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## THE "DEMOCRATIC" PARTY — THE ENEMY IN DISGUISE!

### INTRODUCTION

On the 7th April 1989, the "Democratic" Party (DP) was launched amidst the usual pomp and lavish publicity given by the newspapers of the English speaking oppressors and exploiters.

The D.P. is in effect a merger of three groups — the Progressive Federal Party (P.F.P.) led by Zach de Beer; the Independent Party of Denis Worrall and the National Democratic Movement of Wynand Malan. The other element of the D.P. is the so-called fourth force, consisting of Afrikaner intellectuals and certain rich Afrikaners like the millionaire Louis Luyt.

Present at the launch of the D.P. were Messrs Paul David and Azar Cachalia representing the Natal Indian Congress and the U.D.F. respectively. Their presence at the launch was not only to observe but also to convey greetings and good wishes from, as they put it, the "mass democratic movement".

It is necessary for the oppressed people to know and understand what the D.P. is. The oppressed must know whether the D.P. is an ally of the oppressed or whether it belongs to the camp of the oppressors and exploiters. A brief examination of the personalities and parties involved, their political history will do for a start until a fuller analysis is made of the organisation, its principles and policy.

# **COMPONENTS OF THE "DEMOCRATIC" PARTY**

## **(a) THE PROGRESSIVE FEDERAL PARTY**

The P.F.P. is the largest component of the "Democratic" Party. That party has one of the most shameful political histories. It had become notorious for its wheeling and dealing. It formed an alliance with Inkatha with the sole object of catching white votes as the party most in touch with the African people. It then formed an election alliance with that old moth-eaten racist New Republican Party with the object of catching right wing votes. It formed an informal alliance with the Nationalist Party in the 1986 Klip River by – elections in order to get in the good books of the Nationalist Party. It had no compunction in opening its doors to sell-outs of the Houses of Shame – Delegates and Representatives – although the oppressed have branded such creatures as traitors. The list is endless.

The blatant opportunism was too much for the likes of Van Zyl Slabbert and Alex Boraine, themselves being loyal servants of imperialism. To rid itself of the image of a LOSER, the luckless Colin Eglin was once again given the boot, this time to make way for Zach de Beer, the blue-eyed boy of the Anglo American Corporation. This corporation is the most powerful capitalist group in Southern Africa and has been described as "the dynamo of apartheid in South Africa".

Being an Anglo man he is no friend of the worker and therefore an enemy of the oppressed. He is part and parcel of the Anglo bosses who crushed the mine-workers' strike in 1987 with studied ruthlessness. About 40 miners were killed and over 50 000 workers dismissed. Yet the workers were doing no more than engaging in a legal strike.

In 1984 it was the same Zach de Beer who called for the abolition of the minimum wages. Minimum wages afford workers some degree of protection. The boss is forbidden by law to pay less than the minimum wage. That, Zach de Beer could not stomach. He advocated the right to pay any wage the boss wanted to, no matter how low.

Those of us who have followed the activities of the Progressives from 1959 have NO DOUBTS about the role of the PFP. It is a party representing the interests of the RICH – the mine-owners, the owners of factories, supermarkets, chain stores and the like. It also represents a section of the professional class – doctors, lawyers, teachers and so on.

In short, the P.F.P. has always been part of the oppressors in this country.

## **(b) THE INDEPENDENT PARTY**

This party was set up by Denis Worrall whose political record fares no better than that of the P.F.P. He began his political activity as a liberal in the 1960's. When fascism began to bite under the Vorster regime, Worrall together with people like Professors Horwood and Sneddon, jumped on to the NAT band-wagon. The English NATS were required to win over the English vote. In Worrall's case, apart from political compatibility, it was hoped that foul racist propaganda would be more palatable through his "upper class English" accent.

