Yusuf Dadoo

Hamba Kahle Comrade
Tribute to a People's Leader

September 19, 1983 will indeed remain a bleak day in the history of the national liberation struggle in South Africa in particular, and in the history of the progressive movement internationally. For this day witnessed the death in exile of one of the greatest political activists and visionaries of our time — Yusuf Dadoo.

All freedom loving people from all walks of life deeply mourn his death. All freedom loving people will certainly feel the vacuum that has been created by his death. This will be evident in the absence of his brilliant leadership and guidance and his lifelong commitment and dedication.

While all this is true, this dynamic and charismatic figure has left behind him so rich a legacy of dedicated opposition to national oppression and economic exploitation, that generations to come, will continue to draw inspiration from this legacy. Let us examine this legacy by sketching a thumbnail portrait of this gallant freedom fighter.

Comrade Dadoo was born in Krugersdorp, 5 September, 1909, and travelled to Johannesburg daily to attend school. It was here that the harsh realities of white discrimination and racial division were first experienced by him when some white 'thugs' physically assaulted him in a segregated grain store.

At the age of 16 he went to India to further his studies at a Muslim college at Aligarh. Here he was confronted by yet another harsh reality — the sectional antipathy between Muslims and Hindus. He was profoundly influenced by the ideals of the Indian National Congress and even at an early stage in college he actively sought to establish harmonious relationships and endeavoured to engender a sense of unity between the two communities. This was already indicative of the future role he was to play in uniting the oppressed peoples of South Africa for a truly just, democratic and non-racial society.

After a three year stay in India he returned to South Africa where he worked for a period of two years. He left for London in 1929 where he qualified as a medical doctor after studying in Edinburgh. During the course of his studies, he was deeply moved by the hardships which the ordinary working man had to endure during the aftermath of the Great Depression. So much so that he was to participate in the famous Hunger Marches of 1934/35 and joined the Independent Labour Party in the United Kingdom. He was also an active member of the Indian National Congress' branches in London and Edinburgh.

After his return to South Africa in 1936, he joined the Transvaal Indian Congress, which at the time had been led by men who adhered to the policy of compromise — a policy which he totally rejected and which he dismissed with the contempt that it truly deserved. His objection to such policy led to his taking the initiative in forming what was known as the 'Nationalist Bloc', with people, amongst others, like Narasimay Naidoo. It was a policy that was directed against the extremely conservative leadership of the T.I.C. of the time. His dynamic personality and courage, coupled with his intellect and eloquence, was bound to result in Dadoo becoming the acknowledged leader of militant Indian opinion in the Transvaal.

But concerned as he was in generating a spirit of militancy among the Indian people, he was equally concerned about establishing closer, realistic co-operation among all sections of the oppressed people. With this in mind, he once took the initiative in forming the Transvaal Non-European United Front in 1939 and was convicted and imprisoned for four months for his anti-war activities. The trial was widely publicised and well attended by people from all walks of life and he was to become a household name.

In 1944 he was elected vice-chairman of the National Anti-Pass Council whose aim was to draw up a petition of one million signatures for the abolition of the pass laws.

In 1945 he was installed as president of the Transvaal Indian Congress at a mass meeting of 12,000 people. With Dadoo at the helm of affairs he successfully instilled a new spirit of determined resistance in Indian people. Thenceforth, the TIC was to play a crucial role in the years that lay ahead in mobilising mass support against the oppressive policies of the government.

One such instance was the 1946 Passive Resistance Campaign against the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act, which was aimed at curtailing Indian property rights in exchange for a token form of representation. Dadoo was jailed several times for civil disobedience during the course of this Campaign.

1946 also witnessed one of the greatest strikes of African mineworkers. While he was serving his sentence for civil disobedience in Natal, he was brought to Johannesburg to stand trial with 51 others accused of the organisation of the African mineworkers strike.

By the mid '40's Dadoo was more convinced than ever that the destiny of the Indian people of this country was with that of the majority of African and Coloured people. He increasingly called for joint and united action of all the oppressed communities. Such efforts culminated in the signing of the Dadoo-Scott Pact of 1947. This 'Doctors' Pact' finally laid the foundations for the joint campaigns of the 1950's.

In 1950 Dadoo succeeded G.M. Naicker as President of the South African Indian Congress which facilitated and accelerated the movement towards co-operation with the African National Congress. The visible manifestation of this co-operation was the establishment of the Joint Planning Council, of which Dadoo was a member, which was assigned the task of planning the Campaign for the defiance of unjust laws. As a prelude to the official launching of their campaign he was arrested upon his return from exile, and sentenced to nine months imprisonment.

In 1955 he was arrested and imprisoned again for ten months for his role in the Transvaal Indian Congress. He was later released on bail to appear in court on the 5th December, 1956, when he was once again sentenced to nine months imprisonment for his role in the Defiance Campaign.

In 1956 he was awarded the honour of Companion of the Order of the British Empire, together with Chief Albert Luthuli and Father Trevor Huddleston.

Being banned he was unable to play an open role leading up to the Congress of the People and as such, he was not amongst those who, on the 5th December, 1956, were charged with High Treason.

In 1960 the proclamation of martial law forced him to leave the country for London to represent the South African Indian Congress and act as one of the spokesmen of the national liberation struggle in exile.

Having examined this legacy it remains to be said that the greatest tribute the freedom loving people can pay to this great leader, is to advance the cause of national liberation through a ready made vehicle in the form of the Transvaal Indian Congress. While we mourn Dadoo's death, we equally mourn the recent deaths of Reverend Michael Scott and Vernon Berrange, both of whom also made a significant contribution to the cause of freedom.

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TIC marching against constitution

BURY THE NEW DEAL

The Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC) sees the new constitution as a massive fraud. A massive campaign against the new constitution is to be launched. In the event of a referendum, the TIC will decide on its tactic once the Government announces more details.

According to Dr Enos Jassen, President of the TIC, the new constitution changes nothing. "Apartheid laws will still remain, with Indians and Coloureds expected to die for Apartheid with their lives".

The new constitution is based on the policy of Separate Development and Apartheid, as outlined in the Nationalist Party's 1977 Programme, which was endorsed by the President's Council in 1982.

The entrenched Nationalist Party majority on the President's Council and Parliament will force the Indian and Coloured chambers to accept military conscription, which is a vital component of the new constitution. All Indian and Coloured males between 18 - 55 years will be forced to do army duty every year.

The community needs to consider its tactics very carefully in the coming months if we are to succeed in stopping the new constitution being implemented. A referendum may be held to test whether Indian people accept the new constitution.

However, the Government is afraid of a referendum. If it is forced to have a referendum, it may well manipulate the referendum to secure a yes-vote. This could be done in many ways.

The Government may twist the question instead of using the same question as in the white referendum. It may also insist on using ill-advised videos to replace old books of life.

It could harass, detain and ban organisations campaigning for a "NO". Government stooges could be made "NO" agents instead of the organisations which are campaigning for a "NO". The Government has also talked of having a referendum and election together.

These are some of the difficulties with the referendum. The TIC will only decide on whether to boycott the referendum, or to talk to people to vote 'NO' once the Government announces the details of a referendum or election. If there is no referendum, but an election, the TIC will boycott such an election.

The TIC will be guided at all times by the people and its choice of tactics will be based on the views of the people and the UDF.

We need to stand united and with one voice say NO to the constitution and military conscription for our people. We must condemn the betrayal of our people by the SAIC, Solidarity, Slaaam Mayet's group, as well as any group that insists on participating under the new constitution.

Ama Naidoo, Vice-President of the TIC, calling for unity.

‘Enemies of the people’

PRO-Government political organisations like Solidarity, Independence Alliance and the United Referendum Committee, have been formed recently by Poovathingal, Slaaam Mayet and Abu Ebrahim respectively.

All these individuals were to form one party, Solidarity, but splits amongst themselves have resulted in the formation of at least three organisations. The leaderships in these organisations have a long history of collaboration with Apartheid.

Recently, the Transvaal members of these organisations met Chris Heims at a secret meeting at Jan Smuts Airport. Present at this meeting were Slaaam Mayet, Ahmed Lamat, Abu Kahan (all from the East Rand), Faiz Khan, Dennis Pillay, Dinky Pillay (all from Lenasia) and Abu Ebrahim from Lamdtum.

These organisations have all exploited Rajbansi's unpopularity to build support for their groups. Sectional loyalties have also been appealed to. However, they are no better than Rajbansi. Rajbanisti is hated by our community precisely for his willingness to serve on Government institutions like the SAIC. All these other individuals are serving, or have served, on the President's Council, SAIC, Consultative and Management Committees.

Mayet speaks in the same language as Botha, Venter and Verwoerd. He stated: "There are those who do not accept the proposals of the President's Council. These people will have to be met with an iron fist." The TIC condemns Solidarity, Independent Alliance and the United Referendum Committee as fronts for the Nationalist Party. We call on the community to reject these bodies, as well as Rajbanisi's National Peoples Party. These people are the enemies of our community, and are nothing but traitors. The TIC calls in our community to isolate them and cut all links with these stooges.
The Changing Face of Apartheid

Workers will suffer

For a growing number of black workers, increasing joblessness is creating a serious problem. The unemployment rate is increasing, and many workers who have lost their jobs are now facing a difficult economic situation. The Government is not doing enough to help these workers. It is not even providing minimum wage support. The situation is becoming worse, and workers are starting to protest. The Government must take action to help these workers before it is too late.

Denial of Human Rights

The constitutional promises are real and the Government has been working hard to implement them. The new Constitution is a step in the right direction. It guarantees all South Africans their fundamental rights and freedoms. The Court system is being strengthened to ensure that everyone has access to justice. The police are being trained to respect the rights of everyone. The Government is also working hard to improve the education system. These are all important steps towards realizing the constitutional promises.

Our problems will get worse

It is quite clear that the South African state is in crisis. This crisis is worsening, and the Government is not doing enough to address it. The economy is in a recession, and the unemployment rate is increasing. The Government is not addressing the root causes of the problem. It is not even providing minimum wage support. The situation is becoming worse, and workers are starting to protest. The Government must take action to help these workers before it is too late.

South African Defence Force requires "defensive" and "offensive" parties.

The National Party relies on the police, security, and the military to maintain control. They are trying to prevent any opposition or dissent. The SANDF is also being used to suppress any opposition or dissent. They are trying to prevent any opposition or dissent. They are trying to prevent any opposition or dissent. They are trying to prevent any opposition or dissent.

The Constitution

The Constitution is a key document in the new South Africa. It guarantees all South Africans their fundamental rights and freedoms. The Court system is being strengthened to ensure that everyone has access to justice. The police are being trained to respect the rights of everyone. The Government is also working hard to improve the education system. These are all important steps towards realizing the constitutional promises.

We must remain true to the Constitution.

We must remain true to the Constitution and continue to work towards realizing the constitutional promises. The Government must take action to address the root causes of the problem. It is not even providing minimum wage support. The situation is becoming worse, and workers are starting to protest. The Government must take action to help these workers before it is too late.

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The Education system

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MILLIONS TO MAKE MARK AGAINST Apartheid

ONE million supporters of the UDF are expected to demonstrate their rejection of the Botha government’s constitution and the Koevoet Bills.

The million signature campaign was launched at a rally in Soshanguve, Pretoria on 22 January 1984. It will last for 4 months, and is intended to concretely demonstrate the widespread rejection of Botha’s Apartheid constitution and the Koevoet Bills.

The aim of the campaign is to collect at least one million signatures countrywide. Furthermore, it is hoped that the campaign will educate and organise all the people of South Africa against the undemocratic and racist policies of the white minority government of South Africa.

The Transvaal Indian Congress will help to collect signatures for the UDF campaign. TIC calls on the people to sign the declaration and support the UDF.

Volunteers are urgently needed in our townships to help with this campaign. If you can help in any way, write to the TIC or phone Ismail at (011) 852-1268.

Don’t forget to sign the UDF million signature campaign.

We will not be fooled

The Archie Guma interview with CHIF Saunders was deliberately orchestrated by SABC-TV to sow division between the Indian and African people. SABC-TV is the Propaganda Organ of the Nationalist Party, with CHIF Saunders the most notorious of propagandists.

Archie Guma’s statements were not aimed at the Indian people. They were aimed at the Jewish and collaborators in our community serving on the SAIC and the President’s Council.

When racists like CHIF Saunders and Rajbansi attack Guma as a racist, we need to question their motives. After their attack, four fake leaflets were widely distributed in Indian townships by unknown persons. These leaflets were issued in the names of PAC, NF, UDF and TIC. The fact of these leaflets viciously attacked the Indian people whilst the last falsely claimed that the TIC had left the UDF and was now supporting the constitution.

The TIC publishes a message from Archie Guma, UDF President, to clarify his position. Archie has a long history of involvement with the Indian community, and has worked all his life for a non-racial and democratic South Africa.

The UDF will no longer grant interviews to SABC-TV. The TIC also calls on our people not to believe these fake leaflets. Anybody with information on the people distributing these leaflets are asked to contact TIC or UDF.

On the occasion of launching the campaign against the constitutional proposals in the Transvaal, I feel duty-bound to identify myself with your efforts.

It is encouraging to know that the Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC) and Natal Indian Congress (NIC) are applying themselves vigorously to this campaign which seeks the rejection of this new constitution.

We must never allow the enemies of democracy to divide and weaken us.

I take this opportunity of clearing up any confusion or misgiving that people in the Transvaal might have had over what I said in the television interview with CHIF Saunders. So much has been made, distortions created, and insinuations implied, about a single sentence that I used to attack a small minority within the Indian community which is actively collaborating with the Apartheid regime.

The emergence of Solidarity is proof of the existence of the collaborationists element within the Indian community.

Collaborators exist in all communities, as the Sebets, Matarimbas and Hendrikses prove. I will never shirk my responsibility to all the Indian people and to democracy by failing to expose you in the TIC the liers of the Rajbansis, Salaam Mayets, Solidarity and the SAIC.

I salute the proud role played by the Indian people under the leadership of TIC and NIC in their efforts to create a non-racial and democratic South Africa based on the Freedom Charter.

Stop Rajbansi, Salaam Mayet & Dinky Pillay NOW!

ATTEND MASS MEETING to say NO! to the Constitution and Military Conscription for our people at Lenasia Civic Centre on Wed. 8th Feb. 1984 at 8 p.m.

The people shall govern — the Freedom Charter

ISSUED BY THE Transvaal Indian Congress, P.O. Box 25043, Ferreira 1048. Printed by Class Printers, Fordburg.
The TIC leaders speak...

The TIC executive answers your questions:

What are the choices facing us today?

The immediate question facing us is whether we accept the new constitution and join apartheid — or whether we resist and fight it. If we take part in Botha's scheme, we will allow his divide and rule tactics to succeed. Some people say that 'boycott politics' has not achieved anything...

Congress does not apologise for rejecting a worthless constitution. We boycotted SAIC and they had to scrap it. The constitution is intended to fool us that the leopard has now changed its spots. But so long as the government offers second-class proposals, we will hold out for real justice in our land.

It has been said that the new constitution will give us a slice of the cake...

Would you eat a cake baked with poison? This 'new deal' is a recipe for disaster. It will help Botha send our children to the army. Indian and Coloured people will be party to passing apartheid laws against the African people. We must not let them break our historic non-racial unity.

Will taking part in the elections bring a better life for us?

No. The new constitution will not hold us for real justice in our land. It has been said that the new constitution will give us a slice of the cake...

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What will the new constitution bring us?

The GST has already gone up to hep people pay for the new deal. We predict that it will rise further again this year. We also predict more cuts in government spending on housing, health, education.

Congress rejects this attack on the living standards of South Africans.

What is the TIC's alternative?

Our strength lies in the people and our organisations. We must build and strengthen our organisations to fight for our rights as outlined in the Freedom Charter. We must also struggle to bring closer the day of a national Convention. A day when the true leaders of our people will draw up a democratic constitution.

Can we be charged if we don't vote?

We condemn the lies and blackmail of those stooges who are threatening and misleading us into voting. It is our legal and democratic right not to vote. Underhand tactics will not deter us in our fight for truth and justice.

DON'T VOTE!!!
REJECT APARTHEID PARLIAMENTS!!!
FORWARD AGAINST BOTHA’S PLANS

We need a broad front of all our organisations in fight Botha’s plans. This was Allen Bosasa’s call at the anti-UDF conference in January last year. It was the call which gave birth to the UDF. Today it is the Congress President, at a very low key conference that we decided to write the Transvaal Indian Congress. Today, we are proud to be part of the UDF.

UDF, August 28, 1989. Parliament, Botha’s Plans will cease to be a factor in national politics. Today, we are staring the end of the UDF. And there are eight specs left in the abyss. Our road is clear, we will not make the Congress elections. At meetings in Alexandra, Langa and Uitenhage, 7,000 people have rejected the constitution. Together they have rejected the support of the Apartheid regime.

To the congress, the UDF is speaking to many more people. There will be 8,000 more meetings. Volunteers will be calling on you not to vote. And they will be explaining to you what this constitution means for our people. In the coming weeks, the UDF will be speaking to many more people. This will be the most important voting campaign in South Africa. The UDF’s apartheidparliament can never get away with pandering to some. We know that on our own, we are alone. Together with all our organisations in the UDF, we are one. From Natal to Western and Eastern Cape, from Alexandra to Langa and Cape Town, the call has been answered. Rejoice in the new constitution. This is an important step on the road toward a united South Africa.

UDF volunteers prepare to collect signatures, Cape Town.

We want our freedom — Alan Bosasa in Eldorardo Park.

In our mosques, temples and churches, the voice of Botha’s plans are being expressed. Shabiki Gataba of UDF launched Cape Town.

Rejection of Apartheid Parliaments

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Release Our Political Prisoners

P.W. Botha needs the help of collaborators to make apartheid work. He needs the Sebes, Matanzus and Buthelezi’s to make his homelands work.

The Abramjee, Sallam Metays, Raphianus, Hendricks and Kretcherts have all been hand picked by Botha. He needs them to serve in his Coloured and Indian parliaments.

Daily, the radio, TV and newspapers are telling us that these people are our leaders. But where were they when the people of Pongoville were evicted?

Where did they go when our children demanded equal education in 1976 and 1980? Will they be able to fulfill their promises?

No, these people cannot take the place of our leaders like the Mandelas, Sisulu’s and Katrahuda.

Release leaders

Today we are renewing the call for the release of political prisoners. The Rivonia Twelve were given life sentences in 1964. They have now been in jail for twenty years - what is considered a life sentence in most countries today.

Nationwide, the Release Mandela Committee is organizing for the release of the Rivonia prisoners and all other prisoners of conscience in South Africa.

It is the contribution of these leaders - not a fraud constitution - that our country needs now more than ever.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

- The United Democratic Front was launched on 20th August, 1983
- 600 organisations all over South Africa are affiliated to the UDF. There are students, women, civic, religious, youth-political organisations and trade unions.
- The Transvaal Indian Congress was one of the founding members of the UDF.
- The United Democratic Front stands for the creation of a true democracy in which all South Africans will participate in the government of our country. For a single, non-racial, unfragmented South Africa.
- 13 000 people adopted the declaration of the United Democratic Front and pledged to fight side by side against the government's constitutional proposals and Koonhof bills.

Labour Party Condemned

ALAN Hendricks’ Labour Party has once again been forced to bow down to the Nationalist government. The Labour Party has said that they will go into Botha’s parliament and fight from there against the Homelands. But again the Hendricks have been mistaken.

Botha’s Political Interference Act will be upheld. Labour will not be able to put up candidates for the Indian ‘House of Delegates’.

Dr. Hemmings asked “What did the Labour Party expect? This is an apartheid parliament. We are not looking for Labour’s participation in the government.”

The Hendricks and the Reds have only just received this government slap in the face: when they were dealt a second blow at a meeting in Atwell recently.

The meeting was called to launch Lamb’s campaign in the Indian areas. But it ended in violence, arrests and brutal assaults on our people.

The JC, the UDF and the Anti-Parliamentary Committee have condemned the behaviour of Labour Party supporters at this meeting.

Prof. Mohammed of the Anti-PC Committee said: “The violence was part of a well thought out plan to discourage and discredit our organisation. But this event will not deter us from going ahead with our campaign of house visits, public meetings, and mobilising our people not to vote.”

Transvaal UDF Secretary, Mr. M. V. Vol, said that it was “because these sell-outs have no support and fear our organisations that they are reacting in this way.”

The JC has condemned the incident. Cassim Sogee, publicity secretary, said that the incident exposes the Labour Party for what it is. Hendricks has to cover up his defeat now that the government has refused to recognise Indians in his party standing in the apartheid elections.

