: Ja, but as an Indian...
- 6 C: As an Indian..
- 7 V: Ja, no, that's right - I knew of a case of a fellow - his name was Bennie Bundsy - Bundsy -
8 I think he was from Durban, Bundsy, Indian - who got into political trouble in Cape Town
9 and they deported him as if he was a you know an alien or something..
- 10 C: Ja, ja..
- 11 V: And that was ...
- 12 C: At that stage in Cape Town - if you were from Natal you couldn't be in Cape Town without
13 a permit and things like that. But this was intimidating this cross-examination..
- 14 V: Ja..
- 15 C: Getting up there and wanting to know when I born, where I was born, and ? and all that, but
16 before going there - I tell you Peter mixed ? you know - we went - I told him that I'm a
17 member of the Liberal Party and I said it's's a legal organisation, you know, it's legally
18 formed - we went for a congress and they wanted to know who I went with - and I gave them
19 all the names. and ..
- 20 V: Mmm. ? examination, as you say - attempted to do that..Ja, so those were some of the - some
21 of the personalities - of course, we were having trouble with the Party in the sense - which
22 you didn't have here I think, in that some people wanted to go slower and some people
23 wanted to go fast. But here it was more or less.
- 24 C: We went sort of with the census ...
- 25 V: Yea, yea..
- 26 C: Another one - and I don't know if you know - but he was an organiser for us - what's? Peter
27 will tell you his name - he died lately..
- 28 V: Where, here in Natal..
- 29 C: In 'Maritzburg - he was an organiser for the Party round 'Maritzburg - he was from Howick

- 1 I think originally - you know - well if I just tell you the incident - it - well, he's travelled up
2 to all these country districts, and translate and be an organiser and the Special branch stopped
3 the train between stations -in Bulwer. Stopped the train and got him out of the train..
- 4 V: Really?
- 5 C: Between two stations - and that's to frighten people on the train that you know - the train was
6 stopped midway between two stations ...
- 7 V: Just to show - their power and then that people..
- 8 C: Just to show...I just forget his name - you know - my - it's there - I've got his face here but
9 I can't..
- 10 V: Yes, yes, I know that problem..
- 11 C: Peter will tell you..
- 12 V: Ja, I'll ask him, yea - yea. No we had that of course - it got worse and worse of course - later
13 on and there were some of them were positively malicious - they wanted people to get into
14 trouble - the Special Branch people - others weren't so bad you know - some of them on the
15 quiet could be quite decent - but they were...
- 16 C: Of course they harassed Peter a lot - you know the first banning order was Magistrate District
17 of 'Maritzburg and then they added the other ? Indian, Coloured and African areas - because
18 he used to come quite often to Edendale - where we were and he used to visit us and all the
19 Indian people then he couldn't come to Edendale - they stopped him coming there.
- 20 V: That's right...
- 21 C: They made it harder..
- 22 V: Ja, ja, they would have done anything like that - but that was - when Albert G Luthuli was
23 banned, they listed the places he couldn't visit and they didn't include Queenstown and they
24 were having an ANC Congress at Queenstown - so he made a dash to Queenstown, but later
25 of course they covered everything but some of the bans weren't so comprehensive. But, no
26 anyway that we've covered the main things I wanted to ask you - just have another look - it's
27 about the winding up and so on - yes, and you've not been aware of any later moves to start
28 the Party - to start another kind of organisation or anything like that?
- 29 C: No, I don't think there was any movements - but I know that Peter and others kept this rural

