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All-out Blockade Called for

LONDON: A pamphlet first published by the Fabian Society—an influential body of opinion within the Labour Party—describes the present British Government's policy as dishonest, and calls for the application of sanctions against South Africa.

The pamphlet, called *The Coming Struggle for South Africa*, is written by a well-known South African, but appears under the name "Sandor".

After describing present British policy as hypocritical and illogical, the booklet comes to the conclusion that "there is now no hope of a non-revolutionary transfer of power in South Africa".

"In theory," it continues, "it is still possible to envisage a non-violent revolution, using weapons like the strike and passive resistance, but in practice, with the administrative, military and economic power firmly concentrated in the hands of the Government, such an approach is now virtually impossible."

The writer believes that at present internal movements are not strong enough to challenge white supremacy successfully. "The minimum condition for effective action is unity among the African people," says the author, "and such unity does not exist at present."

The result has been occasional and basically ineffective attempts at sabotage and terrorism — by Poqo and bodies such as Umkonto we Sizwe and the National Committee of Liberation.

Recognizing that the South African arms build-up is too great to be defeated by outbursts of violence and sabotage — however heroic — the pamphlet proposes immediate action. Firstly, by stepping up the arms embargo on South Africa — and employing United Nations supervision to ensure that it succeeds, by blockading South African ports. Similarly it proposes diplomatic sanctions, and an oil boycott — also to be implemented under U.N. authority.

As an immediate step towards showing Britain's sincerity the writer calls for action on the High Commission Territories. He demands more financial aid, a better administration, and guaranteed defence against the Republic, by both Britain and the United Nations if necessary.

After 10 Years

LIBERALS WILL GO ON FEARLESSLY

— Writes Chairman Peter Brown

JUST OVER ten years ago the Liberal Party of South Africa was formed. It was launched in Cape Town at a meeting of representatives of inter-racial groups which existed in Cape, Transvaal and Natal, and which had sprung up spontaneously in those areas during the preceding year.

As far as I know the Liberal Party is the only political organization South Africa has known which was publicly and jointly launched by people of all races. It is certainly today the only political organization which any South African may join, and it is justifiably proud of this fact.

When the Liberal Party was formed in May, 1953, the Nationalists had just won their second election and they had done so with an increased majority. The United Party had supported the Government in introducing the Public Safety Act and the Criminal Laws Amendment Act to crush the Defiance Campaign. The Torch Commando was in decline. It was clear that conventional, "parliamentary" politics were not going to get rid of the Nationalists. A new approach was needed. *The Liberal Party thought it had it — non-racialism.*

In ten years the Liberal Party has changed a great deal. While it has continued to operate in the orthodox electoral field, more and more of its work has become "extra-parliamentary" — initiating and supporting opposition to local manifestations of apartheid, actively participating in campaigns against the imposition of Bantustans, against Blackspot removals, against Group Areas plans, against the Western Cape removals. From being a predominantly White Party it has become a predominantly African Party. From being a "reform" Party it has become a radical Party. From being a Party believing in the abolition of all colour-bars and in equal opportunities for all it has, while still believing passionately in these things, become a Party which accepts that, in post-apartheid South Africa the state is going to have an important task to perform in ironing out the racial disabilities which will be a legacy of 300 years of White privilege.

These changing attitudes and policies are the result of ten years of intensive discussion

between South Africans of all races. Not academic discussion between people of one race who occasionally meet people of another race to discuss one another's problems, but full-blooded and sometimes heated discussions between people who regard themselves as fellow-South Africans and future fellow-citizens but primarily as fellow-Liberals, subscribing to the same fundamental principles, differing only on how these principles can best be assured survival in post-apartheid South Africa.

NON-RACIAL ORGANIZATION

It is noteworthy that, in all the discussions there have been in the Liberal Party over the past ten years there has not been one in which differences have followed racial lines. There is an important lesson for White South Africa here. Take the emphasis on race and it ceases to be an important factor in debate or in policy-making. Put the emphasis on race and you get Poqo. That South Africans can forget about race the Liberal Party has shown clearly.

I also believe that the Liberal Party has been largely responsible for keeping democratic ideas alive in South Africa these past ten years. Not only has it been an example of functioning democracy but it has again and again stated fundamental democratic principles when these most needed to be stated.

As the years have passed so the pressures on the Party and on individual members have grown. No doubt they will continue to grow. Our job is to go on stating fearlessly what we believe to be true and to go on doing fearlessly what we believe to be right. Whatever the immediate future may hold the day will one day come when South Africans of all races will have to come to terms with one another. At that time the Liberal solution of a common society will offer something to all.

In the meantime we will continue to spread the influence of our ideas out from the bridgeheads of support which have already been won amongst all the communities of our country.

COWEN FROM U.S.

From "Contact" Correspondent

LONDON: Professor Denis Cowen is due in London shortly en route to Basutoland, where he will be advising on the new form of the constitution, and on aspects of law reform.

Professor Cowen left his law professorship at Cape Town University in 1961 for a senior law post at Chicago. It is now reported that he will move to London later in the year. He will continue as a Professor at Chicago University, but will spend only three months of each year there. The rest of the time will be spent travelling in Africa — for six months a year — and in London.