By blaming the UDF for the chaos at the Aucklandville meeting, the Labour Party is trying to draw attention away from its lack of credibility. It hopes to discredit us instead.”

The Anti-PC Committee, the JC and the UDF believe that the incident has strengthened us. We are determined to unite and oppose the sell-outs in their efforts to drag our people on to their side. We reject these apartheid parliaments,” said Prof. Mohammed.

DON’T VOTE!!! REJECT APARTHEID PARLIAMENTS!!!

250 000 say yes to UDF

THROUGHOUT the country, the UDF’s Million Signature Campaign is on the move. In total, more than 250 000 people have signed against apartheid.

In the Western Cape, 100 000 people have put their names to the UDF Declaration in Natal, the figure is 80 000 and the Transvaal follows with another 45 000.

The Eastern Cape and Border regions have collected 55 000 and there are another 10 000 in other areas.

This is the support that people all over the country are showing UDF. By signing, they have made their mark against apartheid. The message is clear: bury the constitution and the Koonhof bill.

Today we are seeing the fruits of united action. The government has been forced to withdraw the Orderly Movement and Settlement of Black Persons Bill. However, Koonhof still hopes to control the movement of African people.

The new Aliens Act and the Black Urbanisation Act have been stalled in the through the back door. With these laws, the government is trying to make it harder for Africans to get jobs and a place to stay in the towns.

But our Million Signature Campaign will declare for all South Africa and the world to know that we absolutely reject Koonhof’s plans.

The UDF is also leading the campaign against the governments new apartheid parliaments. The UDF believes that:

- the people have not been consulted about this constitution
- the constitution is an apartheid deal and is not based on the principle of one man, one vote
- the vast majority of the oppressed, the African people, are left out of these parliaments - but will be subject to laws made by them.

The government has created ‘homelands’ for Africans. We reject these bantustans, as we reject the Group Areas Act. These laws have brought great suffering to our people.

These laws have divided our country and our people. Our call through UDF is for one South Africa with equal rights and one parliament for all.

IT IS LEGAL NOT TO VOTE

Issued by Transvaal Indian Congress P.O. Box 25063 Ferreirastown 2048.
WE FIGHT ON . . . .

On the eve of the elections and the weeks which followed, we saw a wave of repression sweeping across our country. What has happened to Botha's great promise of change?

Our stand against the apartheid elections was a victorious one. We have not witnessed united action on this scale by our organisations under the banner of the UDF, in many years.

But what did the government do? They tried to crush our peaceful resistance. On election day in Lenasia, the Indian people saw teargas and rubber bullets like we have never seen before. A small taste of Soweto 76, and more recently, the Vaal Triangle, Daveyton, Alternative and Pietermaritzburg.

Our leaders have been silenced

The police acted brutally against the striking miners workers in their past struggle. Many people were left dead, arrested and awaiting charges. Some were injured and others are being held in solitary confinement under Section 29.

Our people demonstrated peacefully against the new constitution. Against high rents, unequal education and handpicked leaders such as the community councillors, the Rector and the Hendricks.

It is this growing mass movement sweeping across our country that the government wants to crush. Our leaders in the TIC, the UDF and its affiliates now face indefinite detention under the preventative detention laws. They have been silenced and are now listed persons who cannot be quoted.

'Apartheid will die and our freedom will live on Allan Boesak

1 000 people at a recent TIC mass meeting in Lenasia supported the call for the release of our leaders.

To talk to the true leaders of our people - the Mandelas, the Sisulas, the Kathradas, the Goldberg's.

To speak to the Terror Lekotas, to Billy Nair, to Ernest Jassat and to Ram Saloojee.

The call for the release of all political prisoners has come from the Durban three - Billy Nair, Paul David and Archie Gumede - who are still locked into the British Consulate.

Zak Yakoob of the Natal Indian Congress said that we are living in times of great crisis. The government's iron fist is attempting to crush the voices of resistance in our country. Our people have not been foiled by the government and its puppets. "Many were prepared to make great sacrifices. We must draw on our strength and continue ourselves to the fight for a free South Africa".

The Minister of Justice, Louis le Grange is warning of darker days to come. Over the past few days the government has been waging a war against our organisations.

- Long live UDF
Ban apartheid

The UDF, and its affiliates, the TIC, NIC, the Congress of South African Students and the Release Mandela Committee have been attacked. "The government has accused them of creating a revolutionary climate in the country and of being a front for the ANC."

At a recent press conference the UDF said, "the government can ban the UDF. But they cannot ban the voice of the people. We say: Long live the UDF, ban apartheid".

The UDF believes that the Minister's statements is creating a climate to ban the front and some of its affiliates.

Who is to blame?

Allan Boesak, returning from a recent international visit said that the UDF and its member organisations, such as the TIC, did not create an apartheid constitution. He asked, "Who is responsible for the evil laws in our country? None other but the government. The UDF did not make laws and the Group Areas Act."

"The UDF is not responsible for rent increases or for the creation of undemocratic management committees and the community councils. How can the government now blame the UDF for a situation of its own making?"

Our fight for freedom has been a long one. But the government has always tried to stop us. In the 1960's organisations were banned. And for years our people were silent. But, since the 1970's we are once again determined to take our struggle forward.

We created our own organisations to be our voice - civic, student, youth, women's, religious, sporting, political organisations and trade unions. And, in 1983 we revived the TIC and together with 600 organisations we launched that great front of the people - the UNIFIED DEMOCRATIC FRONT. A front which was the fruit of years of hard work to unite and organise our people. And, a greater victory was not seen as 82 percent of 'Coloureds' and 48 percent of Indians said no to apartheid.

It is this resistance, it is this determination to be free that cannot be crushed.

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Another don't vote campaign pg. 4
FORWARD WITH THE FREEDOM CHARTER

During our recent campaign against the apartheid regime, we asked ourselves what alternative we have to South Africa's constitution. The answer has always been the Freedom Charter. What is the Charter that demands our support about fighting for it to be adopted?

The Charter is a unique document. It is not in the form of a long document. It is a list of demands that are for and against the state of our country. It is not in the form of a long document. It is a list of demands that are for and against the state of our country. It is not a document that is adopted by the National Assembly of the South African Republic. It is a list of demands that are for and against the state of our country.

The Charter bears an authority that no other document has.

The Charter was our people's programme, our goal, our vision of a better world.

In our struggle against the apartheid regime, we have always been guided by the principles of the Freedom Charter. It is our people's programme, our goal, our vision of a better world.

The Charter bears an authority that no other document has.

Today, we accept the Charter as the people's programme, as our goal. But this is not enough. We must make use of the Charter in our daily struggle. We must make use of the Charter in our daily struggle. We must make use of the Charter in our daily struggle.

In recent weeks, the government has given our people hope. We have been told that we can live in a democratic South Africa. We have been told that we can live in a democratic South Africa. We have been told that we can live in a democratic South Africa.

The Charter remains our goal.

The Charter is our guiding light. It is our goal. It is our vision.

During our victorious campaign against the apartheid elections, the Charter was our guiding light. Our message to our people is simple: the FREEDOM CHARTER REMAINS OUR GOAL.

The road ahead . . .

We have achieved a great victory. 82% of the 'Coloured' people and 85% of the Indian people have said yes to apartheid. We have achieved a great victory. 82% of the 'Coloured' people and 85% of the Indian people have said yes to apartheid. We have achieved a great victory. 82% of the 'Coloured' people and 85% of the Indian people have said yes to apartheid.

We were often asked, what is the TIC's alternative to the new constitution of the National Assembly of the South African Republic? The TIC's alternative to the new constitution of the South African Republic is the Freedom Charter. But, in another context, it is the TIC's way of peacefully bringing about the end of the apartheid regime.

No organization can truly be an active member of any organization unless it has the support of a substantial number of people. No organization can truly be an active member of any organization unless it has the support of a substantial number of people. No organization can truly be an active member of any organization unless it has the support of a substantial number of people.

The Indian people have made it clear to the government that they will not participate in a government in which whites hold real power.

The elections fought by the Indian Congress of South Africa, the United Democratic Front and other political parties have been successful. The elections fought by the Indian Congress of South Africa, the United Democratic Front and other political parties have been successful. The elections fought by the Indian Congress of South Africa, the United Democratic Front and other political parties have been successful.

The anti-election campaign fought by the Indian Congress of South Africa, the United Democratic Front and other political parties has been successful. The elections fought by the Indian Congress of South Africa, the United Democratic Front and other political parties have been successful.

We have over 30 years waged our battles outside of parliament and political parties. And, in the 30 years of our struggle, we have been successful. We have over 30 years waged our battles outside of parliament and political parties. And, in the 30 years of our struggle, we have been successful. We have over 30 years waged our battles outside of parliament and political parties. And, in the 30 years of our struggle, we have been successful.
United against elections in Actonville

ACTONVILLE is gearing up against the Management Committee elections on 31 October. Eight community organisations have organised a United Front to persuade the people of Actonville not to vote for these dummy committee elections.

These organisations are: East Rand branch of the Transvaal Indian Congress; East Rand area committee of the UDF; Actonville Rents Action Committee (ARAC); Benoni Student Movement; Eastern Transvaal Football Association; Actonville Reform Church and the Squash Rackets Association.

The campaign is being spearheaded by ARAC and the HIC.

Like the campaign against the tri-cameral elections our activities will be visiting the homes of people with the message that a vote for the Management Committee is a vote for higher rent, housing shortages, and overcrowded backrooms and garages.

In particular, we will be explaining to the people that the Government’s new housing policy will mean that the Government will not provide housing for us. The Government says it can’t afford to do so. But who can bear the responsibility, but ours?

ARAC and the HIC are confident that the people will heed the call to stay away. The elections are already a farce as only 40 percent of the people are registered voters.

Whatever the outcome of the elections, therefore, the Management Committee will not be able to claim that it represents the people. The people will have rejected the new plans for local government which the Government hopes to introduce next year for whites. Coloureds and Indians.

These plans entail:
- the autonomy of local authorities
- the power of the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning in relation to local government
- the setting up of regional councils to provide regional services.

These proposals are fundamentally undemocratic. Power will be totally concentrated in the hands of the Minister. For example, the Minister will decide:
- the extent of autonomy for a local authority
- the setting up and dissolution of regional councils.

The regional councils will provide services to a region that local authorities will not have the money to do. It will be all water, water, water. These regional councils are not elected bodies.

Members of these bodies will be nominated by the Administrator on the basis of who he thinks has the majority support in the local authority. The public can be excluded from attending regional council meetings.

Furthermore, because the Administrator nominates members according to how much money they can contribute to the running of the region, the Colour and Indian authorities - which are generally poorer - will have fewer votes than the wealthier white authorities.

This means that coloured and Indian authorities will be bound on the question of the cost of services, development projects and community facilities.

The proposals for local government like central government exclude the majority of our people, the African people. Their future will be decided separately by Town Councils and Development Boards. This will further divide African people from Indians and Coloureds.

This is why all the votes from all our people in these organisations on the last Rand is to oppose the Management Committee elections and to strengthen our community-based organisations like ARAC and the HIC in order to fight for a better deal.

UDF - 1 year of united action

In just over a year, the UDF has become a national mass movement which has won the support and respect of thousands of South Africans.

The UDF has earned this support because of the hard work, the organisation and united action waged by its affiliates. Today, 800 organisations and 1.5 million people, who have joined the UDF. The presence of the UDF has been felt in urban and rural areas, in our communities, in factories, mosques, churches, temples. From the distant corners of the Transvaal, to the West and the coast, the UDF has become our symbol of hope for a new life.

While the government is determined to divide our people, the UDF has united us. The recent anti-election victory, the rejection of the Black Laws is testament to the fact that we can achieve what we want when we are united and organised.

Through the UDF we have come to see that the struggle against Botha’s army, mass removals and the new constitution are one. It is a struggle for a single South Africa, for a single Group Areas Act, and for Namibia. It is a struggle for a non-racial and democratic South Africa.

But the UDF has achieved this and more. It has been the springboard for the emergence of organisations and campaigns where our people have been silent. In the rural areas of the Northern Transvaal, for instance, the Eastern and Western Cape, thousands of people have rallied behind the call of the UDF.

The elections are now over. The question we are all asking is where does UDF go from here? It is a question that all of us should be thinking about.

There are many areas in our country which remain unorganised. There are many people still who have not heard of the UDF. This message should be taken to every corner of this country.

A new phase has been opened in our struggle. We need to take this fight further. We need to build on the united action of the past 14 months.

Congress is an affiliate of the UDF. We subscribe to a great front of our people. We say - forward to freedom.

Release our leaders now

Eosoph Jassat, President of the TIC

We demand the release of leaders of the UDF, the Release of the TIC leaders and of the Indian Congress.

Our stand is clear: Botha’s hand picked stooges can never speak for us.

We want our heroes and heroines to take their rightful place in our country, to guide us in our fight for a country free of inequality, injustice and oppression.

We call for the unbanning of the banned, the immediate and unconditional release of the detained and imprisoned.

Ram Salgado, Vice-president of the TIC

Truth behind Vaal struggle

HLE people in the Vaal townships of Soshobeng, Eshowe, and Sharpeville have won a hard battle to have rent increases scrapped. They have also persuaded many unpopular community councilors to resign.

These councillors came into office 8 months ago when the Local Authorities Act and its dummy councils were imposed on the people. The Vaal Civic Association was set last year to fight for the rights of residents in the Vaal.

While rent rises were announced, the Vaal Civic organised the people. Residents say they cannot afford the rents of R50 - R100 because of the high cost of food and G3.

Many workers have been layed off because of unemployment.

Support Simba workers

CONGRESS wholeheartedly supports the struggle of workers for fair labour practices and for good wages and working conditions.

We therefore reject with contempt the dismissal of 46 workers by the Simba Fruit company on 13 August 1984.

The dismissal follows a strike by the workers who wanted to get three of their colleagues re-employed. These three are members of PLEASE FORD AND ALL WORKERS UNION.

Before the strike, repeated attempts by the union to get the three reinstated had failed. The company refused to deal with worker representatives.

Instead, an ultimatum was issued saying that workers would be fired if they failed to report for work. The workers did report, but asked for time to discuss the matter.

They were only granted 25 minutes. When this time was up, the personnel manager announced over a loudhailer that the workers were dismissed.

Workers who were on leave at the time, but who refused to distance themselves from the union, have also been fired.

Prior to this mass dismissal Simba management had been openly anti-unionistic to the union. Now South Labour has been hired.

We call on those dismissed workers, CONGRESS calls on all its members and supporters, as well as workers, to heed the call of the Simba Workers’ Committee not to buy Simba products.

LONG LIVE THE WORKERS STRUGGLE!!

Issued by: TIC, Box 25063, Ferreiraestown, 0548
The killing of over 40 people in Uitenhage has provoked worldwide condemnation. France condemned it as "international violence" and the Organisation of African Unity demands strong UN action against Pretoria. The disinvestment campaign in South Africa has been intensified and even conservatives in Britain have been moved to demand mandatory economic sanctions against SA.

In South Africa, the UDF made it clear that the killings was a "declaration of civil war," and unrest in the country has increased further. Thousands more in townships throughout the country take to the streets demanding their education rights, houses and low rents, freedom of movement and the right to work.

South Africa is engaged in an intense political struggle. It is a struggle for democratic rights - after years of suffering under the pass laws, influx control laws, inferior education, forced removals, group areas, the high cost of living and unemployment - all made worse under the new constitution.

Peace will come only to a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa. And such a South Africa will come only through the freedom of the African people.

No section of South Africa can be free for as long as the African people are not free. Our community must fully support and involve itself in the struggle for national liberation. We must do so today as we have done in the past.

The Dadoo-Xuma pact of 1947 firmly established the basis for friendship and political co-operation. We have a rich history of resistance against injustice and oppression under the leadership of Gandhi, Dadoo, Naicker, Nana Sta. Roy Naidoo and others.

The participation of Congress in the 1962 Defiance Campaign and our adoption of the Freedom Charter in 1955 bear ample testimony to our commitment to a common future with the African people.

Today we are an important part of the United Democratic Front. And our united stand against the new constitution has confirmed this determination to build a new South Africa where all shall live as equals in peace and harmony.

Let no Government attempt to divide us, painfully, over many decades of common experience and joint struggle.

Come treason charges, batons or bribes - we will meet the challenges of the times, swell the ranks of Congress, and march forward, together with all oppressed and freedom loving people, to a new South Africa.

Defending a unity built over many years. Ram Saloojee with Albertina Sisulu and Terror Lokota at UDF rally in Soweto.
ORGANISE OR STARVE

Billy Nair after the British Consulate sit-in which focussed attention on detention without trial. The government's new strategy now is detention with trial - through treason charges.

Treason for Patriots

The charge of high treason brought against Dr. Essop Lassie, Cassim Satio, and others NIC and UDF officials is an attempt to crush open protest, to disorganise the democratic movement and to scare our people into quiet submission.

At a time when the government is presenting a reformist image to the international community, the treason trial has clearly exposed the government's true intentions. Reform is merely a velvet glove covering the iron fist of repression.

The arbitrary detention of our leaders on the eve of the tricameral election and the subsequent charge of treason is an indication of a government on the offensive. This desperate act by the government signifies the growing strength of the democratic movement against apartheid.

Our leaders were charged with high treason at a time when the government was under increasing pressure internationally to abandon arbitrary detentions without trial.

The consulates sit-in by our leaders was successful in exposing detention without trial.

Consequently, the government has devised a new strategy to achieve the same ends. It has decided to charge its political opponents, but it has firmly refused bail. In other words, the government has abandoned detention without trial for detentions with trial.

The new strategy of detention with trial exposes the pro-government lawyers to public scrutiny. The government's strategy of systematically deporting and detaining leaders has been exposed.

The Attorney General of Natal (a government employee) has steadfastly refused bail. Our leaders have already spent seven months in prison with the actual trial date set only for May 30.

This new strategy of detention with trial exposed the nature of the government's action. The government's strategy of systematically deporting and detaining leaders has been exposed.

In the eyes of the majority of South Africans, their leaders have committed no crime. They have all been part of the struggle for democracy.

The right to life, the right to be free from arbitrary detentions, and the right to trial by a court of law have been violated.

We stand by our leaders and demand their unconditional release.

Billy Nair after the British Consulate sit-in which focussed attention on detention without trial. The government's new strategy now is detention with trial - through treason charges.

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The 30th ANNIVERSARY of the FREEDOM CHARTER

1985 is the 30th anniversary of the Freedom Charter and democratic organisations countrywide are celebrating its adoption at the Congress of People on 26 June 1955 in Kliptown.

The Freedom Charter is a document which sets out the type of South Africa we want.

Against Group Areas and all attempts to dispossess people’s rights in the country, the Freedom Charter says: South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white. It rejects undemocratic rule when it says: The people shall govern. It speaks to the needs of those who are not represented when it says: Everyone shall share in the country's wealth.

With the end of the struggle for democracy, life under unhealthful and overcrowded conditions in wretched houses, backyards and shanties, because of apartheid, and in the abatement of apartheid policy and says: There shall be homes, security and comfort for all. It rejects white minority rule and domination by any section of the population when it says: All national groups shall have equal rights. Thus ensuring for all people a secure and democratic future in South Africa.

Only with the implementation of the Freedom Charter will apartheid violence, suspicion and conflict be destroyed. This is why the Charter declares: There shall be peace and friendship.

The Freedom Charter is the most democratic document to be written in South Africa. The people themselves made this Charter.

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The People, shall govern. Everyone shall have equal rights. Thus ensuring for all people a secure and democratic future in South Africa.
THESE FREEDOMS WE WILL FIGHT FOR...

The TIC together with other progressive organisations in the country are commemorating this year — the 30th anniversary of the Freedom Charter. Over the years the government has tried to stifle the Freedom Charter beginning with the massive 1956 Treason Trial. But we say to the government as part of the oppressed people of this country that we will continue to fight for the freedoms within the Freedom Charter.

"THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN"

This opening clause of the Freedom Charter aptly visualises the future of South Africa enshrined in the Freedom Charter. It demands the transfer of political power to ALL, the people of S.A. — be they black or white, workers, peasants, professionals or students.

It is this vision of South Africa — free of white minority rule and the Apartheid system — that makes the Freedom Charter such a popular political programme up to this day for those who strive towards a non-racial and democratic South Africa. It is this vision too that scares the government of P.W. Botha, Rajahmi and Hendrikse causing them to ban us from celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Freedom Charter.