**He was a NAT member of parliament; he was a NAT senator; he was chairman of the Constitutional Committee of the President's Council and one of the architects of the hated tricameral parliament. From 1983 to 1984 he was South Africa's ambassador in Australia and then from 1984 to 1987 he was transferred to England as ambassador. There, his chief function was to white-wash South Africa's racist policies, justify police brutality, defend the use of the Army in the townships and so on. In other words he was a highly paid hireling doing propaganda work like Lord Haw-Haw\*.**

**After serving the NATS for about twenty years, Worrall realised that he may have been backing the losing horse. Being the opportunist that he is he dumped the NATS and is busy covering his tracks for all the years he practised and preached racism.**

### **(c) NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (NDM)**

**The N.D.M. was formed by Wynand Malan, a rebel NAT. Since he and his fellow rebels are a local group, the N.D.M. is neither national, democratic nor a movement. As for Wynand Malan himself, he was until recently a loyal NAT who supported all the racist laws passed by parliament. His grouse with the NATS is that they are not moving fast enough in bribing the black middle-class and not doing enough to pacify overseas investors and creditors.**

**Wynand Malan is yesterday's NAT who is regarded as today's freedom fighter by some people. How did this happen? Wynand Malan is said to have purified himself by visiting the ANC!!**

### **(d) THE FOURTH FORCE**

**This element is a mixture of Afrikaner intellectuals and businessmen. The best known intellectual is Wimpie de Klerk. He is the brother of F.W. de Klerk, the Whites only State President designate. For years Wimpie de Klerk was the editor of "Die Transvaler", the mouth-piece of the Nationalist Party.**

**An example of the businessman is Louis Luyt, the from-rags-to-riches millionaire. He hit the headlines in the 1970's when he was involved in the Information Scandal. The "Citizen", the English language NAT newspaper was registered in his name. He was part of the cabal consisting of Vorster, Connie Mulder, Van den Bergh, (head of BOSS), Eschel Rhodie and others. He now claims that he was innocent as a new born babe. This claim does not fit in with his image as a shrewd businessman. In the 1970's he was busy trying to undermine SANROC; in 1983 he supported the tricameral constitution. He is in fact the midwife to the D.P. Some people refer to him as the Godfather of the D.P.**

**These then are the main components of the "Democratic" Party. They are all in full support of working within the racist tricameral parliament. They are all part and parcel of the ruling class. It is for this reason we refuse to accord them the title of "democratic" without using inverted commas.**

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**\*Lord Haw-Haw was the name given to traitor William Joyce who made Nazi propaganda over the Radio from Germany to Britain.**

# **REACTIONS TO THE FORMATION OF THE "DEMOCRATIC" PARTY**

**We will confine our comments to reactions from the oppressed people.**

**(a) A section of the petty bourgeois (lawyers, doctors, teachers etc) have swallowed hook, line and sinker the propaganda dished out by the English Press. They naively believe that the D.P. will win power; that it will solve the basic causes of the turmoil in the country; that it genuinely believes in democracy and that its opposition to the NATS is based on genuine concern for the plight of the oppressed.**

**In short, it knows absolutely nothing of the nature and role of the D.P.**

**(b) Most of the oppressed people have been unmoved by all the drum beating which accompanied the formation of the D.P. To the people the D.P. seems too remote and what is more, irrelevant to their lives.**

**(c) A section of the Natal Indian Congress and the UDF were clearly pleased at the formation of the D.P. Otherwise how does one explain the presence of their representatives and the conveying of the good wishes from the "mass democratic movement" — the latest in the long line of self adulatory names? People want to know where and when was there a meeting of the mass democratic movement at which the persons present at the launch were authorized to represent the masses?**

**It must be said that it has taken many years of hard work to raise the consciousness of the people to the point where they are able to recognize political tendencies like the PFP brand of liberalism as belonging to the ruling class. This is part of the process of class consciousness. When workers are able to see through the honeyed words of the enemy, they are ready for a higher form of struggle. Therefore it will be seen that by sending representatives to the D.P. launch and conveying greetings, confusion is the logical result. Instead of sharpening class consciousness, such actions have only served to blunt consciousness. Instead of exposing the D.P. as the enemy in disguise, they have given it credibility.**

**It is our serious view that these elements in the NIC and UDF have rendered a great disservice to the cause of the oppressed people. For this they must be severely criticised.**

**(d) The radical and principled section of the liberatory movement consisting of conscious workers, militant youth and committed intellectuals have no problem in seeing through the move as unity of the liberals via the D.P. Likewise they have no problem in rejecting the D.P.**

## **CONCLUSION**

**No organisation can fight the struggle seriously unless it knows who the enemy is. Without this knowledge and understanding, political activity must end in a disaster. Without this knowledge, organisations which are part of the struggle will not be recognized as potential allies and will therefore be damned as traitors. On the other hand, organisations belonging to the oppressors will be welcomed into the fold as fellow-fighters.**

**You don't have to be a political pundit to forecast a disaster in the making.**