- 1 development thing going - part of the work was done with the Liberal Party - in its work at
2 Roosboom and Charlestown. Paton with his ? story and I think this was carried on - that's
3 what Peter has kept on? Well, I'm very happy now that some of those things, you know
4 returned to the people - Roosboom has gone back - Cornfields and this was work done by the
5 Rural development - a branch in the rural areas and all - with Peter and ? were still working
6 on from the sort of a Party - the Party's time they did some of this work - not just because
7 of poor people being dispossessed of the land - being moved out..
- 8 V: It was a very fine piece of work that and very necessary - you know Peter went to Weenen
9 the other day when Luthuli was there - last week, I think - there was a big meeting there -
10 about a thousand people I think and I saw them on the television and you saw some of these
11 peasant African people and all wanting Luthuli to get - still trying to get - some of them are
12 still trying to get that land back - you know ? going on - but a lot has happened and I said to
13 Peter 'Did you see Luthuli - did you see Mandela?' And he said 'Yes, and he saw me - and
14 he said loudly to everyone there "Here is a veteran of the struggle."'
- 15 C: Who said that?
- 16 V: Mandela said to Peter..
- 17 C: Oh?
- 18 V: You know, when he met him in the crowd.
- 19 C: Oh, I see...
- 20 V: And there were people all around, you know and Mandela said - looking and pointing to
21 Peter and said 'Here is the veteran of the struggle.' Which is quite a - because Mandela
22 wasn't actually our friend you know..
- 23 C: Ja, ja, well I - ja, ja, ja...
- 24 V: He and Sisulu were against the Liberal Party - they weren't - I mean unlike Luthuli and so
25 on.
- 26 C: No, Luthuli was very close, very close and ...
- 27 V: They thought we were just a waste of time - they were the CMD? Having all the running...
- 28 C: And then we had the - Congress, as you say the Congress of Democrats and they ? and they
29 didn't want to..

- 1 V: And I think the fact that - because he was banned during the Congress of People - that was
2 Mandela, so you couldn't go back much farther than that. I did see you in Cape Town in '61
3 when you were trying to get support for that strike and he was very friendly to the Liberals
4 you know - he wasn't personally hostile or anything like that - he's above that sort of thing,
5 I think, but - yea. But I'm glad he recognised Peter.
- 6 C: Well, I was very glad that you could say - you know - I didn't know that - but... because
7 people did a lot of work you know. At Cornfields. We happened to go to one of those
8 meetings at Cornfields. Cornfields is just outside Estcourt and now I saw this paper - a day
9 or two ago that the farmers there are prepared to sell some of the land to the African people
10 so that it becomes viable you know?
- 11 V: Ja, ja..
- 12 C: At a certain price and I think the Government was interested in buying it and giving - but
13 Cornfields was returned I think through Peter's efforts and this rural development thing and
14 they kept it alive and they had slaughtered an ox and they invited Peter and we were at the
15 Berg at that weekend - Peter had asked me to slip across and there was this MP that's from
16 Greytown - you must know his name - he was with the ? not -
- 17 V: Not Butcher?
- 18 C: No, his wife and himself by the Congress and are in the ANC now - they quite a - quite a
19 figure - as I said my memory just..
- 20 V: Well, I have problems, I've been away for so many years - perhaps I wouldn't even know..
- 21 C: But we all were there and this thing went off very well and they presented Peter with an
22 assagai and there was some Zulu dancing and all this. So I was very pleased that you know
23 that there was some recognition of ...
- 24 V: Well, I know he would say - you know just after the inauguration - there was a big gathering
25 in Pretoria, not big gathering - a small gathering of people who had been active before 1960,
26 and Peter..
- 27 C: ? with the veterans..
- 28 V: Ja, Peter - veterans.. Ja we also had one in London - also initiated by the ? by Mandela - but
29 Peter went up to that and he was put up at the top table next to Joe Slovo and he and Joe