The Freedom Charter was adopted at the Congress of the People (COP) at Kliptown on June 26, 1955. Over 7,000 observers and 2,884 delegates from the length and breadth of this country attended the gathering, making the Charter the most democratic document ever produced in this country.

But the most striking feature of the Charter was the period before the COP when the demands for the Freedom Charter were being collected.

In March 1954, 200 organisations attended a planning conference where a National Action Council composed of Congress Alliance members was established. Its task was to popularise the COP and the Freedom Charter.

Hundreds of mass meetings, rallies and house-meetings were held and intensive door-to-door canvassing was undertaken. Ordinary people listed their grievances and demands to be incorporated into the Charter. These were written on sheets from exercise books, on little dog-eared scraps of paper and at the back of COP leaflets. People from every town, farm and factory discussed the changes needed to usher in a free South Africa of the future.

The Charter therefore is based on the will of the people and is therefore regarded as the People's document enjoying widespread popularity today — 30 years after it was formulated. All the clauses within the Charter envisages a society that is totally different from the present S.Africa.

Examples are:

- "The people shall govern" talks about a democratic form of government. It says "all bodies of minority rule, advisory boards, councils and authorities shall be replaced by democratic organs of self-government." Today this could be referring to the tri-cameral parliament, the Bantustans and community councils. These perpetuate the apartheid system and are NOT representatives of the people of this country.

- The people shall share in the country's wealth and "the land shall be shared amongst those who work it" is a clear reference to a more equitable society where there is no vast imbalance between rich and poor. This also makes the Charter anti-capitalist because it declares "the mineral wealth beneath the soil, the banks and the monopoly industries shall be transferred to the ownership of the people as a whole", and "all the land" will be "divided amongst those who work it, to banish famine and land hunger." At present about 90% of this country's wealth is owned by the white minority. We therefore have a situation where a larger number of black people are landless, homeless, hungry and poor.

- "There shall be work and security", envisages a society where "the state shall recognise the right and duty of all to work, and to draw full unemployment benefits." It furthermore recognises the right of workers to form trade unions and declares "men and women of all races shall receive equal pay for equal work." In S.Africa today unemployment is increasing daily. Black people are still discriminated against, in industries. Trade Unions like Thozamile Gqweba are harassed, detained and charged for treason. All this makes this clause a beacon of hope for these most oppressed and exploited by the apartheid regime.

- To the people in Duthuza, Vaal, Kwapha, Uitenhage, Soweto, Crossroads and other townships where they are battling against insufficient housing, poor living conditions and high rents the clause "there shall be houses, security and comfort" speaks of a society to which they seek to aspire. It says "all the people shall have the right to live where they choose, to be decently housed... rent and prices shall be lowered... slums shall be demolished and new suburbs built where all shall have transport, roads, lighting, playing fields, creches and social centres..." All these necessities are recognised as the responsibilities of the State.

- At present the Apartheid regime is at war with the people of Nambia and Angola. It has recently invaded Botswana. It is also at war with the people of S.Africa itself. The SADF is used in townships to quell the unrests there. The Freedom Charter in the clause titled "there shall be peace and friendship" states that "S.Africa shall be a fully independent state, which respects the rights and sovereignty of all nations" and "shall strive to maintain world peace and settlement of all international disputes by negotiation, not war."

- The other clauses: "All national groups shall have equal rights..." All shall be equal before the law..." All shall enjoy human rights..." the doors of learning and culture shall be open" can all similarly be demonstrated to be of equal importance today as when they were drafted 30 years ago.

The Charter therefore is a clear call to the action for unity and is a fine statement of re-dedicating all of our freedom loving people to realise a democratic society of the future.

The preamble states:

"And we pledge to strive together, sparing neither our strength nor courage, until the demands (here set out) have been won."

At the same time the Charter is a life-long commitment to the struggle by all who have accepted the Charter for it concludes by saying: "These freedoms we will fight for, side by side, throughout our lives until we have won our liberty."
The Congress of the people was held in Kliptown in 1955 to draw up the Freedom Charter to express the desires of the oppressed people of South Africa. Delegates from every corner of our country came together to speak of the hardships of their communities and to SPEAK OF FREEDOM. This document today still represents a beacon of hope in our struggle for freedom and liberation.

THE DAY WE SPOKE OF FREEDOM!!

"WE CALL THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA BLACK AND WHITE — LET US SPEAK OF FREEDOM!
WE CALL THE FARMERS OF THE RESERVES AND TRUSTLANDS
Let us speak of the wide land, and the narrow strips on which we till. Let us speak of brothers without land, and of the children without schooling. Let us speak of taxes and of cattle, and of famine. LET US SPEAK OF FREEDOM!
WE CALL THE MINERS OF COAL, GOLD AND DIAMONDS
Let us speak of the dark shafts, and the cold compounds far from our families. Let us speak of heavy labour and long hours, and of men sent home to die. Let us speak of rich masters and poor wages. LET US SPEAK OF FREEDOM.
WE CALL THE WORKERS OF FARMS AND FORESTS
Let us speak of the rich foods we grow, and the laws that keep us poor. Let us speak of harsh treatment and of children and women forced to work. Let us speak of private prisons, and beatings of passes. LET US SPEAK OF FREEDOM.
WE CALL THE WORKERS OF FACTORIES AND SHOPS
Let us speak of the good things we make, and the bad conditions of our work. Let us speak of the many passes and the few jobs. Let us speak of foremen and transport and of trade unions; of holidays and of houses. LET US SPEAK OF FREEDOM.
WE CALL THE TRANSPORT STUDENTS AND THE PREACHERS
Let us speak of the light that comes with learning, and the ways we are kept in darkness. Let us speak of great services we can render, and of the narrow ways that are open to us. Let us speak of laws, and government and rights. LET US SPEAK OF FREEDOM.
WE CALL THE FARMERS AND THE MOTHERS
Let us speak of the fine children that we bear, and of their stunted lives. Let us speak of the many illnesses and deaths, and of the few clinics and schools. Let us speak of high prices and of shanty towns. LET US SPEAK OF FREEDOM.

The "Call to Freedom" Document

Our leaders charged by reason for participating in the Congress of the People — later they were all arrested.
**TOWNSHIPS UNDER SIEGE**

All over the country the townships are under siege. By moving 7000 troops into Sekhukhuneland the last year the SADF declared war on the townships. The battlefields have now moved from the borders to the townships. Merciless and barbaric acts have been carried out against innocent young, old people and women. The agents of apartheid have carried out brutal acts of terror to maintain a political system that is rejected internally and condemned internationally. Daily, people are detained, killed or gone missing. The ultimate tragedy of this terror is looking for a friend or one’s family in the hospitals, jails or graveyards.

Township residents have exposed the shocking behaviour of the police and the SADF. The wearing of babulous, the use of sophisticated war machinery, the use of shackles and tear gas has demonstrated to the people that the National Party is using its armed might against unarmed and innocent people.

The oppressors have tried to blame the violence on the UDF and AAZAPO. These organisations may have ideological differences but both maintain that the enemy will always be the tri-cameral parliament, community councils and the bastuants. The plot to play off one organisation against the other is being used to try and stirle the deep anger and frustration being expressed against the government. The distribution of fake UDF and AAZAPO leaflets proves this.

Change in S.A. cannot be achieved by the elimination of either the UDF or AAZAPO but only by the ending of white minority rule. The struggle for freedom is not advanced by UDF fighting AZAPO, but only by the oppressed blacks and progressive whites uniting together for a democratic S.A.

The massacres in the Eastern Cape, Duduzza and Kwa-Thema have become a daily event. Nobody is fooled about who is behind the killings of the so-called ‘band grenade’ victims. A peaceful vigil at Guguletu cinema was broken up with tear gas and more people killed. Such atrocities are carried on whilst the Uitenhage massacre is still fresh in our minds. In CRADOCK, community leader — Matthew Goniwe and three of his comrades — Fort Calata, Sparrow Mkhonto and Siselo Mkhulekwa go missing and their mutilated bodies are subsequently found.

The people of the townships are angry, and have laid the blame on the agents of Apartheid. These savage murders are a devastating blow. Many leaders and political activists have gone missing, or have had their homes attacked by grenades and petrol bombs. The TIC pays tribute to the following.

The TIC will pay its respects to these martyrs by sending representatives to their funeral in CRADOCK. We call on the people to intensify the struggle against apartheid.

The SADF is the oppressors army. We refuse to allow our children to be conscripted into the SADF to kill our brothers and sisters. There cannot be peace and friendship under apartheid.

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**UNITY BRINGS BUS VICTORY**

Lenasia bus commuters have scored a major victory by forcing the Lenasia Bus Service (LBS) to scrap a 20% fare increase.

The entire Lenasia Community united under the FRA participated to make the victory possible. Over 90% of commuters boycotted the bus for just under 4 weeks. Car and kombi owners helped by offering lifts to commuters. The Federation of Residents Association (FRA) was supported by many organisations including the S.A. Health Workers Association, YLC, CTA and the Reform Church. The 20% increase followed close on two other increases of 16% each. A total increase of 40% over 6 months.

The people of Lenasia and their democratic organisations for their determined and united stand despite intimidation from the police and transportation board. It has proved that one can achieve greater results working outside the tri-cameral parliament and management committees. The alternative to participation on these dummy institutions is to form our own community organisations to take up our day-to-day problems. It is only when people get involved in trying to solve their own problems that we can achieve such victories.

At a mass meeting called during the boycott, the TIC noted that the Lenasia MP is in the House of Delegates and the Management Committee had done absolutely nothing about the transport problems experienced by our people. In fact, during the transport votes in the House of Delegates, the MP’s concentrated on trying to legalise prostitution.

The TIC also slammed Dennis Pillay’s attempt at winning credibility for himself by claiming he was backing a better bus service with the authorities. Where was Dennis Pillay during the boycott?

TIC sees transport as the responsibility of the Central Government and the Johannesburg City Council. Our people are forced to live far from their places of work because of theappy Act. The government must act. The TIC supports the call for greater subsidisation from the National Transport Commission as well as from the Johannesburg City Council.

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**REJECT PFP**

The TIC condemns the decision of the Progressive Federal Party (PFP) to participate in the House of Delegates and the House of Representatives. This betrays the wishes of our people, which was clearly articulated in our rejection of the tri-cameral parliament.

It is clear that the government’s decision to scrap the Political Interference Act is designed to give credibility to the tri-cameral parliament. Non-racial organisations like the UDF have always ignored and defied the Act whilst it was in operation. Thus the scrapping of this Act applies only to those political parties working within the framework of the apartheid tri-cameral parliament.

The PFP’s decision to join hands with Reddy’s Solidarity and Inkhatha was negating the blatant opportunism of the PFP.

The TIC calls on the Indian people to refuse to support the PFP. The PFP represents the interests of the Harry Oppenheimer. It does not represent the interest of the oppressed people. Joining the PFP will be tantamount to selling out to the oppressed people of S.A.
FORWARD TO FREEDOM

Law and order must be restored at all costs - this was P.W. Botha's message to our country on that fateful Saturday in July when the state of emergency was declared. We knew then that we were facing the worst attack on the democratic movement since the 1960's.

At the same time, 40,000 mourners paid their last respects to the four arranters Cape UDF leaders who died tragically as they pledged to continue with the fight for a free and democratic South Africa. For them, the death of our leaders will not be in vain.

In these dark weeks as the AEP moved into "cleaning up" the townships and weeding out all the so-called agitators, thousands of people have been detained, injured and lost their lives. Many men, women and children are missing. And, the assassination of VICTORIA NDENDE, UDF NATALE LEADER, shook us to the core.

REFORM - RECIPE FOR DISASTER

The Bothas', the Viljoens' the Molanas and their supporters in the trinational parliaments and the homelands, have lost the last breath of faith in our people. Did we not warn our people that the new constitution was a recipe for violence and conflict? Did we not warn our people that some of the media, the government needed to finance its apartheid parliaments, the troops in the townships and to wage unjust wars against neighbouring states?

Daily, our organisations are being blamed for the violence and the bloodshed in the townships. Did we not wage a peaceful campaign against the apartheid election? Who was responsible for the police brutality at Len and Actonville? We will never forget the rubber bullets, the swinging of men, women and children. It is these very tactics that are being used in the townships today.

WORLD SUPPORT AGAINST APARTHEID

The voices of protest against apartheid are not being heard in S.A. only. All over the world, from the United States to Europe and Africa, the call from the people is that apartheid must go. Under these pressures, many governments have been forced to introduce economic, military and diplomatic sanctions against apartheid.

Never before has the world spoken out with such unity against the government. And inside the country, powerful businessmen are beginning to lose faith in the National Party's ability to rule this country.

P.W. Botha has been pushed into a corner. Now, he is once again talking about reform. Have we not heard such promises before? He is talking about scrapping pass laws. About granting African people citizenship and a place in Botha's President's Council. A council which the majority of our people have rejected.

WE WILL NOT BE MISLED

We must not be misled. PNP is playing with words such as universal franchise and a common citizenship. Our demands still stand for:

* one South Africa free of Bantustans and Group Areas
* a non-racial and democratic S.A. in which one person shall have one vote
* and for the immediate lifting of the state of emergency.

We further demand that all political prisoners be released unconditionally and the unbanning of all political organisations.

We in the ZIC together with our fellow South Africans in the UDF will only participate in a national convention when apartheid has been dismantled.

We call on all Congress supporters to stand firm behind the organisations of our people. Not to lose faith in our vision of South Africa based on the Freedom Charter.

Now, more than ever before, we must rally behind our organisations. We must not be fooled by Botha's empty talk of reform. Nor, should we allow our struggle to be side tracked by the Elstera, the Hebanza, the Hendrickses and the Buthelezi's.
WE SALUTE ALL OPPONENTS OF APARTHEID

A tiny little woman, always dressed in a white sari; a woman with a broad smile and a lively sense of humour, a woman who may to some seem timidly in reality, a woman who is a vociferous opponent of Apartheid - this is Maniben Sita.

Maniben, the daughter of Hans Sita, follows the tradition of a father who engaged in the fight for human rights with Mahatma Ghandi and who for many years was a source of inspiration to all who hate injustice in this country.

Silencing the truth

Maniben is a fiery opponent of the truth. She speaks with an energy and a passion that makes the truth sting and which hurts all those whites and "non-whites", who benefit from and support the oppression of other people.

It is because Maniben has the power to shame racists, opportunists and exploiters that she is now in prison, like all those who dare to see the truth and expose it, she is treated as a criminal.

Now she, with thousands of others, is detained. It is an attempt to silence her and the voices of all those imprisoned.

Incarceration of someone like Maniben proclaims the truth of oppression even more loudly than she proclaimed it herself.

Serving God

Maniben is a devout Hindu who has been studying the philosophy of Yoga for the past twenty years. There is nothing she would like better than to devote her whole life to meditation and the service of God, but her career has been interrupted.

Since the state of emergency was declared, 1,000 people have been detained. 3,500 have been released and today, there are 880 people still being held. These figures exclude the detentions in areas which have not been declared emergency areas.

Nine prominent members of the Transvaal Indian Congress are still in detention. In addition, two ANC executive members, Mr. Jassat and Mr. Sookry, are facing treason charges.

We salute their bravery and will continue to stand by them. Maniben Sita (65) is being held at Diepkloof Prison. She is an executive member of the ANC and the Federation of Transvaal Women. In this edition of the Congress Newsletter, we want to pay a special tribute to her for her strength and sacrifice for a free South Africa.

The policeman. His name was "Sit down, you coolie bitch". Being a disciple of Gandhi, she did not sit down but in a dignified way asked, "I have never in my life addressed anyone in such terms, why do you speak to me like this?" The policeman did not expect this, but still he was not ashamed and forced her to sit down.

He has been brought up to respect our elders. There was his respect. How could he call a woman old enough to be his mother, a "bitch"? This policeman, a brutalised automate of the government, who cannot treat an elderly, defenceless woman as a human being, is the liaison between this government and the oppressed people of this country.

The bus was surrounded by about twenty policemen carrying R1 rifles. Maniben stood up to question one of

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OF EMERGENCY NOT SMASH US

By declaring the State of Emergency, PM Botha has admitted that his reform strategy is a failure and that apartheid rule is in a deep crisis. The Emergency is a desperate attempt on the part of the Nationalists to try and continue the protection of white minority rule.

The intention of the State of Emergency is to crush the democratic movement and stem our struggle. In the past two years, the freedom loving people have made many gains. Never before has there been such widespread opposition to Apartheid policies and more and more people uniting behind the UDF and its affiliates like the VCD who are committed to bring about a non-racial democracy in South Africa.

Through the Emergency the government wants to stop this, make Apartheid, prop up puppet leaders and force unacceptable solutions down our throats.

They intend to achieve this by:

1. Firstly, trying to quell the revolt in the townships. Daily the police, SANDF, ANCYL, UDF.SUDXfrau, SH, etc., saddle, shun and hurt us. They should look to themselves and intensify the people into submission.

2. Secondly, the government has gone all out to smash our democratic organizations. Leaders have been detained, activities banned, and leaflets confiscated. There are threats that the UDF and other organizations may be banned. Presently TIC's executive members (TLC, NATUJA, NATUJA, NATUJA, NATUJA) are still in detention.

More than half of the UDF leadership is behind bars. These include: Cornick Ndlovu (UDF Executive president), Terror Lekota (UDF publicity secretary), Billy Mail (NAC), Mzimela (ANC), and Vilakazi (ANC). Hani Motalane (ANC) is still in detention.

Despite these setbacks our people have fought on. In the midst of the State of Emergency the people on the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Natal and KwaZulu, have not surrendered. All over the country our people have supported the call to boycott white shops. The consumer boycott strategy is proving most successful.

Many people have lost their lives since the state of emergency was declared.

Children have been killed; many have been hurt without witnesses and others have been taken from their children. Mass funerals, in some cases, have attracted up to 4 000 mourners. These funerals are the symbols of the brutality of apartheid. It is here that mourners have strengthened themselves to continue to fight on against apartheid.

But we cannot stop here. We must:

1. Constantly show to our people, our business and the world that apartheid is a losing battle.

2. Intensify our struggle against the collaborators and trianisional system.

3. Ensure vigilance and discipline.

4. Stand united. We must not allow the ANC to break up our struggle. Workers, students, teachers, women, unemployed must all join hands.

THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE LIVES ON

By declaring the State of Emergency, PM Botha has admitted that his reform strategy is a failure and that apartheid rule is in a deep crisis. The Emergency is a desperate attempt on the part of the Nationalists to try and continue the protection of white minority rule.

Since the elections for the Black Local Authorities and the apartheid parliaments, there has not been a day of peace in our country.

The state of emergency in 10 years old. The government thought that it could silence our people and stop the unrest. Instead, the unrest has spread to other parts of the country - first to Natal, then to Eastern Cape and now the Western Cape is the scene of the worst conflict since 1976.

Police brutality, the detention of young children, the deaths have angered our people andLetter to Apartheid are the people in the townships. Such is the anger of the people that many now longer fear death. We have waged a bitter battle and have made great sacrifices.

In the Western Cape, the people fought back with a two-day work stay-away which was supported by 75% of the people. Recently, students, teachers and workers waged a campaign against Carter Ibrahim, the Minister of "Coloured" education to re-open the schools. This was a great victory for us as Ibrahim was forced to step down.

There are newspaper reports of people injured and killed by the police in the Cape.

In the Vaal Triangle where many of the leaders of the Vaal Civic Association have been arrested with high treason, the people have been forced to pay rent for over a year. They have stood firm despite threats of eviction. A successful consumer boycott of white shops in the Vaal River led to the arrest of the management.

The consumer boycott in Harare was so successful that white business was forced to negotiate with the people's leaders to end the boycott.

And, in Port Elizabeth, the consumer boycott continues, without any more white shops are forced to close down. Our people are saying clearly that business must choose its side. Either they support the people's demands for freedom, or they support the regime. There can be no middle road.

Mass stay-aways have hit our country over the past year. Since the stay-away in the Vaal Triangle in September last year, this has become a major non-violent weapon in the hands of our people.
WHAT REALLY HAPPENED AT INANDA?

The tragic events at the beginning of August were a sad moment in the history of the oppressed peoples. The government, the ANC and the Pretoria government, portrayed this as a black spot which would not affect the nation. The government, therefore, was not responsible for the incidents.

What really happened at Inanda?

Inanda is a vast squatter camp on the outskirts of Durban where Indians and Africans have lived together for years. It is a black spot which the government wants to forget, for fear that it will lead to demonstrations against the government.

But, the government has not been able to forget the incidents, for fear that they will lead to demonstrations against it.

Most of the Indians are landowners and tenant farmers, and have been developing their land. The government has been trying to incorporate them into KwaZulu.

