

CLASSIFICATION : \_\_\_\_\_



DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

UNIVERSITY OF DURBAN-WESTVILLE

TITLE : REFORM PARTY  
Y S CHINSAMY  
&

BLACK ALLIANCE

YEAR/VOLUME : \_\_\_\_\_

## QUESTION 2

**In the light of what has happened to Indians in much of Africa there are fears that unless Indians align themselves with Blacks, they will lose all. This is combined with the fact that in Natal there have been historical links with the Zulus which they fear may sever if they accept the proposals. Can you allay these fears?**

### ANSWER

I appreciate the reality of the fears the Indian population might have, and it also seems that aligning themselves with this or that particular group will not necessarily remove this fear.

The underlying assumption of this question appears to be that the guidelines are 'excluding' Blacks from constitutional development. This is patently untrue and the Government does not desire such a state of affairs either. Initiatives in the field of confederalism, decentralisation and municipalisation in South Africa will emphasise commonality rather than exclusivity and all these initiatives embrace Black people. Furthermore, the Government does not foresee a system of Black majority rule in South Africa. We have advanced quite significantly towards reaching the goals of devolution and segmental autonomy that protect minority interests on all levels of Government which is exactly the opposite from the centralising tendencies in Africa. The present constitutional proposals also provide for a system of Government on both the legislative and executive branches of central government in which different population groups participate. The government's policy is geared towards the peaceful co-existence of all the minorities in Southern Africa not only as a safeguard for the future of Whites, Coloureds and Indians, but also as regards the respective Black nations amongst themselves. Finally, South Africa also differs from the rest of the continent in so far as South African Whites are neither perceived from outside nor by themselves as temporary settlers, but as a deep-rooted settled population group. Retreat or abdication is therefore unthinkable. White presence is a factor as real as any other in South Africa.

It should also be understood clearly that the decisions and actions of any particular group with regard to the new dispensation should neither be bought nor be based upon intimidation and fear. The government will do its utmost to create an atmosphere in which each group can decide without interference from other groups.

## QUESTION 3

**Will the SAIC, which was elected by only 10% of the people, be the first members of the Indian chamber? Will there be elections and if so, when? Will some, or all the members of the proposed Indian chamber be nominated? If so, by whom? If this proposed parliament is rejected by the majority of Indians, will you press ahead with the proposals or are there alternatives?**

### ANSWER

It is the Government's wish that the Indians should have a democratically elected chamber, like the chambers for Whites and Coloureds. The exact course of action on how to achieve this depends on the results of the negotiations between the different Indian leaders and the Government. I do not want to prejudice those negotiations by speculating on dates for elections, etc. What I indeed wish to state emphatically is that we have entered a new era of negotiation politics in which

responsible leaders of all communities participate in a spirit of goodwill, in a constructive manner and with the honest desire to arrive together at mutually acceptable solutions. To speak merely in terms of the acceptance or rejection of the proposals is an oversimplification of the issue which we cannot afford and which contributes nothing to solving our problems.

## QUESTION 4

**What is the future of the lower tiers of Government? Will the SAIC itself have a role? Because Indians are a majority in Natal, will there be any blocking mechanism to prevent them from being a majority in whatever lower tiers of Government are decided on?**

### ANSWER

The question of local Government is of great importance. In this regard the guidelines contain the principles of maximum devolution, decentralisation, minimum administrative control over local authorities, subject to effective financial arrangements concerning autonomous local authorities for the respective groups and finally recognition of the reality that joint services will have to be provided on a metropolitan or regional basis. Although the implementation of all these is being regarded as a matter of urgency, it can only be done efficiently after certain technical investigations have been completed. These investigations are at present being launched and in due course all parties concerned will be duly consulted.

As far as the second (Provincial) tier of government is concerned, it has been stated in the guidelines that in due course the provincial system will have to be adjusted, but that in view of changes that will be effected at the central and local levels, decisions affecting the provincial system can only be taken after greater clarity has been reached on the possible transfer of powers of local Governments. The SAIC is at present a national body and it cannot be readily foreseen that as such it will either be transformed into a regional body or that it will continue to exist alongside the proposed Indian Chamber.

It is therefore clear that final decisions have not been taken on the exact Governmental mechanisms which will eventually be employed on lower tiers of Government. It is a cornerstone of the Constitutional Policy that simple majority rule in a multi-racial society will lead to conflict. This also applies to regional and local levels of Government.

## QUESTION 5

**The Government has been antagonistic towards SACOS which is largely supported by Indians. What hope, under the new dispensation, will there be towards meeting SACOS' aspirations, thereby easing sport tensions?**

### ANSWER

The conduct of sport in South Africa is based on the principles of sport autonomy, local option, i.e. club-level autonomy as to membership and minimum central control.