- 1 Slovo didn't have ...
- 2
- 3 End of First Side.
- 4
- 5 Second Side..
- 6 V: ..in those days, but it was - Alan was a much more famous national figure...
- 7 C: Yes, it was ?
- 8 V: to the public - always making terrific speeches in Cape Town and so on - you used to go to
- 9 those national and provincial committee meetings?
- 10 C: Yes, I used to go to Alan's place..
- 11 V: Yes, she was so nice, Dorrie. wasn't she?
- 12 C: Oh I used to be very friendly with Dorrie - we used to get on very well, you know, yea..
- 13 V: Pat Bodlington? Said that he thought that she was really - she was really the non-racialist -
- 14 with Alan he felt - Alan was conscious of other people were other races - but with Dorrie it
- 15 doesn't seem - it meant nothing you know - I don't know if you felt any different?
- 16 C: Well, I don't think - I felt - because I spent quite a lot of time with both these people - I mean
- 17 even 'Dorrie, once - we had a meeting in - a meeting in the Transvaal somewhere and then
- 18 there was a meeting at Houghton and all that and Alan had - wanted to go to - you know ?
- 19 drive Dorrie and I think there was Leo Kuper and Fatima Meer and at the same time there
- 20 was a ? in Johannesburg, so I think Mrs Meer wanted a lift up and I drove up there and ..
- 21 V: Was that that thing they called the Multi Racial Conference?
- 22 C: No, no, I think we just went for some - I think - well it might have been - you know it's
- 23 several years ago - there was something in Johannesburg and ?
- 24 V: ...yea, big thing, yea, yea. Because Leo Kuper was also quite prominent - he was the Party's
- 25 Vice-Chairman, I think for Natal..
- 26 C: Ja, and he was a Durban .. He came here and ? we had an ? you know..
- 27 V: He seems very radical - I discovered - I didn't know her - I don't think I ever met her..you
- 28 know.
- 29 C: Ja we all went up in the same car..

- 1 V: Ja, at that time - yea, yea, uhu, but no, I mean that was Pat's impression that Dorrie, I think
2 he got - and he was very fond of her and Alan - he admired Alan a lot - but Alan - you know
3 was Alan, whereas Dorrie was something else... you know..
- 4 C: Well, I think here and there that Alan used to have a dig at Pat you know - so I think - that -
5 because Alan used to always say - even when he'd drove the ? he said 'Sam, I think Pat is -
6 I think the Indian community wouldn't Pat for you know getting a bit of ? although he tried
7 to save three-legged horse - he wants a fourth leg and all that - you know he always had some
8 - I would put his side - you know - that - to get there - but as I said I was disappointed that
9 he went there and served for the - for three or four years and then he was beaten by a ??
- 10 V: He was lost at sea?..
- 11 C: Ja, by somebody that - somehow he was beaten by somebody that was an academic or
12 somebody high above you - or somebody more popular - but this was somebody that ? - ja,
13 it was a nobody you know..
- 14 V: Extraordinary, yes.
- 15 C: And that was..
- 16 V: Pat's quite a proud chap - he wouldn't want that to happen..
- 17 C: Ja, ja, ja!
- 18 V: Ja..
- 19 C: But then, you see - I think he tried to tell somebody 'well this was sort of an ethnic thing
20 now, you know. Even in the Indian community you get this - the Tamilians, that are ? and
21 you get the Hindustani that come from North India and you know there is that - you know -
22 well he was trying to use that ...
- 23 V: As excuse and he lost it..
- 24 C: Some of my friends did tell me that - we thought in the beginning that he shouldn't even
25 have got there - you see - it was the same thing - you know - from the South African Council
26 and then this tricameral parliament..
- 27 V: Yes, he likes to cut a figure, indeed?
- 28 C: But I must say I spent a lot of time with Alan - once a year we always used to go to the Berg
29 and I found him - you know - a person that I admired a lot..

1 V: Ja, ja, oh yes, great, great qualities..

2 C: He had great qualities..

3 V: And a good leader too for the ..

4 C: Yea, he was, he was ...

5 V: But nationally - I mean Peter was as well - but Alan was somehow - you know the more sort
6 of? - Anyway, I think that's - you know - we've covered the...

7

8 There is nothing else on this side.