

## FUTURE OF RACE RELATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

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SOME MONTHS AGO, DR. DADOO sent an article to the NATAL MERCURY which the MERCURY refused to publish. We give it here.

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LOOKING scientifically at the arguments advanced in favour of race zoning, it is obvious that they are fallacious. The European champions of race zoning argue as Mr. Butcher, the President of the Durban Chamber of Commerce does in the words: "Our forebears were responsible for the creation and growth of this town, and there is genuine determination that Durban shall remain a European city."

The first question which arises is, is Durban a European city? If Durban is really a European city, then how does this problem of race zoning arise? How indeed can a city, two thirds of whose population is non-white, be called a white city?

The true fact of the matter is that the growth and development, the progress and prosperity of Durban have been made possible by the common and collective efforts, industry, skill and labour of all its citizens - European, African, Indian and Coloured alike. The character of Durban has been determined by its multi-racial population. To say that Durban is white is as far fetched as to say that the rainbow consists of only one colour!

The second argument advanced by the protagonists of the Group Areas Act is that the enforcement of the Act is essential in order to prevent race antagonism and conflicts and to ensure race harmony in South Africa. This argument is just as dangerous as it is potent in its appeal to the colour prejudices of the European. Is it conceivable that mass uprooting of race groups from the areas in which they have made their homes for generations will promote better race relationship?

The contention of the Nationalists, who make no effort to hide their racialism, is that once the races are placed in their separate areas they will develop along their own lines and customs without any interference from other racial groups. It is evident that this contention of the Nationalists finds backing among considerable sections of English public opinion in so far as the separation of non-white groups is concerned.

On the contrary, however, a common argument among Europeans is that in order to bring about better understanding and greater harmony between the two white races, racialism must be ended. It is contended that it is essential to create conditions which facilitate closer contact between them in all spheres of life. It is further contended that the present strained relationship between the Afrikaner and English is largely due to the suspicion and misunderstanding which spring from the fact that politicians and others, for their own ulterior motives, divide the two sections and cause separation of various forms.

The Transvaal Language Ordinance, which separates English children from Afrikaner children, has been vigorously condemned as an evil which will create racial disharmony; and recently a scheme has been launched whereby English children could stay in Afrikaner homes and vice versa, so as to promote better race relations.

The argument that racial concord between the two white races can be fostered by bringing them closer together and not by separating, is logical, scientific and convincing. How, then, can it be argued that cordial race relations between the whites and non-whites can be promoted by separation in every conceivable department of life? Is such a contention not based on motives other than the desire for race harmony?

It is inevitable that the proposed zoning of the races will give rise to racial bitterness and friction. Obviously the best developed and most suitable areas will become white group areas. The African, the Indian and the Coloured groups will be cast out into the undeveloped outlying areas which

are at present not needed for European settlement or industrial development. This is patent in the whole of the race zoning plans for Durban, and indeed it will be so in the plans for racial separation in the rest of the Union. This in itself will give neither satisfaction nor contentment to the non-European people.

But above all, the one cardinal error which the authorities, both central and local, as well as large sections of the European people are making is that they fail to take into consideration the reaction of the non-European people to the policy of apartheid in general, and the Group Areas Act and other specific apartheid measures in particular.

From the whole trend of Government moves it is evident that what it is hoping for is that in some way or other the non-white groups will be taken in by the persistent propaganda that apartheid is in the interest of the non-European people themselves. In keeping with this line, any opposition from any section of the non-Europeans is made out to be the work of what are termed "agitators" and as not representing the views of responsible non-European opinion.

This, in my considered opinion, is a very dangerous attitude to adopt. If South Africa is to be saved from impending social chaos, wisdom dictates that the Europeans should make it their business to find out the nature and extent of the changes that are taking place in the mental attitude of the non-European towards his environment and in his reaction to the policy of the powers that be.

A wall of hate is being erected in the non-European's mind, not only against the oppressive conditions of life but also against the European whom he looks upon as the perpetrator of his frustration and his misery.

It is true to say that today this spirit of revulsion is fast giving way to a spirit of revolt and, if not remedied by removing the basic causes, may well involve South Africa in upheavels not unlike those of Malaya, Viet Nam, Persia, Egypt and other parts of the continent of Africa.

It is necessary for the European to think calmly and honestly about the fundamental problem he is confronted with in South Africa. It may not be palatable to him but he is called upon, in the interest of South AFRICA, to recognise the basic human rights of people irrespective of race, colour or creed. The clock of history cannot be set back without doing irreparable harm to the progress and prosperity of all South Africans.

The future of secondary industry demands that the colour bar in industry should be done away with, that skilled work should be opened to all, that the migratory system of labour should give way to permanently settled communities of non-European workers in urban areas. This demand has been consistently voiced in one form or another by South African captains of industry for many long years now.

The future of South Africa dictates that its 13 million people should have an equal say in the affairs and administration of the country. This is the growing and irrepresible urge of 11 million voteless South Africans. Herein is the germ of racial peace and harmony; here is the true PAD VAN SUID AFRIKA.

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"THESE BREEDING MACHINES (INDIANS) SHOULD BE BOOTED OUT OF THE COUNTRY, OTHERWISE THE EUROPEANS WILL BE SWAMPED ZONING CANNOT HOLD THEM BACK." - From a Letter published in the Natal Mercury

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