SACOS should have no quarrels with this. Remaining tensions do not concern sport, but politics and this should be left to the politicians to solve, e.g. ways and means have recently been decided upon by the National Liaison Committee in order to prevent certain sport bodies of a particular community from denying other members of that community its facilities for political reasons.

# Reform Party flirting with the new deal

DURBAN — With the annual congress of the Reform Party looming, it seems likely many Indian delegates will favour going along with the Government's constitutional plan.

Several leaders spoken to this week expressed themselves strongly in favour of participation and against what they termed "boycott politics".

Should the congress at Verulam decide in favour, then the future of the Reform Party's veteran leader, Mr Y S Chinsamy, will be in jeopardy. He is adamantly opposed to the new deal.

However, many party members apparently feel strongly that the Indian community should follow the Labour Party in promising to take part.

Should the Reform Party come out in favour of participation, it could lead to another serious rift in the

Black Alliance. The Kwa-zulu leader, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, has already condemned the Labour Party's move.

He has hinted that the Labour Party will be thrown out of the Black Alliance because of its stand when the alliance meets later this month, either in Durban or at a North Coast venue.

Mr Chinsamy is a vice-president of the Black Alliance and a close friend of Chief Buthelezi, who heads the powerful Inkatha organisation.

Mr Chinsamy said today: "There has been a move to support the proposals. We are a democratic party and I will, of course, abide by the majority decision."

He again warned about any "rash moves" which could affect the future of the Indian community in South Africa for many years to come.

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P.E. EVENING POST

# Reform Party says 'no' to Govt plan

## Mercury Reporter

THE Reform Party, at its national conference yesterday, closely identified itself with Inkatha, and unanimously rejected the Government's controversial constitutional proposals.

Party leader Yellan Chinsamy described the recent decision by the Labour Party, the Black Alliance's coloured wing, to accept the constitutional proposals as a 'serious setback for the black struggle'.

But the Reform Party, the alliance's Indian wing, would in no way be willing to 'condone' the Government's exclusion of Africans from the planned new political dispensation, he said.

The Labour Party leader, the Rev Alan Hendrickse's personal representative at the conference, Mr A B Stowman, left the hall soon after extending 'fraternal' greetings, but Inkatha leader Chief Gatsha Buthelezi's representative, Mr J T Zulu, together with about 20 uniformed Inkatha supporters, remained and joined in the party's lunch.

Representatives of the American, British, West German and Italian con-

sulates also attended the conference at the Verulam Civic Centre.

The conference was told that the Pretoria businessman, Mr Aboe Ebrahim, the guest of honour who was to have performed the opening, had not arrived because his mother-in-law had taken seriously ill.

A total of 119 Reform Party delegates took part in the voting on a resolution rejecting the constitutional proposals after speaker after speaker chided the Government for refusing to include Africans in the planned political set up.

'How can we expect to have peace and harmony in the country when a major part of our population — constituting 72 percent — is being left out,' they said.

The resolution said the party did not want the rejection to be seen as 'constituting a boycott' as it believed there should be negotiations with the Government 'for a better political deal for all South Africans'.

Urging rejection of the constitutional proposals, Mr Chinsamy said: 'We must not be willing agents of our own degradation and humiliation.'

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*In Yellan*  
14 FEB 1983

**MERCURY**

# Indians' 'no' to new plan

**VERULAM** — The Reform Party, at its national conference in Verulam yesterday, closely identified itself with Inkatha, its senior partner in the South African Black Alliance, and unanimously rejected the Government's controversial constitutional proposals.

The party leader, Mr Yellan Chinsmay, described the recent decision by the Labour Party, the Alliance's Coloured wing, to accept the constitutional proposals as a "serious setback for the Black struggle".

But the Reform Party, the Alliance's Indian wing, would in no way be willing to "condone" the Government's exclusion of Africans from the planned new political dispensation, he said.

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## Violence

Tear gas canisters were fired in Eldorado Park when anti-Labour Party youths and Labour Party supporters clashed at the Labour Party meeting in the Eldorado Park Community hall yesterday.

The violence flared as the Transvaal executive member of the Labour

Party, Mr Don Mattaman, who was chairing the meeting, tried to address the audience. His speech was drowned by jeers and heckling and chants of "The Labour Party has sold the Black people".

Fist fights and insults broke out between the pro-and anti-Labour Party youths. Police fired tear gas into the hall and people ran out coughing into the streets.

After the crowd had been cleared about 150 of the party's supporters went back into the hall, where the party's leader, the Rev Alan Hendrickse, told them about the resolution taken at the party's congress in Eshowe — Sapa.

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