But, the government has not been able to incorporate them, for fear that they will lead to demonstrations against it.

The Inanda Relief Committee set up at the beginning of the disturbances, was asked to help the people. They asked for food and for the government to provide compensation for their land.

It was against this backdrop that the events in Inanda took place.

On Monday 5 August, a group of 'strangers' entered Inanda and began attacking Indian shops. Many Indian families fled and took refuge at the Greenbury Hall in the adjoining Inanda Township, Phoenix. By the end of that week, close to 1,000 families had left Inanda.

Inanda Relief Committee.

In Phoenix, the Phoenix Child Welfare Society, the Phoenix Women's Association, the local civic association and the affected residents set up an Inanda Relief Committee.

The Inanda Relief Committee was asked to help the people. They asked for food and for the government to provide compensation for their land.

The government has been trying to incorporate them into KwaZulu.

But, the government has not been able to incorporate them, for fear that they will lead to demonstrations against it.

PFP CANNOT BE TRUSTED

In 1983, when the government held a referendum to determine whether the white community would support the new scale, the Progressivists Party (PFP) urged whites to vote 'No'. Its leader Han van Wijl Slabbert warned that the new constitution would lead to compulsory racial segregation in our country, and would lead to the breakup of the nation.

We have hoped that Slabbert and the PFP would then turn their backs on the whites' racist 3-chamber parliament and join the democratic movement in our struggle for democracy, instead of opting to participate in the white parliament "to change the system from within". In so doing they did an about-turn - they decided to participate in the very parliament in which they had rejected earlier on a ballot which they said would increase conflict.

In the recent elections, the PFP decided to contest elections for the Indian and "Coloured" Houses of Parliament. The aim of the PFP is to contest elections for the Indian and "Coloured" Houses of Parliament and for the "Coloured" sections of the country.

At its recent congress held in Durban, the PFP decided to contest elections for the Indian and "Coloured" Houses of Parliament. The aim of the PFP is to contest elections for the Indian and "Coloured" sections of the country. Despite strong opposition from its youth and other prominent members - despite its total rejection by the ANC - the PFP has contributed to setting our country on a road to disaster.

For us in the Transvaal Indian Congress and the United Democratic Front this can be interpreted as a sign of the times. It shows us that the PFP cannot be trusted, for the wishes of our people have been declared war on us.

The PFP has also revealed that it has not been critical of the government's policy of attempting to rescue the ANC. It has not been critical of the government's attempts to rescue the ANC. It is only by going to apartheid rule and cooperative government that will enable us to achieve our goal of a united South Africa.

The TIC is committed to a South Africa as envisaged in the Freedom Charter; a South Africa where all South Africans will participate in the running of the country without any reservations.

In order to achieve our vision of a non-racial South Africa, we must remain committed to mobilising and organising people from all walks of life against both the ANC and the PFP. We are the Rainbow, the white, black and the coloured.
MAY DAY - DAY OF WORKERS UNITY

May 1st this year, marks the 101st anniversary of May Day or International Labour Day. In SA and the world over May Day symbolises the struggle, solidarity and unity of the working people.

Workers remember their bitter struggle at work against slave wages and long hours, against unemployment and starvation, racist employers, retrenchments and little social security.

Workers remember their struggle at home against high rents, poor facilities, inadequate transport and housing shortages.

And on this day, through expressing their unity, their power - workers rededicate themselves to the struggle for a decent life.

Today under the banner of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), workers throughout S.A. are demanding a living wage.

Congress calls the WORKERS in the Indian community to:
- join in the struggle for a living wage,
- join Cosatu and its affiliates (particularly those previously belonging to TUCSA),
- unite with and support the struggles of African workers,
- not to divide and weaken workers by indulging in scab labour.

We call on the UNEMPLOYED
- join or form progressive trade unions linked to Cosatu.
- demand the right to work
- demand better unemployment benefits

We call on the EMPLOYERS
- recognize May 1st as a paid public holiday for workers
- give workers off on May Day every year
- be sympathetic to the struggle of workers for higher wages and better working conditions.

We call on the HOUSEWIVES
- give domestic workers off on May 1st every year as a paid holiday
- improve the working and living conditions of domestic workers
- encourage domestic workers to join the South African Domestic Workers Union (SADWU)

We call on the COMMUNITY
- attend public rallies cultural and the May Day activities wherever they are held
- Support the struggle of the workers; the workers struggle is our struggle. Our struggle is the workers struggle!

STOP PRESS
Congress condemns the brutal killings of 6 striking railway workers by police on 22/04/87. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the families and fellow workers of those killed, as well as to the Cosatu-affiliated South African Railways and Harbours Workers Union.

Congress Rallies

LENASIA
MAY DAY RALLY
FRI 1 MAY 1987
2:30 pm
GANDHI HALL
SPEAKER
HELEN JOSEPH

LAUDIUM
FRI 1 MAY 1987
MAY DAY
CULTURAL AFTERNOON
2 pm
- COSATU SPEAKER
- POETRY, DRAMA
- MUSIC
SEVA SAMAJ HALL

CONGRESS SUPPORTS COSATU!
MAY 6...
WHITES ONLY ELECTION

• WHAT IS IT ABOUT?
• WHO WILL WIN?
• WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US?
• PFP AND THE INDEPENDENTS?

THE CONGRESS VIEW...

THE ELECTION IS NOT LEGITIMATE
The elections are about a small minority taking decisions for a huge majority, it is not legitimate for the white minority to try to determine the lives and future of the 30-million black majority.

THE ELECTION SOLVES NOTHING
The elections will not solve the political and economic crisis facing this country. It will not end the growing conflict between fellow South Africans. It will not address unemployment and inflation. It does not address the fundamentally democratic demand of the majority for one person, one vote in one parliament.

THE POLICE AND MILITARY WILL WIN
Botha is a dictator. He has destroyed basic freedoms - freedom of the press, the freedom to organise, freedom of speech and even the freedom to pray for detainees. Botha has allowed the military and police to run this country.

The State Security Council composed of the security, military and intelligence is the effective inner Cabinet today. It rules at a local level through secret structures called joint management committees.

The white electorate will vote in the Nats and entrench Botha’s dictatorship. But it is really the security, military and intelligence establishment which is returned to power.

CHANGE WILL NOT COME FROM THE WHITE PARLIAMENT
We will have freedom and democracy in South Africa only when the African majority is free. This will not come about from the Nats and their white parliament. True change in the interest of the majority can come about only through the participation of the majority.

PFP AND INDEPENDENTS OFFER NO SOLUTIONS
Both fail to address the key issue of majority rule on one person, one vote one parliament basis. Their solutions will not change the daily misery of the majority of South Africans. Only certain white business interests will really benefit.

There is no fundamental difference between the Independents and the Nats. Their disagreement is over how best the status quo can be maintained.

The PFP still holds that it can bring changes through the white parliament. It refuses to accept that parliament is loaded in favour of the Nats. The PFP is also doing everything to avoid genuine democracy - non-racial majority rule.

THE ROLE OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE
The Indian people have an interest in ending apartheid and can only gain from this. No section of South Africa’s people can be free for as long as the African people are not free. To achieve freedom and democracy in South Africa, we have to fight for the liberation of the African people.

The Indian community has a proud history of siding with its fellow oppressed. But we cannot rely only on past contributions to the struggle. We need to meet the challenges of today.

We call on our people - in the schools and universities, at home and at work in the mosques, temples and churches - to play an active role in the ever growing fight against apartheid. Take a stand today for a better tomorrow! The Botha government has long missed the boat.

Already the African people are talking of controlling their own lives and determining their own future. It is the struggles of the African majority - outside parliament - which can influence the course and outcome of events in South Africa. And no one can prevent this reality.

END BOTHA DICTATORSHIP!
SUPPORT DEMOCRACY!
SUPPORT MAJORITY RULE!
HISTORY OF MAY DAY

May 1st has been celebrated throughout the world as International Worker's Day (May Day) for over a century. Its history dates back to 1886 when workers in Australia went on a work stoppage for an 8-hour working day.

* In 1886, workers in America supported the struggle for an 8-hour working day with massive strikes and demonstrations. Labour leaders were then charged with conspiracy and hanged. These were the workers' first martyrs.

* In 1890, May 1st was accepted as the Workers' International Day of Solidarity. By this time, "Workers of the World Unite!" had become a popular slogan.

* 1918 is regarded as the beginning of May Day for Black South African Workers because of their meetings, processions, etc., that year.

* In 1931, the African May Day Committee organised a March through the streets of Johannesburg. The procession led to clashes with the police. Many workers were injured and some were sent to prison.

* In 1950, the ANC (Tvl), TIC and the Johannesburg District Committee of the CPSA jointly organised a stayaway on May 1st. The highly successful stay-away led to clashes between workers and police in Orlando, Alex, Brakpan and Sophiatown. Nineteen workers were killed and 20 injured.

* In 1959/1960, the Government abolished May Day as a paid holiday for workers in SA. By this time progressive trade unions like SACTU, which was affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unions, had come under severe attack from the Government.

SADWU'S GUIDELINES FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS

The South African Domestic Workers' Union (SADWU) has outlined the following guidelines for domestic workers:

Suggested minimum wages for domestic workers:
- Semi-skilled person: R150 per month.
- Someone with special skills or special responsibilities such as cooking, baking, or looking after small children: R200 per month.

Both suggested salaries are for an eight-hour working day.

Workers should be provided with three meals a day and working clothes.

A transport cost should be provided for workers living out.

If you cannot afford the full recommended wage, then pay for the number of hours you can afford.

A part-time living-out worker, for example, could then be employed on a pro rata percentage of the recommended wage for a full-time living-out domestic worker.

A daily casual worker: Minimum wage: R18.10 per day plus transport. Meals must be provided. A morning of four hours, but should be paid rather more than half an eight-hour day as one works harder during the first four hours.

A gardener should earn the same as domestic workers, except the daily casual who earns R20 per day. Meals and transport should be provided.

Hourly rate: R2 per hour.

Overtime: R2.50 per hour.

Baby sitting: R2.50 per hour.

Continue struggle for May Day

* May 1st 1986 was the 100th Anniversary of May Day. Last year's call by COSATU to celebrate May Day as a paid public holiday was an outstanding success.

* This coupled with the growing struggles and solidarity of the workers forced the Government to recognize the importance of May Day. But instead of recognizing May Day as Workers Day, the Government has declared the First Friday of May as South African Workers' Day.

* COSATU has rejected this so-called concession and has pledged itself to continue the struggle to recognize 1st May as a paid public holiday for all workers in SA.

* The TIC fully stands behind COSATU.
EDITORIAL

The outcome of the White elections leaves a clear message — The Indian community must step up its involvement in the struggle outside parliament.

The white electorate voted for their own security and the ‘Ian Smith’ option of more confrontation with the black majority. It is clear today that the whites will not voluntarily bring about genuine change.

Neither will the government of P.W. Botha bring change. The Indian and Coloured clowns in the tri-cameral system will not bring change. Indeed the tri-cameral-parliament itself is an obstacle to change.

NATS MUST BE REMOVED

Change will only come about if there is a democratically elected government. The Nats must be removed from power if apartheid is to be scrapped.

The Indian community need not despair. All of us who did not vote in the 1984 tri-cameral elections did so for these very reasons.

Change in South Africa will come through the efforts of those outside parliament working in organisations like the UDF, COSATU, TIC, S A Youth Congress (SAYCO).

Botha’s determination to evict people through strict enforcement of the Group Areas Act, confirms that his cosmetic reforms are now dead. The community can only defend itself from these threats if it unites to resist apartheid more strongly. Even collaborators like Bhadrach Ranchod can’t influence the government to scrap the Group Areas Act.

ACT AGAINST COLLABORATORS

The time has also come for our community to take action against the collaborators. We must intensify our efforts to isolate them, as well as those who honour them. They are endangering the long term security of our community by giving a negative image of the Indian community to our African compatriots.

The TIC believes that it is imperative that the Indian community intensifies its involvement in the struggle against apartheid. This is the only road to securing our future in the country. This will demonstrate our sincerity in striving for a non-racial democratic SA as enshrined in the Freedom Charter.

JUNE 12 - 26 NATIONAL UNITED ACTION

The United Democratic Front (UDF) has called for National United Action from June 12 to 26. The action is directed against the State of Emergency and detention of our people.

June 12 — The first anniversary of the hated Emergency - the UDF has called for:
• one hour work stoppage;
• One hour closure of shops;
• hunger fast by those inside and outside the prison.
• support from all organisations for a declaration demanding an end to the Emergency.

June 16 - South African Youth Day - be considered to be a public holiday to remember those who have died in the struggle for freedom.

June 26 - Anniversary of the Freedom Charter.

JUNE 16 RALLIES

LENAASIA

CIVIC CENTRE

2PM

LAUDIUM

SEVA SAMAJ HALL

2PM

SPEAKERS: UDF, COSATU, TIC

IN THIS ISSUE ★ UDF CONFERENCE ★
★ GROUP AREAS ★ FREEDOM CHARTER ★ SAYCO
Despite a national State of Emergency, the United Democratic Front recently held a National Conference to assess and make policy for the coming year. Murphy Morobe, Acting Publicity Secretary of the UDF, reports on the main conference resolutions.

**UDF NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

* FREEDOM CHARTER:
  That UDF affiliates should talk about adopting the Freedom Charter. Already a large number of key affiliates have adopted the Charter. The Charter has been a unifying factor in our struggle. If adopted, it would provide the UDF with a political programme.

  It contains all the popular demands of the people which the UDF has been articulating over the past four years. The decision needs to be canvassed across the length and breadth of the country.

* BROADEN STRUGGLE
  The UDF needs to broaden out. What is needed now is for the broadest possible grouping of people to take a stand against the National Party. The Front should work towards a national conference of all anti-apartheid organisations.

  It must strengthen itself at a local level and work with the widest possible range of people, such as local traders, sports and church organisations. The alliance with Cosatu must be strengthened at all levels.

* ORGANISING YOUTH:
  Many youth, especially in rural areas, facing desperate financial situations are being recruited as police or kitshonstabels. SAYCO and other affiliates will campaign around this issue. There is a need among the youth to build organisations, for political education and for cultural and sporting programmes to occupy them.

* WOMEN PARTICIPATE:
  Every organiser must also be a women's organiser. Women must be mobilised and organised to participate with equal confidence at all levels of our organisations.

  The recently formed United Democratic Front's Women's Congress was set up to ensure that UDF takes up the women's issues and that UDF issues are raised in women's organisations.

* WORKING CLASS
  The UDF recognised the leading role of the working class in the national liberation struggle and resolved to actively encourage the participation of workers in all organisations. It also supported Cosatu's one union, one industry efforts, and the "Hands Off Cosatu" and "Living Wage" campaigns.

* MPs MUST RESIGN:
  Recognising the growing use of facetious policies by the Botha regime and its dictatorial and criminal actions, the conference decided to call on the PFP to resign and join the democratic movement. This call also included the Houses of Delegates and Representatives.

* ISOLATE REGIME:
  On the question of academic and cultural boycotts, delegates said there was a need to increase the isolation of the South African Government. But this should not mean the isolation of South African people. The democratic movement in South Africa and anti-apartheid organisations reserved the right to allow certain cultural and academic people who will further the struggle to travel abroad.

RESIST GROUP AREAS

The Botha Government won its election on an apartheid ticket, promising to ensure white security at all costs.

P W Botha has begun by threatening to evict thousands of Indian, Coloured and African People from so-called white areas. He does so in spite of the fact that black people are moving into white areas because of the serious housing shortage in all black areas. Whites have an oversupply of houses, and have long vacated the flats and houses now occupied by black people.

Even those spineless black people who worship P W Botha are not allowed to live in white areas. Bhadora Ranchod, the first Indian Ambassador for Apartheid, has been refused a permit to live in a white area in Westville. Yet Rajbansi, Hendrickse and other MP's keep on making false promises to our people that they will be able to scrap the Group Areas Act.

"The government is using our people as a political football in an attempt to placate the electorate," said UDF Publicity Secretary Murphy Morobe.

However, these MP's are so busy fighting each other for ministerial positions and fat pay cheques, that they did not even address the Group Areas issue during the first week's no-confidence debate in the present parliamentary session. Indeed these MP's are only interested in pleasing Botha, rather than fighting Botha and his Group Areas Act. It is not surprising then that Rajbansi was so pleased that the Nats won the election to implement their cosmetic reforms.

In any case, even if they wanted to, these MP's will not be able to influence Botha to scrap the Group Areas Act. If they cannot get Botha to scrap segregated beaches, how can they succeed over bigger issues?

The TIC and UDF will resist any attempt by the Govt to move our people out of Mayfair, Hillbrow and other areas. We believe that all the affected people in these areas should unite under civic organisations like ACTSTOP and resists the Group Areas Act.
FREEDOM CHARTER
The people’s demands

This month marks the 32nd anniversary of the adoption of the Freedom Charter. Even more than three decades of that historic event, the Charter continues to remain the most fundamental and relevant political statement in the history of the oppressed people’s struggle for Freedom in SA.

This is so because the Charter has always and continues to enshrine, the legitimate hopes and aspirations of the overwhelming majority of the people of this country for a just, democratic and non-racial society in SA.

None of the demands so clearly outlined in the Charter has been met by a minority that is determined to hang on to power and to its privileges. The recent whites-only elections have negated the first clause of the Charter— that “The People Shall Govern”.

This election has now clearly drawn the battle-lines—for the white minority has opted for a head-on collision with the Black majority. By doing so, it has consciously slammed the door on the final clause of the Charter—that “There Shall Be Peace and Friendship”.

In spite of such setbacks, and in spite of the current wave of intensified repression, all freedom-loving people in this country have been left with no option but to determinedly pursue their heroic struggle for peace, justice and freedom in the country as envisaged in the Freedom Charter.

This determination has permeated all sectors of the oppressed majority—from the dynamic youth movement onwards to the powerful and growing trade union movement in the country.

In this connection, developments in the trade union movement are both important and inspiring. The fact that the Charter satisfies the aspirations of the working people explains why important and powerful trade unions like the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the National Union of Metal Workers of SA (Numsa) have adopted the Freedom Charter.

With the contemplated adoption of the Charter by the UDF, is of special significance to the struggle for Freedom in this country. Just as the whites-only election signifies the consolidation of the forces of the right and of a minority, so do these developments signify the consolidation of the forces of the democratic majority, on the basis of a single political programme.

Such a consolidation further strengthens and unifies the democratic movement in the country.

Moreover, greater and greater number of trade unions are likely to follow this important lead in the future.

Their adoption of the Freedom Charter also places the important question of the equitable distribution of the country’s wealth firmly on the political agenda.

Finally, these developments are clear evidence of the growing popularity of the Freedom Charter, and re-inforces the oft-repeated claim that the society as envisaged in the Charter is the only viable alternative to the one which a privileged minority wants to impose upon all the people of South Africa by force.

Significant as all this undoubtedly is, what is equally important is to consciously strive towards the establishment of the society as envisaged in the Charter.

To this end the Transvaal Indian Congress, which has adopted the Charter as long ago as 1956, once again calls upon all its members, readers and supporters to add their weight in greater numbers and to a far degree than hitherto to the just and noble cause of Freedom in South Africa.

Pull out the Freedom Charter on the next page and paste onto your wall.

AHMED KATHRADA - PEOPLE’S HERO
24 years in prison and still courageous

In Pollsmoor Prison near Cape Town, languishes a man who stands tall in our community. Ahmed ‘Kathy’ Kathrada, a courageous and dedicated political activist, an outstanding leader and a PEOPLE’S HERO.

In 1963 Kathy was arrested and put on trial along with Nelson Mandela and other great leaders of the liberation movement. They were sentenced to life imprisonment and have spent their days in Robben Island and Pollsmoor Prison ever since.

From an early age, Kathrada was deeply opposed to the injustice and oppression of the apartheid system. In 1946, he helped to establish the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress and became its chairman for several years.

He was to play a prominent role in all the main struggles and campaigns of the post-war period—in the Passive Resistance Movement of 1946, the Defiance Campaign against unjust laws in 1952, the Congress of the People in 1955.

He was arrested in 1956 along with 155 other Congress leaders and activists, and charged with High Treason. Whilst on trial he was detained during the State of Emergency declared after the Sharpeville massacre in March 1960. Soon after his acquittal on treason charges, he was later that year placed under house arrest.

Today after 22 years of imprisonment, this courageous leader remains unflinching in his commitment to a non-racial, democratic South Africa - having rejected P.W. Botha’s offer of a conditional release.

In the hearts of the oppressed people he will truly remain a PEOPLE’S HERO.

