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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 Essop Jassat, President of the TIC, the new constitution changes nothing. "Apartheid laws will still remain, with Indians and Coloureds expected to defend 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 in 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.

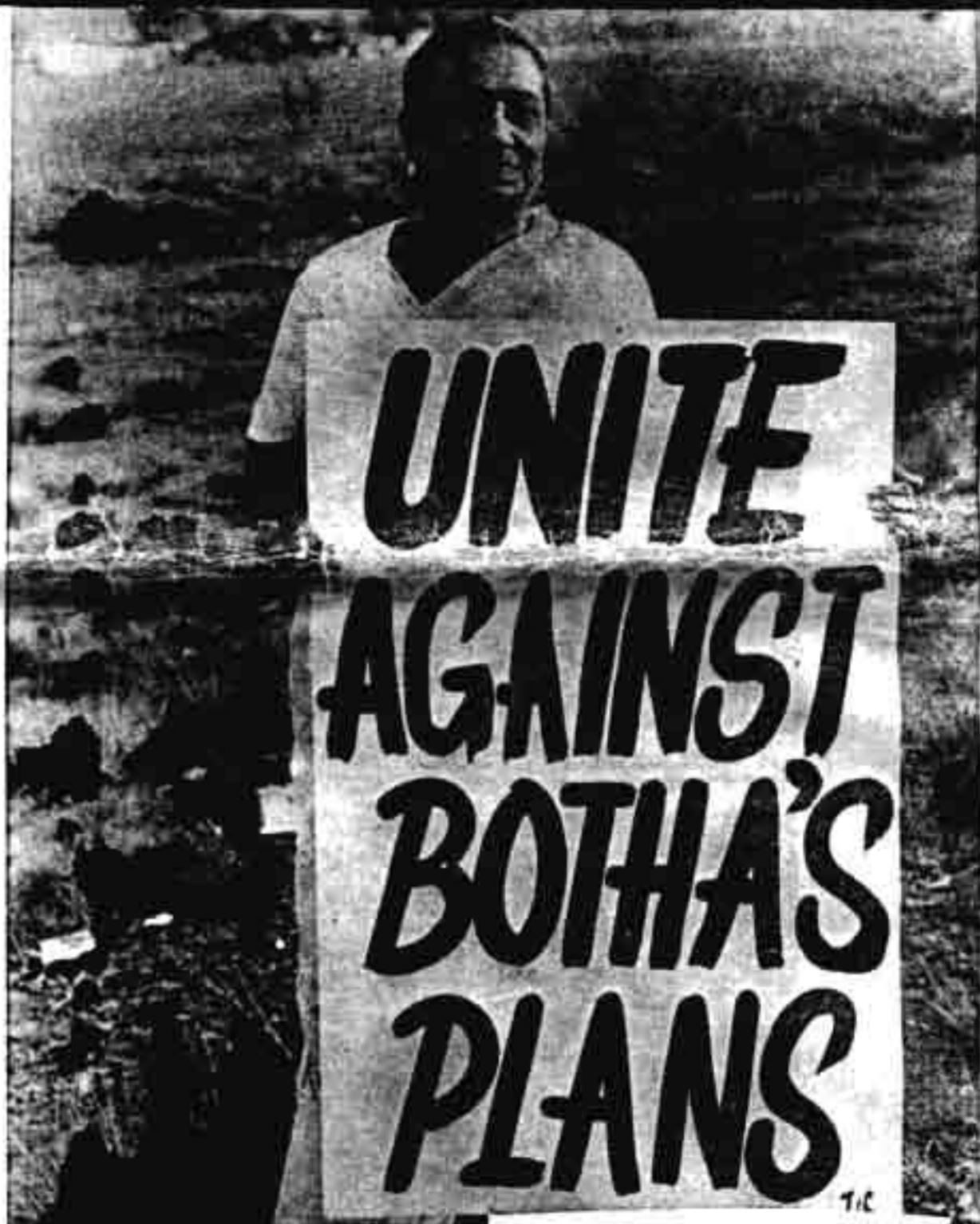
The Government may twist the question instead of using the same question as in the white referendum. It may also insist on using the inadequate voters roll instead of books of life.

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 ask 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, Salaam 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 Poovalingham, Salaam 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 Heunis at a secret meeting at Jan Smuts Airport. Present at this meeting were Salaam Mayet, Ahmed Lambat, Abu Kahn (all from the East Rand), Faiz Khan, Dennis Pillay, Dinky Pillay (all from Lenasia) and Abu Ebrahim from Laudium.

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. Rajbansi 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.

Many of these individuals have served on these institutions to further their own interests. The housing allocation scandals in Rynsoord, Laudium and Lenasia proves this. Their positions on the Presidents Council and other Government institutions is threatened if they do not have the support of the majority party in the Indian House of Delegates. Furthermore, if they want to secure Cabinet posts, they will have to participate in the elections for the House of Delegates.

None of these individuals have had any public meetings to test whether the community wants the new constitution or not.

According to informed sources, personality differences have split Solidarity into three factions.

One is Solidarity itself, under the leadership of Pat Poovalingham, his brother Dinky Pillay and J.N. Reddy. The other is Salaam

Mayet, and his right hand men, Ahmed Lambat and Abu Kahn who have formed the Independent Alliance. The other is the United Referendum Committee, made up of Abu Ebrahim, Faiz Kahn and Boetie Abramjee.

