



Subject: Re: Corrections & explanations
 Date: Sun, 8 Apr 2001 23:53:23 -0400
 From: nrubin <nrubin@compuserve.com>
 To: magnus gunther <magnusg@magma.ca>, nrubin <101775.1601@compuserve.com>

Dear Magnus,

Thanks for bringing me up to date.

I had afterthoughts on the RV attitude to the ANC. I think you will find this better recorded in Jonty's book on Duncan, of whose forceful views this is an echo.

Philosophically, it is supposed to derive from the alleged distinction between "non-racialism" as advocated in CONTACT, with which both PD & RV were deeply involved, and the "multi-racialism" of the Congress Alliance. In my view this was, while grounded in an interesting variety of political semantics, in reality little more than a disguise for criticism of institutionalised CP influence (via the surrogates COD, SAIC in particular, not to mention SACTU). * CONTACT went as far as to regard Luthuli as contemptible and frequently said so; whereas of course, the critique relating to absence of leadership just ignores the quality of the top rank (Luthuli, Mathews, Sisulu, Nokwe, Mandela, Tambo) let alone the lesser lights.

One element of truth in the whole thing arises from the very poor quality of W.Cape ANC leadership, and its weak following outside certain CT townships and industrialising towns such as Paarl & Worcester. Equally, there was the rather dismal showing made by the CPC - themselves pressed from the right by the conservatives of the v.d. Ross variety, from the left by the NEUM of Kies etc - and their leadership (La Guma, September).

You did say in one or other email that would be an opportunity for a pre-view of your lectures. Does this still hold?

Yours,

Neville

* An interesting gloss on this is the fact that the racial composition of the "alliance" was in fact facilitated by the demise of the CPSA, itself always non-racial in the Duncan sense. If my memory serves me right, this is dealt with by Jack & Ray Simons in their book, where they record disagreement over the racial categorisation of the components. SACTU, founded by Ray and the 'baby' of both, was of course 'non-racial'.