- Ahmed Kathrada’s co-prisoner and comrade, Walter Sisulu, recently celebrated his 75th birthday in Pollsmoor Prison. To Walter we say HAPPY BIRTHDAY.
THE FREEDOM CHARTER

As adopted at the Congress of the People on 26 June 1955

PREAMBLE We the people of South Africa, declare for all our country and the world to know

That South Africa belongs to all who live in it black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of the people;
That our people have been robbed of their birthright to land, liberty and peace by a form of government founded on injustice and inequality;
That our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities;
That only a democratic state, based on the will of the people can secure to all their birthright without distinction of colour, race, sex or belief;
And therefore, we the people of South Africa, black and white, together equal, countrymen and brothers adopt this FREEDOM CHARTER. And we pledge ourselves to strive together, sparing nothing of our strength and courage, until the democratic changes here set out have been won.

THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN!
Every man and woman shall have the right to vote for and stand as a candidate for all bodies which make laws.
All the people shall be entitled to take part in the administration of the country.
The rights of the people shall be the same regardless of race, colour or sex.
All bodies of minority rule, advisory boards, councils and authorities shall be replaced by democratic organs of self-government.

ALL NATIONAL GROUPS SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS!
There shall be equal status in the bodies of state, in the courts and in the schools for all national groups and races.
All national groups shall be protected by law against insults to their race and national pride.
All people shall have equal rights to use their own language and to develop their own folk culture and customs;
The preaching and practice of national, race or colour discrimination and contempt shall be a punishable crime.
All apartheid laws and practices shall be set aside.

THE PEOPLE SHALL SHARE IN THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH!
The national wealth of our country, the heritage of all South Africans, shall be restored to the people.
The mineral wealth beneath the soil, the banks and monopoly industry shall be transferred to the ownership of the people as a whole;
All other industries and trade shall be controlled to assist the well-being of the people;
All people shall have equal rights to trade where they choose, to manufacture and to enter all trades, crafts and professions.

THE LAND SHALL BE SHARED AMONG THOSE WHO WORK IT!
Restriction of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended, and all the land re-divided amongst those who work it, to banish famine and land hunger.
The state shall help the peasants with implements, seed, tractors and dams to save the soil and assist the tillers.
Freedom of movement shall be guaranteed to all who work on the land;
All shall have the right to occupy land wherever they choose;
People shall not be robbed of their cattle, and forced labour and farm prisons shall be abolished.

ALL SHALL BE EQUAL BEFORE THE LAW!
No one shall be imprisoned, deported or restricted without fair trial;
No one shall be condemned by the order of any Government official;
The courts shall be representative of all the people;
Imprisonment shall be only for serious crimes against the people, and shall be not re-education, abet vengeance;
The police force and army shall be open to all on an equal basis and shall be the protectors and protegees of the people;
All laws which discriminate on the grounds of race, colour or belief shall be repealed.

ALL SHALL ENJOY HUMAN RIGHTS!
The law shall guarantee to all the right to speak, to organise, to meet together, to publish, to preach, to worship and to educate their children;
The privacy of the house from police raids shall be protected by law;
All shall be free to travel without restriction from country to town, from province to province, and from South Africa abroad;
Pass laws, permits and all other laws restricting these freedoms shall be abolished.

THERE SHALL BE WORK AND SECURITY!
All who work shall be free to form trade unions to elect their officers and to make wage agreements with their employers.
The state shall recognise the right and duty of all to work, and to draw full employment benefits.
Men and women of all races shall receive equal pay for equal work;
There shall be a forty-hour working week, a national minimum wage, paid annual leave, and sick leave for all workers, and maternity leave on full pay for all working mothers.
Miners, domestic workers, farm workers and civil servants shall have the same rights as all others who work;
Child labour, compound labour, the tot system and contract labour shall be abolished.

THE DOORS OF LEARNING AND CULTURE SHALL BE OPENED!
The government shall discover, develop and encourage national talent for the enhancement of our cultural life.
All the cultural treasures of mankind shall be open to all, by free exchange of books, ideas and contact with other lands.
The aim of education shall be to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour human brotherhood, liberty and peace;
Education shall be free, compulsory, universal and equal for all children.
Higher education and technical training shall be open to all by means of state allowances and scholarships awarded on the basis of merit.
Adult literacy shall be ended by a mass state education plan;
Teachers shall have all the rights of other citizens.
The colour bar in cultural life, in sport and in education shall be abolished.

THERE SHALL BE HOUSES, SECURITY AND COMFORT!
All people shall have the right to live where they choose, to decently house, and to bring up their families in comfort and security;
Unsued housing space to be made available to the people.
Rent and prices shall be lowered, food plentiful and no one shall go hungry.
A preventive health scheme shall be run by the state;
Free medical care and hospitalisation shall be provided for all, with special care for mothers and young children.
Slums shall be demolished and new suburbs built where all shall have transport, roads, lighting, playing fields, creches and social centres.
The aged, the orphans, the disabled and the sick shall be cared for by the state.
Rest, leisure and recreation shall be the right of all, fenced locations and ghettos shall be abolished and laws which break up families shall be repealed.

THERE SHALL BE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP!
South Africa shall be a fully independent state, which respects the rights and sovereignty of all nations.
South Africa shall strive to maintain world peace and the settlement of all international disputes by negotiation not war.
Peace and friendship amongst all our people shall be secured by upholding the equal rights, opportunities and status of all.
The people of the protectorates Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland shall be free to decide for themselves their own future.
The right of all the peoples of Africa to independence and self-government shall be recognised, and shall be the basis of close cooperation.

Let all who love their people and their country now say, as we say here: THESE FREEDOMS WE WILL FIGHT FOR, SIDE BY SIDE, THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES UNTIL WE HAVE WON OUR LIBERTY.
In January 1987 the House of Delegates was inundated with over 600 applications from African students to attend Indian schools. The TIC waged an intensive campaign for admission of these students, which received widespread support from parents, students and teachers. Over 40 religious, welfare, sporting, civic, cultural, youth, student and political organisations endorsed the call to "open our schools to all." The TIC received many letters supporting the campaign from organisations and individuals throughout the country.

Below we publish some of the letters.

that the Rajbansi movement does not represent the majority of S.A. Indians at all. They are still involved in racial and separate structures using the same ideas as their bosses, the NP. We condemn the present decision made without referendum from the Indian community..."

The General Secretary
Mbokeng Youth Congress
Kroonstad
"I would like to register our youth congress among all other organisations who are with you in the campaign of opening the doors of learning to all..."
Pres.- Sykesfontein Youth Congress.
"I should like to express my sincere gratitude about your campaign "Open Our Schools To All". Sec.- Mariband Youth Org. Pietersburg
"Comradely greetings from Young Christian students on behalf of our membership throughout the country...
We hope the campaign will serve as a tool to develop the aspirations and of our people to a free, just and compulsory education for all."
National Organiser — YCS
"We would like to add our voice to that of all the other organisations who are calling for open schools for all..."
Women For Peace
"We send the assurance of our solidarity with the Transvaal Indian Congress with its campaign against apartheid in our education and our society."
Border — Sayco
"I am a white South African boy who is totally against apartheid. I further believe that schools must be opened for all races, and that Nelson Mandela must be released..."
J. Mouton — Florida

The May 6 election results and the rightward shift of the white electorate have shattered the myth of parliament being the key instrument of political change and social progress in our country.

In the final analysis, the African, Indian and Coloured people are being denied meaningful participation in the political process and remain denationalised in the country of their birth; and the wealth of the country remains the private property of a minority. The rhetoric of the Houses of Representatives and Delegates of destroying apartheid from within has proved to be hollow. Both have not even chipped the granite-like institution of apartheid.

Moreover, the House of Delegates has failed dismally in improving the quality of life of those they claim to represent. Waiting lists for decent housing and allegations of corruption grow longer everyday. Unemployment and inflation have rocketed. Health and welfare facilities remain inadequate and racially segregated.

The R55 million cutback on education, the dismissals of teachers, the non-employment of newly qualified teachers and the growing demoralisation of educationists all point to a crisis in "Indian" education as a whole. The realities indicate, that even those aspects that fall under the direct control of the House of Delegates as "own affairs", are far below the expectations and needs of our people.

In 1984, both the United Democratic Front and the Transvaal Indian Congress had argued that the new constitution was a recipe for social conflict. Events over the last two years have born testimony to that assertion. Since September 1984, African townships in every part of the country have exploded into revolt. The response of the Botha/Hendrikse/Rajbansi alliance has not been to address the root causes of violent social conflicts in our country. Instead, they unleashed a reign of terror. Today whatever semblance of democracy that might have existed prior to August 1984, has vanished.

The capacity of the courts to check the abuse of power by the government has been severely diminished, the Press has lost its freedom, and the freedom of speech, movement and association have been battered to the ground through the detentions of 25 000 people, bannings and restrictions and the repulsive actions of the vigilantes and security forces.

The undeniable truth of the matter is that South Africa is fast becoming a "police state". Political power is no longer exercised through parliament and the cabinet, but through the military-dominated State Security Council and its local Joint Management Committees.

The Houses of Delegates and Representatives are doomed to fail. The many MPs who sit silently session after session in parliament cannot direct the course of events and shape the future of the country.
Dr Vijay Ramlakan was recently sentenced to 12 years imprisonment. He goes to prison along with Sibusiso Ndlanzi, Shibongiseni Dhlomo, Vusumuzi Mahlobo, Ordway Msomi, Mapiki Dhlomo, Bafo Nguqu, Malusi Majola and Jude Frans, sentenced to a total of 72 years. Congress Register reproduces the touching story of Dr Vijay Ramlakan from The Weekly Mail (8-14/5/87)

Dr Vijay Ramlakan

Against great odds of family poverty, Durban doctor, Vijay Ramlakan, qualified as a medical practitioner.

But his medical training gave him a new view of South Africa and the effects of apartheid.

Eventually this — and the things he saw in medical practice — drew him into the ANC and a week ago he was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment for his part in a number of bombings in and around Durban.

Originally Ramlakan was charged with 11 other, but three were acquitted, and at the end of the trial the remaining eight were given a total of 84 years’ imprisonment.

The case drew interest because two of the accused were doctors - Ramlakan and Sibongiseni Dhlomo.

During his evidence in mitigation Ramlakan said he believed every doctor had a duty to become involved in the struggle against apartheid. No health worker could ignore the fact that apartheid caused disease, he said.

Explaining to the court what had led him to becoming politically involved and ultimately to join the ANC, Ramlakan said because of apartheid there were two types of disease in South Africa: whites suffered from diseases of excess, from a well-fed, inactive lifestyle, while black people suffered from diseases caused by poverty, lack of sanitation, housing and food.

Apartheid created the kind of conditions where of 1 000 African children, 282 die before their first birthday — compared with six white children in every thousand which die in the first year, none of them of malnutrition.

For most of Ramlakan’s working life, he was based at Durban’s giant King Edward VIII Hospital, although he had some other experience including two terms at two rural hospitals.

He said King Edward Hospital was the second largest in the Southern hemisphere, but it was a “constant nightmare” for the staff and over half a million patients seen in the hospital every year who have to queue up to 14 hours to be seen.

The hospital had been prevented from expanding as it needed to do, because it was in the middle of a “white” area.

There were often three patients to a bed and seriously ill patients had to sleep between or under the beds.

He said because of a shortage of both staff and facilities he found himself having to watch the death of patients who could have been saved if they had “proper” treatment. He sometimes had to choose which patients he would have to allow to die.

These conditions existed not 10km away from Durban’s Addington Hospital where several wards have been closed because there are not enough white patients to fill the beds.

Ramlakan’s life was changed irreversibly, he said, when he was faced with this situation.

He said that as a doctor his first consideration and duty was to his patients. He would not permit considerations of religion, race, politics or social standing to interfere with this.

This meant also that he could not allow apartheid to interfere in his relationship with patients.

He felt he had a moral duty to destroy apartheid and if he failed to try to do this he would not be true to his calling.

Ramlakan, who was also a lecturer in anatomy at Natal University’s Medical School, came from a very poor family of eight children who lived in a single room with their parents in Cato Manor.

When the area was declared white during the 1950’s, the family was forcibly moved.

An uncle noticed his academic talents and tried to help him through high school. Whenever he visited his home he saw how his parents and siblings were affected by the poverty of their circumstances and how they could not afford for his brothers and sisters to continue their education.

While he was a student he worked in organisations which tried different kinds of non-violent protest but eventually he turned to the ANC in 1984 and accepted the need for “selective violence” to “overcome the forces of apartheid as there was no other option.”

However, he told the court he believed the worst kind of violence was that “enshrined in the legislation of this country”.

“I am greatly saddened that I belong to a community that is forced to engage in violence in order to get the basic right it deserves,” he said.

Ramlakan, convicted of ordering House of Delegates leader Amichand Rajbansi’s home to be bombed, said he wanted to show Rajbansi that he represented no one but himself and that the “oppressed people will not forgive him”.

Ramlakan was described as an “angry young man” by Judge Thirion, who said he took into consideration that Ramlakan had warned his trainees to be careful not to injure anyone.

Ramlakan and his wife Sandy Africa, have a daughter 21 months, Rosa Raksha.

Africa said this week that she was greatly encouraged by the support given by her family and members of the community.

She was also coming to terms with the fact that Rosa would be over 12 before she saw her father again.

“BUT I’m proud of Vijay and believe he was playing his part in the liberation of black people,” she added.

Africa said she hoped the families of the other eight sentenced in the trial would find similar support in the community.

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**PRETORIA**

A former member of the Indian Congress, Ismail Ebrahim, faces charges of treason in Pretoria. Ismail was jailed for 12 years on Robben Island and left the country after his release. He was allegedly kidnapped from Swaziland and handed over to the SAP.

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**DELMAS**

Terror Lekota (Publicity Secretary of the UDF and Popo Molefe (General Secretary of the UDF) with 16 other activists, many from the Vaal, are facing trial on charges of Treason. The trial has dragged on for many months, with the defense presently leading evidence.

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**CISKEI**

The General Secretary of the Border region of the UDF, Rev. Arnold Stofile, and others were convicted of terrorism in the Ciskei Supreme Court. Rev. Stofile is to serve 11 years’ imprisonment.
SAYCO LAUNCHED

28 March 1987 saw the launch of the most powerful youth organisation in the history of SA.

Two million youth from townships all over SA united to form the SA Youth Congress (SAYCO), in spite of state attempts to crush its development.

A much detained ex-Robben Island prisoner, Peter Mokaba, was elected president, with Rapu Molekane of Soweto as General Secretary.

Youth organisations have often proven to be the most powerful of organisations. They have always acted as reservoirs of energy for all other organisations. This is borne out by the Sayco's launch which has inspired the youth to even greater heights of organisation - it is the UDF's largest affiliate - having regional congresses in the Southern, Northern and Eastern Transvaal, Southern, Northern and Western Cape as well as units in Natal and the OFS.

At the founding congress, Sayco resolved to:
- channel the militancy and resourcefulness of the youth to the benefit of the national and class struggle.
- promote among the youth the important role of the working class.
- encourage the working youth to join progressive trade unions.

Sayco's slogan Freedom or Death - Victory is Certain is indicative of the courage, determination and commitment displayed by the youth.

Cosatu has referred to the youth as the strongest, best and most reliable allies of the working class.

The formidable alliance of the youth and workers, demonstrated during the recent stayaways, gives us an overwhelming sense of history in the making.

June 16 this year will focus on the contribution of youth in the struggle for freedom.

Youth in Indian areas can join Sayco by joining organisations like the Lenasia Youth League (LYL) or the Johannesburg Youth Congress (Joyco). In other areas, our youth should form new youth congresses that can affiliate to Sayco. The TIC urges all youth to join Sayco.

PETER MOKABA
President of SAYCO

HANDS OFF COSATU!

Since March this year, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) and its affiliates, have been subjected to concerted and vicious propaganda and repression. We have witnessed two seiges at Cosatu House and ultimately its bombing, arson of Cosatu offices throughout the country, daily SABC bias, detention of trade unionists and bannings of meetings.

The Federation has launched a "Hands Off Cosatu Campaign" in an attempt to defend the democratic trade union movement and ensure that the great strides it has recently made are not reversed.

There are three central demands to the campaign:
- Speak freely without intimidation.
- Meet freely without harassment.
- Organise freely without victimisation.

The TIC calls on all democrats to rally behind Cosatu's campaign.

STOP PRESS

Workers under the South African Railways and Harbours Workers Union who waged a long and bitter struggle against SATS have just had most of their demands met. We salute them for their heroic resistance against a racist and backward management.
On the 13th August 1987, Rajbansi challenged Congress to a public debate

CONGRESS ACCEPTS
THE CHALLENGE!

OUR CONDITIONS ARE:
★ The debate must take place before the people of Transvaal.
★ No presence and interference by the SAP, SADF or the Security Police.
★ Both Congress and NPP must accept the will of the people.

Congress is ready and, suggests that the debate takes place at the

LENASIA STADIUM

ON

30 AUGUST 1987
1.30pm
RAJBANSI...
WE ARE READY!

No doubt elated by an election result where no less than 80% of the votes were cast through the backdoor, Rajbansi wants a public debate between the TIC Vice President Dr R.A.M Saloojee and himself.

The TIC accepts this challenge and is willing to stage the debate at the Lenasia Stadium on 30 August 1987 at 1300 pm. It was in fact the Congress who first issued the challenge to Rajbansi, the NPP and other candidates to attend a mass meeting. The 1200 people who attended the meeting on the 2 August 1987 waited in vain for Rajbansi and others to appear.

Congress is ready to debate with Rajbansi any time, any place provided the following conditions are accepted by him:

- The debate must take place before the people of Transvaal. The issue of participation and non-participation concerns all of our people and not just the supporters of the TIC or NPP.
- No presence and interference by the SAP, SADF or Security Police. Congress activists must be allowed to canvass in the community free from harassment by the Security Police and SAP. Furthermore, all these forces must stay away from the debate because our people are disciplined, responsible and peaceful. Congress guarantees the safety of Rajbansi and his party.
- The will of the people must be binding. After the debate, the matter should be put to the floor and a vote taken.

If the people vote against the Congress then we will concede that we have little support in the community. By the same token, if the vote goes against the NPP, then Rajbansi and the NPP must resign from the HOD immediately.

Procedure for the meeting should be as follows:
- a neutral chairperson should be appointed preferably the editor of a reputable newspaper or an academic.
- there should be a total of four speakers. Two from the NPP and two from the Congress; each speaking for a maximum of 45 minutes.
- vote at the end of the meeting will be taken by the show of hands.

If Rajbansi is an honourable man, he will be at the Lenasia Stadium to face the people.

The Low poll recorded in the August 4 by-election is a massive vote of no-confidence in the House of Delegates (HOD).

Only 270 voted on election day (3% of registered voters), which is less than the 9,5% who voted in the 1984 election.

We therefore fail to understand Rajbansi's propaganda on SABC TV that the by-election means wider support for the HOD.

The HOD was 16% because 84% of votes cast (1063) were special votes. The TIC uncovered widespread irregularities - 6 votes were set aside in a test case - so we do not accept special votes as genuine votes.

The irregularities uncovered included candidates intimidating people into voting, bribing people with promises of houses and sites, and misleading others into casting illegal special votes. We are considering legal action.

The TIC believes that the by-election is a victory for democratic people of Lenasia over those that are trying to sell our community out. We salute the youth and particularly their organisations, LYL and LESCO for the courage they showed on election day despite the teargas and sjamboks of the SAP. We pay tribute to the 1200 people who attended our meeting on August 2 to show their rejection of the HOD.

THE PEOPLE SAY NO TO HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Park Primary School, Lenasia, 4 August 1987. A large number of helpers and a high profile military and police presence, but very few voters. About 270 people arrived at the polls to cast their vote, with a further 1063 casting 'special' votes prior to election day - in a 16% poll.
The continued participation of MPs in the House of Delegates in the face of strong opposition from within the Indian community, and the majority of all South Africans, must raise serious questions about their motives. They continue to make promises which they know they cannot fulfill. Bullying tactics, divisive methods and dishonest means are being used in a short-term effort to win support, regardless of the consequences. It is important now, more than ever, for the Indian people to unite in opposition to participation in the Apartheid system of government.

Why Congress rejected the Tri-cameral Constitution

Let us look afresh at the reasons why we rejected the Tri-cameral constitution in 1983. Our people will remember that at the time we pointed out that the government introduced the new constitution to divide our people and thereby weaken the opposition to Apartheid. The Government's attempts to try and enlist Indian support for an anti-African, anti-ANC alliance was dangerous. The Indian people needed to show clearly that we are against Apartheid and wanted change that would benefit all South Africans, regardless of race.

After carefully studying the new constitution we concluded that it would not be possible for Indian and “Coloured” MPs to change racially discriminatory laws which the National Party insisted on maintaining; nor would it be possible to oppose laws which the Nats were determined to pass. Those who claimed that they were going to “fight Apartheid from within” were either deliberately misleading our people or else had not themselves understood the government's constitutional plan.

Congress was right

Who can deny, after the experience of the last few years, and the recent by-election in Lenasia, that our stand was the right one. The Tri-cameral force which brought Indians and “Coloureds” in only as junior partners and totally excluded the African majority, is now widely recognised to have been a costly failure. The government now does little to disguise its reliance on brute force. Armed government troops rule the townships through violence and intimidation. There is widespread fear and insecurity. More than 30,000 people are in detention without trial. The press is told what to print and what they may not print. Unemployment is rising and living standards are declining. Whites continue to have privileged access to jobs, housing, education and health facilities. Have things changed for the better or become worse?

House of Delegates - A dismal failure

At a time when the Indian people are in need of unity and reliable, honest leadership, MP's in the House of Delegates have been involved in an unseemly public display of wheeling and dealing, and backstabbing. Their conduct has been a source of humiliation to all our people. They have failed utterly and completely to respond with any courage and vision to the needs of our people and the urgent question of political change. Who can now distinguish the NNP, Solidarity and the Labour Party from the Nationalist Government?

The Nationalist cannot meet our aspirations

There are some - fortunately a small minority - who have argued that we should participate in the Tri-cameral constitution because P.W.Botha is a “Reformer” and the NP is now genuine about change. They say, we should cooperate with the White government and encourage it to make more changes in the law. But who can now, after our experience of what “reform” really means, seriously believe in the sincerity of the present government? Is it not clear as day-light that they only make changes when the people take united mass action, and that they are only prepared to make “changes” which do not interfere with the National Party's control of the government. In short, they are still committed to white domination but they want Indian and Coloured support for their government.

The NP is not serious about negotiation

Government spokesmen never tire of telling us on SABC TV that they want to negotiate and that the violence is being used by the anti-Apartheid movement and the peoples organisations. The truth is that it is the government that uses violence - the army, police, security police, "kitskonstables" and vigilantes to maintain minority rule. The government talks about negotiation, but in reality it is only prepared to talk to who sings its tune. There are many within the White community who now recognised that they must talk to genuine leaders like Mandela, Katrhdas and Sisulu and Tambo. But the government stubbornly refuses to do so. The reason why they do not want to talk is simple. They will then have to talk about real change - the equality of all South Africans and free elections. And they know that, that the democratic majority of South Africa will use their Freedom to elect their own government. White minority rule, Nationalist domination, and Apartheid will be a thing of the past.

Who is responsible for violence ?

Congress lays the blame for violence fairly and squarely on the shoulders of the present government. They implemented Apartheid laws. They have forced millions to live in poverty, misery, fear and ignorance. When the ANC made peaceful representations to them to change, they detained leaders, banned the ANC and shot people demonstrating against the pass laws in Sharpville. We say clearly - the Nationalists forced the ANC to adopt armed struggle as a last resort. It is with the same arrogance and stupidity that they are dealing with the UDF today. Who can deny that RAM Saloojee and Prema Naidoo are peaceful men but how many times have they been detained? Essop Jassat, Terror Lekota, Cassim Saloojee and Popo Molefe have all fought for change by peaceful means. Yet all have faced charges of treason. What choice are they leaving to the UDF? What choice did they leave the ANC?

The Road to Peace

The Indian people must realize that there will never be peace without justice. And we must struggle for justice, not only for ourselves but for all South Africans. Our interests in the future can only be secured through firm and courageous participation in the struggle today! And in travelling this road we must rely on the moral strength and clear vision of men like Nehru, Nasser, Dadoo and Thambi Naidoo.
MINERS SQUARE UP FOR A BATTLE FOR A LIVING WAGE

360,000 mineworkers and members of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) have gone on strike demonstrating once again the formidable power of the workers by pulling off South Africa's ever legal strike.

Their demands are:
- 30% increase in wages.
- 30 days paid leave a year.
- June 16th as a paid holiday.
- Danger pay.
- Death benefits to be increased to five years' earnings.

When negotiations were deadlocked last month, 95% of NUM's members voted to strike.

A LIVING WAGE

The mineworkers demand for a living wage is based on the fact that despite the economic recession, the mining companies continue to make huge profits. The mineworkers, however, remain the lowest paid workers in the country while doing the most dangerous and hardest work. On the gold mines the minimum wage is R238 and on coal mines R225.

MIGRANT LABOUR SYSTEM MUST GO

For over a century the migrant labour system has subjected workers to slave conditions and has dehumanised workers on an unforgivable scale. It has broken families and destroyed the lives of workers in concentration camp-like hostels.

BOSSES AND THE GOVERNMENT

The collaboration between the mine bosses and the apartheid government, in the name of protecting cheap labour, has led to the seige of workers behind barbed wire fences and private stormtroopers.

CONGRESS, LYL, LESCO, JOYCO AND LAYCO SALUTES THE MINEWORKERS

The disciplined united action of the NUM confirms the political maturity and the leading role of the working class. We salute their determination and preparedness to sacrifice in the face the violence of the mine and the state security forces.

SUPPORT MINEWORKERS RELIEF FUND SAYS UDF

The UDF has pledged its active support of the striking mineworkers. In addition the UDF has committed itself to work towards a more constructive relationship with the trade unions.

Thus it calls on:
- All members, supporters and affiliates to show their support for striking mineworkers by:
  - Donating R1 to the NUM Relief Fund, P.O. Box 2424 Johannesburg.
  - Send non-perishable foods to the NUM Office in your area.

We call on all democrats, both in South Africa and internationally to actively support this battle against the apartheid's oppression and exploitation of South Africa's mineworkers.

Hands off NUM!
A living wage for all workers!
An injury to one is an injury to all!
TIC elects new president

A new president and council, together with an exciting set of policy resolutions, emerged from the TIC general meeting on July 31, 1988. Hundreds gathered at Wits University to attend the first TIC general meeting since its revival in 1983. The general meeting was an open public meeting.

Cassim Saloojee was elected the new president, with outgoing president Essop Jassat elected as vice-president. Other vice-presidents elected include Isu Chiba, Reggie Vandeyer, AR Dawood, Ramlal Bhoolia, Amin Cajee and Dr RAM Saloojee. Firoz Cachalia was elected publicity secretary.

Apart from the 13 officials elected, 20 other council members were also elected. Re-elected were Maniben Sita, Rassik Parekh, Prema Naidoo, NG Patel, Omar Motani and Professor I Mohammed. Also elected were UDF national treasurer Azhar Cachalia and detained UDF acting national secretary Mohammed Valli Moosa. Azhar Cachalia and Dr RAM Saloojee were unable to attend as they are restricted under the Emergency.

In his presidential report, Dr Jassat pointed out that the failure to hold the meeting at an earlier date was due to the detention of the leadership and the subsequent trial of executive committee members on charges of treason.

However, despite all odds, the TIC emerged from its meeting with a renewed sense of hope and determination.

Professor Jakes Gerwel was the guest speaker.

The meeting firmly rejected the government's local authorities, both black local authorities as well as Indian and Coloured management committees. The meeting resolved to oppose new Group Areas legislation, and called for the resignation of MPs in the tricameral parliament.

The meeting also sent a shield to Nelson Mandela on his 70th birthday. Organisations presenting the shield include TIC, LYL, LESCO, FRA, Lenasia Women's Congress, JOYCO, the Progressive Teachers' League, LAYCO and Actstop.

Council member Maniben Sita presented the shield to Jakes Gerwel, who will hand it over to Nelson Mandela at Pollsmoor Prison.

Miss Sita said: 'A wise man once said that stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage. The celebrations of our leader's birthday throughout the world proves this to be truth. Today we reiterate the force of those words in presenting this beautiful shield made out to that leader on his 70th birthday. The words on it say: 'Happy 70th Birthday, Comrade Nelson Mandela — 18/7/88.}'
Cassim Saloojee
At the general meeting, long-serving stalwart Essop Jassat decided to step down as president, and nominated Cassim Saloojee for the presidency.

Dr Jassat was an active member of the Congress during the 50s, and was banned during the 60s and 70s. Nevertheless, he came back to lead the Anti-SAIC Committee in 1981 and the TIC in 1983.

Dr Jassat still remains an active member of the Congress and was elected as one of the vice-presidents.

Cassim Saloojee, the new president, brings with him a rich experience of involvement in political and other organisations. These include presently being director of JISWA, ex-national treasurer of the UDF, and involvement in Actstop and a number of other organisations.

Together with Dr Jassat, Mr Saloojee was charged with treason in the famous Pietermaritzburg Treason Trial. Both were acquitted on all charges, as the state failed to prove its case.

Mr Saloojee is married and has two sons. His eldest son, Riaz, was forced into exile during the 1980 schools boycott.

Fight for legal space — Gerwel

Jakes Gerwel, rector of the University of the Western Cape, was the guest speaker at the TIC general meeting.

He expressed concern that the avenues for legal opposition were closing in this country.

He made an appeal to all to fight for the right to resist, and to fight for legal space.

Professor Gerwel called on the TIC to keep alive the spirit of resistance to apartheid and the dream of a non-racial South Africa.

In his speech, he placed paramount importance on the unity of the oppressed.
The TIC officials elected

President: Cassim Saloojee

Vice-presidents: 1. EE Jassat  
2. RAM Saloojee  
3. Ramnal Bhoolia  
4. AR Dawood  
5. Isu Chiba  
6. Amin Caje  
7. Reggie Vandeyar

Secretary: Ismail Momoniat

Assistant secretary: Firoze Cassim

Publicity secretary: Firoz Cachalia

Joint treasurers: AK Saloojee AK Shah

Boycott smashes co-option

Four years after the implementation of the tri-cameral parliament, we remain convinced that our decision not to participate is correct.

In reviewing the activities of the TIC and Anti-SAIC over the last seven years, Fuad Cassim pointed out in his secretarial report that the government's objective in setting up the tri-cameral system was to broaden its sphere of political alliances.

It did this in the hope that it would win coloured and Indian people away from their alliance with the African majority, and neutralise it as a factor in national politics. The TIC and others decided to boycott such initiatives, however. And the success of this boycott tactic has forced the government to adopt two broad approaches:

- **To step up repression and control.** This it has done by passing the State of Emergency regulations, the new labour bill, the Group Areas bill and restrictions on organisations. In this regard, the TIC has committed itself to fighting repression and struggling for the right to resist.
- **To reassess its constitutional agenda.** The National Party now proposes to set up a National Council as well as Regional Service Councils outside the self-governing states as a means to incorporate African people in the constitutional system, albeit it in an advisory capacity.

Congress rejects these structures, as they fail to address the central question in South Africa today, which is that of the national liberation of the oppressed — in particular the African majority.

South Africa cannot enjoy national democracy without the freedom of the African people.

Mr Cassim added: 'Our primary task is to defeat the state's attempts at co-opting our community and to deliver the entire Indian people to the movement for national liberation. Congress, as the authentic representative of the Indian people, must galvanise itself for this task.'

'It can only do so by being firmly rooted among the masses in our community — in every sphere of our people's socially-lived reality.

'And we must be able to link the dynamics on the ground and our mass base with our long-term goals and visions — through the creative application of tactics and strategy.'

Resolution

Important resolutions adopted:

- Call for unity within the Indian community, and unity with the African people.
- Call for the lifting of the State of Emergency.
- Reject the outlawing of the African National Congress.
- Call for the repeal of the Labour Relations Amendment Bill.
- Support the stand taken by David Bruce and others against conscription.
- Support attempts to organise women.
- Call for the implementation of Resolution 435 to resolve the conflict in Namibia.
- Demand the resignation of all MPs in the House of Delegates.
- Call on all sporting and cultural bodies to unite in their efforts against apartheid.
- Support the PLO and other progressive force all over the world in the struggle for self-determination.
October 26: Is it free and fair?

The government is going all out to make the October municipal elections a success.

It has banned the UDF and SAYCO, and has restricted COSATU and several UDF leaders like Albertina Sisulu and Dr RAM Saloojee. Thousands are in detention under the State of Emergency.

It is not tolerating any opposition to the elections and has declared that any call for a boycott is illegal under emergency regulations.

Despite this, the NIC is challenging this regulation in court. In papers before the supreme court, the NIC states that it will campaign for a boycott of the October 26 elections if the challenge is successful.

The government somehow thinks that by spending R5-million to promote its propaganda on SABC and adverts, it can fool people into thinking that the elections are free and fair.

Congress rejects the government's local authorities and management committees. We believe that these management committees extend the tri-cameral constitution to the local level of government.

Like the tri-cameral parliament, these management committees entrench white domination and control, and perpetuate ethnic and racial structures.

They will not address the day to day problems of our people, like housing and basic community facilities.

Congress is concerned that the government will close its eyes to the secretive prior votes abuses.

The forces of apartheid will also attempt to sow division within our community. We must reject those who try and cause division between Hindu, Muslim and Christian. We must reject those who try and cause division between Gujarati, Tamil and Hindi. We must reject those who try and cause division between Indian, Coloured and African.

Fight the Group Areas Bills!

Congress is launching a campaign to resist five bills to be passed by parliament when it reconvenes on August 22. The bills are the Squatting and Slums Bills, and the three Group Areas Bills.

The bills are designed to punish the homeless. Conservative estimates suggest that more than 5-million people are homeless in South Africa.

Many are forced to live in squatter camps, or defy Group Areas and live in 'white' areas like Hillbrow and Mayfair.

Instead of providing houses to those in need, the government intends to make homelessness a criminal offence. It intends to:

• Reintroduce influx control.
• Remove and evict people.
• Break down houses.
• Jail people for five years or fine them R10 000 if they live in the 'wrong' group area.

Congress believes that these bills are inhumane and must be opposed.

These bills expose the so-called reforms of the National Party.

Indian and Coloured collaborators promised to scrap Group Areas through their participation in the tri-cameral parliament.

The Nats intend to bulldoze these bills through the President's Council if Indian and Coloured MPs oppose any of these bills. This shows up the ineffectiveness of the participation strategy, which is nothing but collaboration with apartheid.

Worse still is the fact that Indian and Coloured MPs have actually supported some of these bills.

The House of Delegates has continually supported removals, as well as the Squatting Bill.

It has also supported the Labour Relations Amendment Act, which sparked off the three-day stayaway on June 6, 7 and 8.

Congress is of the view that the dismal record of the Indian and Coloured MPs proves that they are merely brown members of the National Party.

They are duty-bound to resign if the Group Areas Bills are passed by the tri-cameral system.
Indian Congresses meet ANC

On 7 October, officials of the TIC and NIC, accompanied by businesspeople, teachers, professionals, cultural, sports and religious leaders met with the ANC in Lusaka.

The ANC honoured this meeting with its most senior executive members with the exception of President Oliver Tambo who was not able to attend due to other commitments.

The TIC wishes to inform the community of the consequences of these talks through this special publication, so that we may bring into the open, the importance of the ANC in any negotiating process for change.

The TIC shares a long history with the ANC. From the time of the signing of the Dadoo, Xuma and Naicker Pact of 1948, we shared a common programme and ideology with the ANC culminating in the historic Congress of the People and the drafting of the Freedom Charter. Today the Freedom Charter still expresses the deepest aspirations of the oppressed peoples, their hopes and their dreams.

In many respects this historic meeting with the ANC was a re-dedication to the ideals of the Freedom Charter and an affirmation of the important role of the Indian community in the struggle for freedom.

For the people who went from the community meeting afforded a first hand opportunity to clarify important questions regarding the ANC's position on the economy, religion, education, sports etc.

Needless to say, the discussions cleared the confusion and dispelled the hysteria generated by the misconceptions of the government and the Press.

The trip was motivated by the desire of the TIC and NIC to resolve the conflict in South Africa.

While TIC and NIC remain committed to their ideals of non-violence they recognise the need for all parties to enter into meaningful negotiations for the dismantling of apartheid. The visit to Lusaka was considered to be part of this process.

We met with people who longed to return home but could not, people who were committed to remove the pain and suffering of the people of South Africa and bring the scourge of apartheid oppression and economic exploitation to an end.

Yes, this is who we met — our fellow countrymen.
Preamble to the Freedom Charter

We, the people of South Africa, declare for all our country and the world to know: That South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of the people; That our people have been robbed of their birthright to land, liberty and peace by a government founded on injustice and inequality; That our country will never be prosperous or free until our people live in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities;

That only a democratic state, based on the will of the people, can secure to all their birthright without distinction of colour, race, sex or belief; And therefore we, the people South Africa, black and white, together equal, countrymen and brothers, adopt this Freedom Charter. And we pledge ourselves to strive together, sparing nothing of our strength and courage, until the democratic changes set out here have been won. — Adopted at a Congress of the People on 28 June 1955 by TIC, NIC and ANC.

An alliance built through time
A recommitment to the Freedom Charter

This is a joint communiqué of the African National Congress, Transvaal Indian Congress, Natal Indian Congress and members of the Indian community of South Africa, issued in Lusaka, Zambia, on 10 October 1988.

The African National Congress (ANC) had talks with representatives of the Natal Indian Congress (NIC) and Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC) and 52 other people from a wide cross section of the Indian community of South Africa, from 7 to 9 October, in Lusaka, Zambia. A further 40 people were to attend the talks but were unable to do so because of transport difficulties.

The meeting was facilitated by the Indian High Commission in Zambia. This was one of the largest groups of people from within South Africa to have talks with the ANC. The ANC was represented by a large and very senior delegation of its National Executive Committee, led as treasurer general, Thomas Mkhize.

The NIC and TIC delegations were led by Jerry Coovadia and Cassim Saloojee respectively. Many senior members of the two congresses and other influential leaders in the community were unable to attend because of passport difficulties and other restrictions.

The participants from the wider Indian community comprised businessmen, professionals, religious leaders, sports people, women, youths, students and other sectors. The ANC was very pleased to meet such a large and extensive delegation from the Indian community.

Historically the NIC and TIC and the broader Indian community have had a very close relationship with the ANC and at present the ANC has high regard for the two Indian Congresses. It views them as an integral part of the wider liberation movement and believes firmly that the Indian community has a vital role to play in the struggle for a non-racial democratic South Africa. The participants from the Indian community were very moved by the warm reception given to them, by the ANC, and they found the discussions highly stimulating and enlightening.

Among the major issues that emerged from the talks were:

1. Role of the ANC

The participants from the community were convinced that the ANC is indispensable to the process of seeking a peaceful and lasting solution to the crisis which faces our country. They therefore called for the unbanning of the ANC and other organisations; the release of Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners; and the lifting of the state of emergency. They urged the government to begin negotiations with the ANC to create a peaceful, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

2. On armed struggle

The ANC explained that in view of the complete intransigence of the South African government and the persistence of state repression, it has no choice but to escalate the armed struggle. However, it remains firmly opposed to armed attacks on soft targets and regrets the loss of civilian lives in these attacks. Whereas those present believe in peaceful forms of resistance they expressed their understanding of the reasons why the ANC was compelled to take up arms.

3. The ANC and communism

It was understood that the ANC is a national liberation movement that includes all classes and strata of the oppressed people and democratically-minded whites. It is not a communist organisation. As a democratic organisation it includes all people who are committed to the goals set out in the Freedom Charter. It means that it also has members who are communist.

4. Post-apartheid economy

It was generally agreed that there is a need for economic political liberation. The ANC seeks to eliminate social inequality based on race. It reaffirmed its commitment to the goals set out in the Freedom Charter — and explained its support for a mixed economy, which will include state, co-operative and private sectors.

5. Sanctions and disinvestment

It was noted that the ANC campaigns for comprehensive mandatory sanctions against apartheid South Africa. It believes sanctions and disinvestment are important non-violent weapons in the struggle against apartheid and it will serve to strengthen the capacity of the oppressed people to wage the struggle.

6. Cultural boycott

The ANC supports the cultural boycott of South Africa. In discussions with the ANC it emerged that it is apartheid South Africa that has to be boycotted and not the cultural expression of the oppressed people of South Africa. In this context, it was recognised that the cultural and religious needs of the Indian community might be affected by the boycott and that there is a need for consultation with the democratic movement so that the matter can be appropriately addressed.

7. Religion

The participants were encouraged by the ANC’s firm commitment to the fullest expression of freedom of religion.

The participants from the Indian community are completely agreed that all religions are fundamentally opposed to the apartheid system — and calls upon the Indian community to give practical expression to this.

8. Education

The ANC and the participants from the Indian community are committed to a single non-racial education system that will prepare people to play their full roles in a democratic and just South Africa.

9. October municipal elections

The ANC and the participants from the Indian community are completely agreed that the October municipal elections are designed to perpetuate apartheid.

All present are firmly agreed that the Indian community should be an integral part of the Freestate people of South Africa and has a direct interest in the destruction of the apartheid system.

They recognise the outstanding role played by the Indian community in the struggle for liberation in the past and called on the community to reach out towards greater heights.

The Indian High Commissioner to Zambia reinforced these views. He strongly urged the Indian community to join with the African and other communities to eliminate apartheid.

He explained that India was firmly opposed to apartheid and gave its fullest support to the ANC and the mass democratic movement.

The participants from the Indian community and the ANC firmly committed themselves to effectively mobilise the Indian community in struggle for democratic, peaceful and non-racial South Africa.
Members of the ANC delegation in Lusaka

TIC comments on the ANC’s constitutional guidelines

In the light of the debate about the constitutional future of South Africa, we consider it important to examine the ANC’s latest constitutional guidelines.

The central features of the guidelines are set out below, as are the guidelines themselves.

The State
The apartheid state and the racial policies of the National Party have sown deep divisions and encouraged inter-racial hostilities. It is therefore appropriate that the ANC’s guidelines begin with the restructuring of the state in order to achieve a strong non-racial government and thereby provide a firm basis for national reconciliation and co-operation between the different communities.

National Identity
The National Party has manipulated cultural and language differences amongst the people of South Africa to enforce division and to protect white minority rule.

The ANC’s guidelines recognize the cultural and language differences of the people and provides the facilities for those different cultures and traditions to be freely expressed and developed, provided no single group claims special powers and privileges.

Bill of Rights
What is tragically absent in South Africa under Nationalist Party rule is the guarantee of fundamental human rights of all citizens irrespective of race, colour, sex or creed. The ANC’s guidelines contain a Bill of Rights and we welcome this.

The first is that the economy will be restructured to serve the interests and well being of all the people. The second is that changes in the economy will be made to harness our material and human resources effectively for economic advancement and prosperity.

Under National Party rule the tax burden of the individual is getting heavier while big businesses and mines contribute less. Furthermore cases of corruption in government departments are reported daily, while legalised looting of the country’s wealth by MP’s and councillors go unchallenged. For example, the buy-back pension schemes will cost raisepayers in the Transvaal over 45 million rand in the first year.

The TIC fully endorses the concept of a Worker’s Charter, protecting trade union rights and the right to strike. However, greater attention must be given to ways to increase the involvement and participation of workers in decision making at all levels in the economy. The guidelines clarify the ANC’s position on a number of different issues and as such are worthy of attention.

Furthermore, they improve the prospects for peace and stability and a smooth transition to a non-racial democracy.
ANC bogey image is false says group back from Lusaka

Perhaps the most significant outcome of the meeting betweecn a cross-section of the Indian community in South Africa and members of the African National Congress in Lusaka was the 'transformation of the allegedly apolitical Indians who gained first hand reassurance of the fact that the breakaway organisation is not a radical organisation hell bent on taking power at any cost. This was the assessment of Dr Jerry Covadiva, vice-president of the Natal Indian Congress who was among the group of 52 people from South Africa that met with the National Executive of the ANC in Lusaka over the weekend.

At a press conference held in Durban upon their return from Lusaka, members of the delegation spoke about the impact of their historic meeting with the Indian organisation in themselves as individuals, as well as members of the Indian community in South Africa.

R. A. Clemens Lazarus, a Roman Catholic priest, said discussions with the 'religious department' of the ANC revealed that although there were communists within the higher echelons of the organisations, its policy was one of religious freedom.

Rev. Lazarus, of the ANC believes that religion has a vital role to play in the liberation of South Africa and that there have been attempts by the ANC to understand the needs of the various cultural groups in the country but was at the same time committed to the isolation of South Africa through the cultural and sport boycott.

Contrary to recent reports, there is no softening of the boycott campaign, but because the ANC recognises the cultural needs of South Africa it felt that certain cultural exchanges could be sanctioned, provided they would help to create a democratic movement within South Africa.

This article is taken from the Durban newspaper, The Leader, published on October 14, 1988.

Teachers Association President, Mr Pat Samuels, said it was clear from the meeting that the ANC has a well thought out plan for a future South Africa and he was told by the ANC leaders present at the meeting that they were able to coordinate so as to avoid making the same mistakes that the exiles had been able to develop their thinking.

"There is a great anguish in them to return to their motherland. They have so much to offer this country if they could only return," he said.

Mr Kanyallly Makan, a Pietermaritzburg businessman, said that as an apolitical businessman he had grave fears about mass nationalisation and the disruption of the free enterprise system under an ANC government, but was relieved to learn that the organisation does not foresee overnight transformation of the South African economy, into a socialist economy.

Despite the influence of the communist elements within the ANC, he was surprised to learn that the organisation was pragmatic about the economy, it foresaw a mixed economy with elements of free enterprise and socialism working side by side.

At the same time the organisation is mindful of the great imbalance in South African society at present, wherein 80% of the country's wealth is confined to 13% of the population and is determined to address this aspect of the struggle, Mr Covadiva said.

Greater attention would be paid to the plight of the poor and halting monopoly capitalism.

Mr Makan said he felt very reassured and was highly impressed by the ANC members who made him realise that rather than being the ogres they have been made out to be, they are sincere and dedicated people committed to fighting for a democratic South Africa.

He said he was also reassured by their commitment to the promotion of the culture of all the people of South Africa, although it made him clear that an ANC government would not break any form of racial practice whatsoever.

As far as the participation in the election and apartheid-created political institutions was concerned, the delegates to Lusaka learnt that there was no question of sanctioning participation in either the municipal elections or any other state structure.

"Although non-participation is not regarded as a principle stance, the ANC believes that this is not the right time to participate," Prof Covadiva said, adding that the ANC believes that a high poll in the October elections would cast a heavy shadow over democracy and help perpetuate the apartheid system.

"Asked what were the greatest fears expressed by the delegation to Lusaka, and whether there were any fears regarding black majority rule expressed by the more conservative elements of the South African delegation, Prof Covadiva said: "Interestingly, most of the fears expressed surrounded the question of violence and religious freedom."

"Perhaps when the South Africans met the exiles which consists of members of all race groups, all their fears about African domination evaporated because if the ANC could have such an integrated executive who so obviously saw each other as comrades and not people belonging to certain race groups, they realised that their fears were groundless."

"As far as the fears about religious freedom were concerned, it was stated that there are only two types of people one could rely on — the true communists and the true believer," he added.

Victory is ours! October 26: No mandate!

Despite bannings, detentions, states of emergencies and harassment, our people have shown a massive rejection of the sham municipal elections.

Total votes cast in Indian areas in the Transvaal:
  • Lenasia: 3381 (85% prior votes).
  • Lenasia SE: 961 (80% prior votes).
  • Pretoria North: 4 314 (4.4% out of 60 000).
  • Laudium: 920.
  • Actonville: 3 782.
  • Amandelbolhe: 909 (estimate).
  • Springs: 100 (estimate).
  • Palm Ridge: 909 (estimate).
  • Eastern Transvaal: 3 000 (estimate).
  • NWC: 150 (estimate).

An estimated total number of votes cast in the Transvaal area is 18 974. The poll is 19% of 18974 out of 100 000 adult Indians in the Transvaal.

In addition, 13 000 people voted by prior votes. This means that only about 6 000 people (6%) voted on October 26.

Congress believes that many prior votes were coerced votes, and that no effective checks were allowed by the government to prevent the abuse of prior votes. In the past the TIC uncovered many abuses of the special votes system.

Furthermore, some people have up to three votes — this means that if 6 000 votes were cast, as few as 2 000 people could have voted.

The October elections were not free and fair. The government cannot claim any legitimacy from the results of this unjust and fraudulent election.

Despite the state's repressive attempts to outlaw opposition to the elections, organisations were still able to mobilise — and the result was a massive 'no' from people all over South Africa.
Rajiv Gandhi calls for single parliament in SA

“NOTHING short of a single parliament with every adult having the vote will satisfy India that South Africa has changed”, said Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in the South African delegation visiting India.

The delegation - on an official visit - included Casim Saloojee (TIC president), Reggie Vandelie (TIC president), Fred Gona (COSATU vice president) and Yunus Carrim and Charm Gdevender of the Natal Indian Congress.

The Indian Premier made it clear that unless every South African has the vote, there will be no peace in SA. He reaffirmed India's commitment to the international campaign against apartheid and said that India was prepared to do everything possible to bring a peaceful solution to South Africa's problems.

He emphasized that the people of India owed a debt to the struggle against apartheid: The struggle for independence in India was born in South Africa. “Who knows that if Mahatma Gandhi had not been exposed to the shock of apartheid, India's history might have taken a very different course.”

He also focused on the position of the Indian community in SA and said that they should participate in the “great South African liberation struggle.”

In India the delegation was accorded the status of a foreign government and was enthusiastically received by government officials, anti-apartheid solidarity groups, trade unions and a host of other organisations. Press and television crews trailed the delegation throughout the visit.

During a meeting with the Minister of External Affairs (Foreign Minister), Mr PN Nehru, the delegation was told that the government of India rejects participation in the House of Delegates. He referred to those who participate in the HoD and similar structures as “collaborators” and said: “You cannot change the system from within. There is nothing there to change.”

Mr Alfred Gonsalves, the first secretary for Africa, stated that India had drawn up a blacklist of those who had participated in the 1984 triennial elections, to deny them entry into that country.

In a moving ceremony, Mr Casim Saloojee and Mr Fred Gona placed a wreath on behalf of the delegation at the graveside of Mahatma Gandhi.

The site of the grave was closed to the public for an hour to allow the ceremony to take place in peace - an honour usually reserved for presidents, foreign ministers and other dignitaries.

They also went to the gravesides of Pandit Nehru and Indira Gandhi.

Why the TIC is building links with India

IN 1947, Dr Yusuf Dadoo of the TIC and Dr Monty Naicker of the NIC visited India where they met Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. Moreover the recent official visit to India by representatives of the Mass Democratic Movement in South Africa marked over four decades by India of strong opposition to South Africa's apartheid policies.

The trip is part of the overall efforts to solidify the link between the oppressed people of SA and an anti-apartheid movement such as India. India has historically played a key role in exposing the excesses of the apartheid system in international forums such as the United Nations, the Commonwealth and the Non-Aligned Movement. It was India who first raised concern at the treatment meted out to Indian South Africans as well as the Apartheid Question in general. Hence it is important to encourage India to continue its efforts to isolate the racist South African government politically, economically and socially, while simultaneously maintaining close links with the oppressed people of South Africa. But the links between India and South Africa are more than just an anti-apartheid alliance. The histories of both India and South Africa are profoundly intertwined and interlinked. Indeed, it was Rajiv Gandhi who declared to the visiting delegation that “Who knows if Mahatma Gandhi had not been exposed to the shock of apartheid, Indian history might have taken a different course.” Indian South Africans hold India dear to themselves as the country of their origin and as the source of their culture and for many the source of their religious convictions.

For others, the link is perhaps closer, in that they still have living relatives and property.

This raises two important questions. Firstly, the application of the international cultural boycott of South Africa with regard to India and Indian South Africans, India has always maintained a clear
Why we're building contact with India

From Page 1 position vis-a-vis the cultural boycott: no links between South Africa and India whatsoever. In the light of recent flexibility in respect of the cultural boycott, the TIC articulated the following position in India. That apartheid South Africa be isolated, but the victims of apartheid be allowed to foster cultural exchange.

This leads us to the second important point. Indian view is that Indian South Africans throw themselves firmly behind the African majority and fully participate in the liberation struggle. It is not insignificant that the Indian government facilitated the meeting in October 1988 between a delegation of Indian South Africans, led by the TIC and NIC, to the African National Congress in Lusaka. That meeting recognised the historical contribution of the Indian community to the struggle and reaffirmed a common future between the Indian people and the African people.

But India believes that those who choose to shamelessly collaborate with the apartheid system must be treated with the greatest contempt. It has therefore "waved the establishment of "Blacklist", which would deny all collaborators the opportunity to visit India. Some of the collaborators have responded by saying that the TIC and NIC are consequently denying them the right to pilgrimage. We believe that they are in fact hypocritical. All religions do not condone the propagation and support of a racist ideology. We say to them, the ball is in their court: let them renounce apartheid and collaboration first.

The TIC believes that the views expressed by the Indian government with regard to the cultural boycott and the "Blacklist" is consistent with the views of both the people of India as well as the Indian community in South Africa.

The TIC and NIC preceded the trip with extensive consultations among religious, cultural, sporting, civic, youth, and welfare organisations in respect of the issues to be discussed and raised with the Indian government.

Youth action against apartheid

World Youth Action Against Apartheid (WYAAA) is an important organisation with structures throughout India engaged in mobilising youth (which includes anyone under 40). One of WYAAA's affiliates is Bluebells School in Delhi, where the children staged a touching and impressive concert for the visiting South African delegation. Included in the programme was a rendition of Nkosikazi! Afrika! and dance and poetry based on the theme of freedom in South Africa, with Nelson Mandela as its symbol.
AS: How do you assess the phenomenon of Mikhail Gorbachev?
NR: We have already seen how the foreign policy initiatives of President Gorbachev have succeeded in making a major contribution to changing the entire international climate. The perestroika in the Soviet Union is being discussed and debated throughout the world, including India. There is tremendous interest in it among our parliamentarians, press and public. As far as the impact of perestroika on international socialism is concerned, there is no doubt that it is profound and far reaching. The Soviet Union is itself repudiating the concept of any world centre of communism or of an accepted universal model of socialism and President Gorbachev has clearly spoken for the de-ideologisation of international relations. In the Soviet Union itself, as well as in other countries, a lively debate is going on about what are the essential elements of socialism.

A8: How do you define Indian socialism?
India has never taken a doctrinaire or rigid view of socialism. Socialism for us is deeply rooted in our tradition and culture. Jawaharlal Nehru always advocated that Indian socialism should be modelled on the basis of our own conditions and genius. Our genius lies in the fact that we take truth as comprehensive and perceive it as a harmonious whole and not in mutually conflicting segments. Consequently, we have adopted a world view based on treating the whole of human kind as one family. Within the country, we have a composite, pluralistic and egalitarian society. On the economic front, we have accepted what we call the mixed economy, of which the commanding heights are under public ownership but which also affords opportunities for private and individual enterprise.

A8: Have India's relations with Pakistan under Benazir Bhutto improved or shown signs of getting better?
NR: Our PM's meeting with PM Bhutto in Islamabad in December 1988 has given rise to hope for the establishment of a qualitatively improved and mutually beneficial India-Pakistan relationship. Both leaders were in complete accord on the need to work together to remove long-standing suspicions and to lay the foundation of a relationship based on friendship and co-operation. Of course it was recognised that problems which have bedevilled relations between the two countries cannot disappear overnight.

A8: Are you satisfied with the way events are going in Afghanistan and the peace process there?
NR: We are deeply perturbed at the continuing bloodshed in Afghanistan and would like to see an early end to it. Strict implementation of the Geneva accords, in letter and spirit, by all the parties concerned would facilitate restoration of peace in Afghanistan. We favour a peaceful political settlement of the Afghan problem arrived at by the Afghans themselves, without external interference or intervention and based on existing realities and the legitimate interest of all concerned, ensuring the sovereignty, non-aligned and independent status of Afghanistan.

A8: How do you see the situation in Punjab, the Sikh issue, resolving itself?
NR: The government of India has regularly consulted leaders of all national parties and trying to search for a solution to the outstanding issues affecting Punjab in an amicable manner. This process of consultation is going on and the government is clear about the areas of agreement and disagreement.

A8: Is the question of minorities, tribal and regional splits in India going to be a perennial problem? One thinks, for example, of Nepal. And how do your problems in this regard differ from SA?
NR: So called 'perennial problems' are actually symbols of change, plurality and progress. India's depth and breadth of social development is striking, provided one has the patience to understand the intricacies of this process. The common Indian, irrespective of his caste, regional or tribal association, is innately aware of India's strength and also finds no need to broadcast these strengths. South African policy is diametrically opposed to India's. SA has institutionalised oppression and discrimination on the basis of race and colour. Citizens are treated unequally under the law. It is indeed ironic that the country where Mahatma Gandhi started his campaign against this system continues to reel under its perversion.

A8: Some believe that the Commonwealth is losing interest or enthusiasm for the cause against SA and apartheid.
NR: It would be incorrect to say that the Commonwealth is losing enthusiasm for the cause against SA and apartheid. The Commonwealth has not set up a group of foreign ministers to discuss these issues. The last such meeting was held in February in Harare and the next is scheduled for August. However, we have to recognise that with the suspension imposed by the SA government, reporting about developments within SA has diminished. Unless information which is more freely available to the outside world, there is bound to be a marginalisation of this issue on the international agenda.

A8: Would you comment on the situation in Namibia and how India perceives the independence process and SA's role there?
NR: Given the experience of the international community with the Pretoria regime, we are not at all sanguine that the path to eventual independence for Namibia will be smooth. Indian support for SWAPO and for the UN Secretary-General in his difficult task is well known.

A8: Under what conditions would India be prepared to restore diplomatic relations with SA?
NR: India would be prepared to have diplomatic relations with SA which is non-racial and democratic and in which the system of apartheid has been totally eliminated.

A8: What is India's attitude to the South African parliamentary system and what do you think should be the attitude of Indian South Africans towards it?
NR: India does not believe that tinkering with the apartheid system will lead to a solution. The tripartite parliamentary system is one which exists within the system of apartheid and segregation. As such, India continues to believe that the total dismantling of the apartheid system is necessary. The elections scheduled to be held in SA on September 6 will be held within the apartheid system. The Indian community should continue to promote democratic movement within the country to change the system entirely. The government has already banned the entry into SA of Indians who participate in the House of Delegates. Change from within is possible only if the representatives reflect the wishes of the majority.
What are the Issues in Namibia?

SOUTH Africa has occupied Namibia for over seventy years in contravention of international law. This illegal occupation has caused immense misery to thousands of ordinary people. At the end of 1988 South Africa signed a treaty with Angola and Cuba, known as the Brazzaville protocol. This agreement provided a timetable for the implementation of United Nations Resolution 435 to usher in Namibian independence.

This significant and hopeful development will substantially reduce conflict in the region, and Namibia — known as South Africa's last colony — will finally be free. But in the face of all these agreements, negotiations and international manoeuvring, we tend to lose sight of the people of Namibia, their history as a colonised nation and their heroic struggles to drive away the colonisers.

The struggle for the independence of Namibia has been going on since 1983 with the German annexation of the territory, known as German South West Africa. Under German occupation, the population has suffered from the disillusionment and communal violence of all the people of Central and Southern Namibia began. The issuance of the notorious Externalisation Order by the German commander resulted in the extermination of 60% of the people in the region. By 1967 the Herero population had been reduced from 50,000 to 20,000.

After the Germans were defeated in World War II, in 1919 South Africa was awarded South West Africa and mandated to administer it as an integral part of the metropolitan area. While this implied that South West Africa would no longer be considered a colony, in fact, the oppression and exploitation of the voiceless black majority continued on a scale similar to that experienced under German rule. This was evident when Smuts ordered the bombing of the Bonsfontein village resulting in considerable loss of life.

After the second World War, when the United Nations was formed, all territories of Namibia and colonial territories were under UN trusteeship. Pretoria refused to let go of South West Africa.

Internal and external resistance to South Africa intensified and in 1960 SWAPO was formed. When SWAPO tried to mobilise peaceful means to get South Africa out, it was forced to resort to armed struggle in 1966. Meanwhile in 1971 the world court ruled that South Africa's involvement in Namibia was illegal and in 1973 the UN General Assembly recognised SWAPO as the sole and authentic voice of the Namibian people.

Finally in 1978, UN Security council Resolution 435 became the internationally accepted peace plan for the Namibian independence. Although SA agreed in principle to the resolution, it repeatedly raised obstacles to its implementation and pursued policies which made implementation of resolution 435 an impulsive task. Instead it installed a stooge administration in defiance of the UN's programme of aggression and destabilisation against the people of Namibia and Angola intensified. In May 1978, South African troops attacked the SWAPO bases and refugee camps at Casinga in Angola killing 34 adults and 238 children. But what changed all this? What forced a well equipped military who for ten years brought death and destruction in Namibia and neighbouring Angola to the negotiating table? What forced the politicians of Pretoria who unleashed terrible forces onto innocent and defenceless people to give in after so many years and agree to Namibian independence?

Certainly not the diplomacy of Pirk Boesher and Chester Crocker. On the contrary the sustained resistance of the Namibian people, the financial cost of South Africans war with Angola and the defeat of the SAPF at Cuito Cuanavale.

In July 1987, Unita and SAPF troops tried to seize the strategically important town of Cuito Cuanavale. This time they faced a different, more powerful and better equipped FAPLA (Angola Armed Forces). When South Africans' flight fleeing the Miracle fighters arrived into South ern Angola, they flew straight into a combined Cuban/Fapla airforce in their MiG 243's. Faster, newer and more manoeuvrable, the South African Impala and Mirage fighters were no match. For the first time in more than ten years SA had lost its aerial superiority and its ground troops no longer had air support. This major defeat resulted in a high number of casualties while the rest were compelled to screech back to the relative safety of Namibian soil. In August 1988 SA was forced to sign a cease fire with Angola.

The other factor is the cost of an ongoing war. As a result of sanctions and disinvestment, South Africans' allies, the oil industry could ill afford a war and the occupation of Namibia (though it cost in the region of R2 - million a day) without putting even more pressure on the economy.

Finally, and most importantly, the courage and high level of resistance also contributed to South Africans' withdrawal and its acceptance of the implementation of resolution 435.

It is for them the men, the women, and children and those who lived before them who laid down their lives that we stand in support of along with the international community and all those who cherish freedom and peace, we recognise SWAPO as authentic representative of the Namibian people.

Although the independence of the Namibian people draws closer, we must not lose our guard, but continue to be watchful of South Africa's attempts to undermine the election process and independence in Namibia.

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**BRIEFS**

**Obituary**

On May 1, 1989 Mr David Webster (44) was tragically gunned down outside his home in Township. Dr Webster worked tirelessly helping friends and family of those in detention. He was also founder member of JDAC and the Five Frend Foundation. Over 7000 people attended his funeral to pay tribute to him. Firoz Cachalia, Publicity Secretary of the TIC had this to say in a statement. He realised the importance of this phenomenon and the support to victims of repression... He admired his determination and the spirit of the Congress Movement and the struggle for a non-racial, egalitarian and humane society.

**ANC stalwarts**

Executive members from the TIC and ANC visited Harry Gwelo in his home in Mathambo. Gwelo was released from Robben Island last year after being sentenced for Umkhonto we Sizwe and ANC activities in the sixties.

**TIC President, Cassim Saloojee and TIC Publicity Secretary**

TIC President, Cassim Saloojee and TIC Publicity Secretary, Firoz Cachalia met with Groen Melkki recently. They had discussions on the proposed trip to India by the MDM and general discussion of the situation in the country.

**Youth Day**

June 16 rallies were held in Lenasia at 2pm and in Laut dium at 8pm. Mohammed Vally, acting general secretary of the UDF speaking at both the rallies called on the community and the youth in particular to intensify the struggle against the apartheid regime.

**Namibia**

On the 18th of May, the Johannesburg branch of the TIC had invited David Soggot, a Namibian Senior Counsel to lead a discussion on Namibia. He expressed concern that the implementation of resolution 435 is constantly in danger because the security situation is still in the hands of the South African forces.

**Role of business**

On May 28 the TIC Business and Economic Group held a successful business conference. Over 400 businessmen attended and contributed meaningfully in the deliberations. Booklets and videos of the Conference are available at a nominal fee. Contact Cassim Saloojee at (011) 834 3228 for details.
The MDM talks with India

Substantial discussions took place between representatives of the government of India and the delegation comprising representatives of the TIC, NIC and the Mass Democratic Movement of South Africa. The key feature of the talks was the strengthening of the international campaign to isolate South Africa, while simultaneously promoting and strengthening the links between the government and people of India and the Indian community of South Africa.

* Blacklisting collaborators
  Congress is clear that all collaborators of the apartheid government, especially those participating in state institutions, against the progressive wishes of the community, should be isolated to the maximum.
  The Indian government is in principle opposed to the tri-cameral system and has as far back as 1984, decided to ban entry to all its participants, but the Indian government decided to attend the definitions of collaborators to include members of management committees, members of the president's council, provincial executives, regional service councils and joint management centres. Those who serve boards linked to government departments such as the State President's Economic Advisory Council, the Immigration Board and the Citizenship Board will also be banned from entering India.
  The delegation from South Africa undertook to assist the Indian government in constructing and enforcing the "Blacklist". The Indian government and the delegations of the immigration authorities and entering India, would be deported on being traced.

* Cultural exchange
  The Indian government has long been committed to the international cultural boycott of South Africa. This meant that it opposed any cultural contact between its citizens and South Africa.
  At recent international conferences on the cultural boycott, attended by representatives of the Mass Democratic Movement of SA, the national liberation movement, international solidarity groups and the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid, it was agreed that the cultural boycott should no longer be a "blanket" boycott. Instead, apartheid South Africa should be boycotted. On the other hand, cultural exchange between the victims of apartheid and those supporting the liberation struggle should be promoted.
  It has always been the approach of Congress not to deprive our community of its cultural heritage, which is central to its very make-up and life. Instead, it is our stated objective to enhance and further develop our rich community life.
  In this light, the Indian government agreed that invitees to South Africa who met specific religious and cultural needs of bona fide community organisations, and recommended by a monitoring group of the Mass Democratic Movement and the TIC and NIC, would be permitted by the government of India to visit South Africa. Cultural visits for commercial purposes would not be allowed. It was stressed that citizens of India would under no circumstances identify with the apartheid system or its agents.
  In addition, the Indian government stressed that it remained committed to the broad cultural boycott and therefore any of its citizens who violate India's regulations would be appropriately penalised.

* Sports boycott
  India was among the first countries to sever sporting links with South Africa. Both the delegation from home as well as representatives of the Indian government agreed that sports boycott should be retained unchanged and India should continue to promote the boycott in international forums.
  It is believed that this is an area which necessitates continued sacrifice in the overall interests of the struggle against apartheid.

* Trade embargo
  In response to the imposition by the Smuts government of the discriminatory Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act of 1946, India imposed a trade embargo against South Africa. It has ever since been a staunch advocate of mandatory and comprehensive sanctions against the apartheid government. It believes that the economic boycott of South Africa is the strongest weapon in the hands of the international community to pressure the South African government to abandon its racial policies.

* Indian citizens visiting South Africa
  With regard to Indian citizens visiting SA, it was agreed that they would be allowed to visit this country, provided the request is from a realist in South Africa and the TIC/NIC and MDM have verified the authenticity of the application.

The South African delegation also agreed to facilitate the visit of any Indian citizen recommended by the government of India who might visit SA to examine the situation, attitudes, prospects etc of the Indian community.

* Scholarships
  The Government of India has been offering a large number of scholarships to African students for many years. It was clarified that these scholarships are available to South Africans from the most disadvantaged groups. Following a request from the South African delegation, it was agreed that South African students could apply for such scholarships once they have been recommended by the Mass Democratic Movement.

* Restoration of Tolstoy Farm and Phoenix Settlement
  At the request of the South African delegation, the government of India agreed in principle to participate in the restoration of the Tolstoy Farm and the Phoenix Settlement which are both former homes of Mahatma Gandhi.

Pakistan welcomes idea of talks with SA group

WHILE in India, the Pakistani government expressed a keen interest in talks between itself and a delegation from South Africa composed of representatives of the TIC, NIC and the Mass Democratic Movement of South Africa.

The delegation was assured that an official invitation would be extended in the course of the next couple of weeks.

Such talks are likely to focus on the following issues:

* Visits by cultural artists and sportsmen from Pakistan to South Africa for commercial gain.

United action against apartheid: TIC's Cas Saloojee and an Indian Government representative during one of their many meetings
DP must not divert itself from fighting the Nats

The TIC is concerned at the launch of a DP branch in Ladism. This is in direct contradiction to the wishes of the majority of the people in this country who have shown their rejection against the tricameral system time and again. Furthermore it is only individualists who have come forth to join the DP in Ladism.

This is an Open letter by TIC President Cassim Saloojee to the Democratic Party (DP)

The DP leadership is yet to decide whether it will contest any seats in the Houses of Delegates (HoD) and Representatives (HoR) during the September 6 election. Whilst the debate rages on within it, we in the Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC) wish to state our views on the matter in the hope that we can impact positively on the debate.

It is common cause that the TIC, NIC, UDF and COSATU reject the racially exclusive character of the SA state, and that we consider such institutions like the HoD, HoR and Black Local Authorities (BLAs) as illegitimate. It is no less true that the low polls at all previous such elections reflects the oppressed majority’s total rejection of these institutions.

We do not raise these issues to boast the efficacy of the extra-parliamentary strategy for change. Instead we recognize that the political scenario is far too complex for such simplistic analysis. Although TIC rejects any participation in the white-dominated Parliament (including the House of Assembly) as a vehicle to bring about meaningful change, we acknowledge that the strong parliamentary culture in the white community may well isolate forces there to the left of the NP. We realise that unlike the toothless Indian and Coloured houses of parliament, the House of Assembly does wield real political power.

We recognise that the DP has an influential role to play in the process of change in SA, and that creative opportunities are available for all anti-Apartheid forces to cooperate and isolate the NP. It is in this context that the DP should view the fielding of candidates in the two junior houses of parliament. The key question that the DP needs to consider is: Will such a strategy allow for these dynamic possibilities to materialise in the ensuing struggle for democracy? The DP should not allow the coming general election to cloud its major objective of isolating and weakening the NP.

The TIC is of the view that by fielding candidates in the HoD or HoR or entering into election pact with political parties there would not only be unfortunate, but more importantly, would seriously damage the image of the DP.

It would be a fatal mistake for the DP to underestimate the deep feeling of rejection of the tricameral system in the Indian and Coloured communities. It would similarly be incorrect to underestimate the antagonism for all those who participate or associate themselves with these institutions. Thus participation by the DP in these institutions will not only sharpen the differences between the DP and the mass democratic movement. In the process, instead of concentrating its energies on a single front, the DP will be forced to open up a second front against the mass democratic movement.

Full cognisance of the implications of the tricameral system must always be taken into account in this regard. The HoD and HoR serve as a mechanism to co-opt and insulate the resistance to NP rule from the Indian and Coloured communities. Moreover, the DP could well slide into expedient and unprincipled politics, opening itself up to corruption and constant reinforcement as Indian and Coloured DP members cross the floor whenever WF de Klerk dangles a carrot. The DP will allow its members to rely on the politics of patronage rather than the politics of democracy and accountability.

Neither should the DP allow itself to be blackmailed by the brown skin of its MPs in the HoD and HoR. The DP’s record on non-racialism will be judged by its relationship to organisations representing the oppressed majority, like the UDF, COSATU and the ANC.

The DP’s image in the black community will be severely denigrated if it were to be paternalistic in relating to blacks. The DP has nothing to gain by accepting MPs who are discredited in their own communities.

It would be a sad day in the history of our struggle if the DP allows itself to be blinded by election fever. It should rather lay the basis for a “post-election politics” which unifies the anti-Apartheid forces into a single thrust for change. The situation requires a vision and a will to place the interest of the broader struggle for democracy foremost in our minds.

The responsibility to manage the process of social transformation and to foster national reconciliation is a joint one, but the decision taken on Monday by the DP executive will not doubt determine whether the DP and the mass democratic movement will cooperate in facilitating this process.

Don’t vote for a dying, decaying system

ELECTIONS for the tricameral parliament system are due to take place on September 6, 1989.

We, in the TIC believe that the issues facing all South Africans are much broader than the question of the tricameral parliament. SA is in a period of transition, a period in which the ANC Constitutional Guidelines serve as the basis for discussion and debate about the creation of a new South Africa.

On the other hand the National Party is unable to provide any meaningful political solution. As the TIC predicted in 1984, the tricameral constitution sparked off unprecedented resistance in the townships. The Bantustan system and the Black Local Authorities also have failed miserably. Since 1985, the only way the Nats have maintained power is by declaring the state of emergency, detaining thousands of people and banning several organisations.

Furthermore, the tricameral system has bred massive corruption. Several Cabinet Ministers and senior government officials have abused their positions at the expense of the taxpayer.

Economically, the government is bankrupt. Price increases and inflation is robbing the man in the street of his livelihood. Investors and foreign companies are leaving the country in droves. The government is unable to pay its debts as the economy continues to shrink, as shown by the negative economic growth in the last few years.

Militarily, the defeat of the SANDF in Cuito Cuanavale, has forced Botswana to reluctantly agree to independence for Namibia.

The Nats traditional allies in the West are also demanding that Apartheid be dismantled. F W de Klerk himself realises that the tricameral system will have to be dumped.

The elections to be held in September hold little significance to the future of this country. We therefore call upon our community, NOT to vote for a dying and deceitful party.

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TIC's Consultative Conference calls for Boycott of Sept election and building a democratic SA

A conference organised by the Transvaal Indian Congress over 800 delegates representing 79 organisations called on people not to vote for the triumviral parliamentary elections on September 6.

The conference was held at the Gandhi Hall in Lenasia on 30 July 1989. Its theme was: "Tomorrow is built today - towards a united and democratic South Africa."

In his opening address, TIC President Cassim Saloojee criticised the collaborators in the triumviral parliament for failing to grasp the oppressed and voiceless by passing tough anti-squatter legislation, draconian secrecy laws, the Labour Relations Amendment Act and the State of Emergency regulations. He said that MPs in the House of Delegates and House of Representatives were not only guilty of corruption but could not deliver an improvement in education, health, welfare, housing and transport services.

The last few years have shown what a farce the minority parliament is and how it is secured only by the executive and the generals running the country under emergency rule," he said.

Above all, the triumviral parliament was unable to address the fundamental problems of our country, he added.

The conference was of the view that the ideal of a post-apartheid, non-racial and democratic country would be built outside apartheid structures such as the triumviral parliament and management committees. Apartheid is already being rendered unworkable by the actions of the majority of the people. The Group Areas Act is under attack, for example, by ordinary people who are unable to find homes in black areas. They are simply occupying houses in white areas, such as Mayfair and Hillbrow. The Defence Campaign of the Mass Democratic Movement is aimed at desegregating hospitals, parks, swimming pools and other aspects of apartheid.

But the task of shaping the future of a post-apartheid society has become more urgent in the light of recent suggestions that negotiations between the African National Congress and the Nationalist government could possibly take place.

The conference was of the view that the Constitutional Guidelines of the ANC provide a unique opportunity for the people of South Africa to contribute to drafting a constitution for a future free of apartheid. It was therefore decided that the Constitutional Guidelines should be taken to each and every home in our community to ascertain the views of our people. In addition, the conference recommended that the Mass Democratic Movement should embark on similar consultations throughout the country, which would eventually culminate in a national gathering to finalise a constitution for a new South Africa.

Message from Mandela

OORADE Nelson Mandela is in the past attended the conferences of the TIC and he is sorry that he has been limited to sending a message to us on this occasion instead of being with us personally.

He has, as all of you know, had the closest relationship with both the Transvaal Indian Congress and with the Natal Indian Congress. He has always been proud of the contributions made by the two congresses to the cause of the struggle for peace and justice in our country.

He is of the view that the consultative conference is an historic occasion. He is proud that we too have joined the massive process of discussion and debate of the ANC's constitutional guidelines as well as giving serious consideration to the crucial question of a negotiated settlement in South Africa.

He says that he has not changed his views since he was sent to prison. He stands now, as he did then, for a united, democratic, non-racial and democratic South Africa. These are the mighty principles for which he was then, and is to this day, still prepared to die for.

He says to us that the crisis in our country is of such a magnitude that it needs to be resolved with great urgency. The South African government must enter into direct, meaningful and fundamental negotiations with the Mass Democratic Movement and
Pictorial review of the conference

Participants in the conference, from left, D. B. M. J. N., and S. J. A. M.

DECLARATION

We are committed to the Zulu's call to action on July 25, 1980, for all South Africans to join in a common struggle for freedom and justice in South Africa. We believe in the power of the people to change their lives and to bring about a better tomorrow.

Mandela's message

From Page 1

Conference resolutions

Elections

We are committed to supporting the ANC and its policies, and to working for a democratic South Africa.

We wish you a Happy Birthday

Comrade Ahmed Kathrada
Follow-up from the Business Conference

THE Business and Economy Group of the TIC was formed to develop programmes and facilitate discussion on the economy and its future in the context of the liberation of South Africa. To this end a conference was organised on the 26 May 1989. The conference provided a challenging and stimulating forum to discuss a wide range of pertinent issues viz. sanctions, consumer boycotts, trade unionism as well as the future of Indian business in South Africa. Given that this conference constituted a first serious attempt to organise the business sector in the Transvaal and upon further recognising that much more work needed to be done in organising this sector, the delegates at the conference decided to set up a steering committee, whose mandate was:

- to investigate the feasibility of establishing and/or the nature of an organisation to represent the interest of the Indian business sector.
- to establish contact and consult with NaFico, Dadcom, Consultative Business Movement (CBM) and the Business and Economy Forum (BEF) of the Five Freedoms Forum with the view to understand who its constituency is, how does their organisation work, what activities do they undertake, what is their policy towards sanctions, privatisation; trade unionism etc.
- to consult with the Mass Democratic Movement including COSATU about rate of business in change.
- to inform the community of what had transpired at the conference.

IN THIS REGARD THE STEERING COMMITTEE REPORTS THAT:

(i) on 21/06/89 it met with NaFico.
(ii) on 28/06/89 it met with ASSOCOM.
(iii) on 08/07/89 it met with BEF.
(iv) on 12/07/89 it met with CBM.
(v) on 19/07/89 an edited transcript of the deliberations at the conference was published in booklet form. It is being sold at a minimum price of R10. (All those seeking copies can contact Yusuf Moosa at 834-4114).
(vi) it intends to hold two further consultative meetings - one with COSATU and the other with the Mass Democratic Movement.
(vii) it is preparing a comprehensive report of all its discussions.
(viii) it plans to hold a public meeting where such a report will be tabled and where proposals will be presented for adoption regarding the feasibility and/or the nature of a business organisation.

The problem of limited economic and property rights have no doubt undermined the progress of black business. Moreover the exclusion of the oppressed majority from the genuine decision making process in this country, requires that the business community find alternatives to the existing economic, political and social institutions in our society.

Election Dirty Trick No 2

Women say no to apartheid!

LENASIA Women's Congress president Rehanna Adam called on women to say no to apartheid and to refuse to vote in the September elections.

Mrs Adam made the call to 350 women who attended a women's conference organised by the Lenasia Women's Congress (LWC) at the Rama-Rahana Hall in Lenasia on 6 August 1989.

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The TIC condemns[3] Mr Boitse Abramjee for abusing the honoured name of our late Vice-President, Mr Malek Rasool of Kimmis.

Mr Abramjee's election newsletter published a letter purporting to be from Mr Rasool praising Mr Abramjee. We believe that the typed letter is a fake. Mr Malek Rasool signed as MALEK RASOOL, and NOT AS M.R. RASOOL as printed in Abramjee's newsletter.

The letter also contains no date, which is surprising when one notes that Mr Rasool was a regular and meticulous letter writer. Furthermore, a specimen of Mr Rasool's signature in one's possession does not in any way match the one printed by Mr Abramjee. Our information is verified by Dr Gideon Karim, Mr Rasool's brother, executor of Mr Rasool's estate and president of the Cricket Association of Transvaal (C.A.T.).

Mr Rasool, who passed away earlier this year, was banned for 10 years in the 1960s and was a committed freedom fighter right up to his death. Furthermore, Mr Rasool opposed the tricameral parliament right up to his death, and was opposed to apartheid collaborators like Abramjee.

Congress believes that the letter is a forgery, written by Abramjee himself. It is disgraceful how insensitive he is to the family of Mr Rasool, whose estate are still in mourning.

It is clear to the TIC that Abramjee is desperate to secure votes for himself. His newsletter also unashamedly quotes the praises that racist Nat ministers such as Vlok, Magnus Malan, and PJB Botha have given him.

Equally, he attempts to suggest that Comrade Nelson Mandela supports his campaign.

The TIC believes that the community will not be fooled by these dirty tactics.

The community knows that Comrade Mandela and the TIC reject Abramjee as an apartheid collaborator. We do however believe that he has the support of his Nat bosses and that he is a proud Boerboetjie.

But even the Nats don't trust Abramjee. Why was he hosted out of the Minister's Council by PW Botha after he released inside information on the Mossel Bay project?