All the leaderships of the organisations want military conscription for Indian people. Furthermore, Salaam Mayet has in the past appealed to the Government to crush those who oppose the new constitution.

Mayet speaks in the same language as Botha, Voster 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, Independence Alliance and the United Referendum Committee as fronts for the Nationalist Party. We call on the community to reject these bodies, as well as Rajbansi'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.

Come to
Mass Meeting

TIC
unites

Rajbansi
divides

THE CHANGING

FACE OF APARTHEID

ONE of the major aims of the new constitution is that the government begin to enlarge and strengthen support for itself. This would be done by granting limited political rights and economic concessions to sections of the oppressed — Coloureds, Indians and members of the urban African population.

But in the 1940's and 1950's taking the vote away from the Coloureds and Indians was a Nationalist priority, because they feared that black votes could be used against them. So why has the government changed its tune and decided to re-admit Indians and Coloureds as junior partners?

It is not hard to find a reason for this. We all know that since the 1976 uprisings Apartheid faced the growing threat of instability. Therefore the Government has sought new ways to maintain its hold over society because

old methods have failed to work. For example the SANC election could not maintain more than 10% of the people and the impressive Anti-SANC campaign produced a 90% stay-away. Therefore the government is fearful of an alliance which would unite Coloureds, Indians and Africans.

What does this new constitution mean for our community?

If implemented, the proposed constitution will result in creating three parliaments. The main in terms of members is the White, Coloured and Indian chambers would be 4:2:1 with Africans having no representation in the new system. Hence this system is clearly designed to restrict specific sectors of the oppressed community to make it easier for the government to impose its white rule and supremacy. This process of co-optation could

only have the effect of dividing and weakening our people.

The most serious danger facing Indian South Africans today is that a certain collaborationist grouping and those whose economic position is favourable can be enticed into accepting the constitutional proposals. Wealthy business circles, in particular, may gain short-term advantages and not long term security. The majority of Indian people will not derive any benefits from a constitution which makes no attempt to create less inequality and provide more material security. The present proposals therefore pose a great

danger and act a recipe for the division of our people from the African people who are totally excluded and given no say whatsoever in the affairs of this country.

Group Areas will remain

By no means housing is concerned the Group Areas Act will remain in force. The government claims that it has fulfilled its responsibility, and will no longer build homes for people. In accordance with the principle of autonomy, the state will no longer be responsible for the shortage of houses that exist.

Individuals will have to erect their own dwellings with their own funds or finance from building societies, banks, and employers. Housing for rental and economic housing on lease ownership schemes will no longer be provided by the state. The government will only develop the infrastructure and make service roads available to individuals. In short we will be faced with less homes and more overcrowding. The total amount allocated for the provision of housing decreased by R57 600 000 last year.



Housing Shortages will get worse



Our demands will not be met

Education still inferior

IN the field of education the situation just forward still remains within the scope of discriminating and segregated education. There is no basis to argue that the quality of education will improve, in fact it can get worse. The recent white paper of the government into education made a clear case for a reduction in the length of formal education, as well as shifting the responsibility for finance from the state to parents, employers and the individual. Only the first 3 years of a child's schooling will be compulsory and free.

What does this mean for the educational life of our community?

In effect the poorer people in our community will not be able to afford educating their children after high school.

Furthermore, middle-income homes will have to survive as they will have to pay for what was previously provided by the state.

Different government departments will mean that inferior and separate education will remain.

measures will be elected in such a way that the rich will surely benefit. Votes will be counted in bulk.

All those over the age of 18 will have one vote.

All those who own or occupy property above a certain value will have two votes.

All those who own businesses or industries will have three votes.

Places like Houghton will thus have more votes than all the Indian and Coloured communities put together.

Moreover the local councils will have to be self-financing. This will mean that our communities, who are already having difficulties in paying their rates, electricity bills and transport costs etc., will have to dig deeper into their already barely empty pockets to pay

for education and other facilities and bureaucratic services.

So, we can see quite clearly control or autonomy is meaningless unless there are financial resources to back this up. In fact what the Government is doing is shifting the burden onto the communities themselves. Power will be in the hands of the white councils. All that is happening is that the Government is providing institutions which exercise its aid and power. It is an attempt to undermine the role of the civic organisations which have demanded a re-allocation and re-distribution of Croydon's finances.

The Government is already introducing autonomy through the back door, as the greater delegation of powers to the Langa Management Committee recently proved.



SOUTH AFRICA is a land of truth and justice changes are being made, if you listen to the radio, watch T.V., or read newspapers you will soon notice obviously that the government is speaking with a different tone. It is even declared at times that Apartheid is dead. For so the important question is not simply to discuss these claims. An examination of these proposed changes clearly shows that the constitution does not in any way advance the road to democracy. In fact government has adopted a two-pronged strategy, that is repression by force, detention, and reform by constitutional proposals. It is a carrot and stick approach. On the one hand the Government tries to bribe us, and if this does not work, it will use force to force us to concede to its rule.



The Nationalist Party relies on the police, security, etc to suppress the African and Coloured people. The white army is necessary for the survival of white rule. South Africa today is experiencing a war against black and white South Africa and the army is involved in this civil war. The new constitution will increase this civil war by reinforcing white domination and privilege. To maintain this domination we want to see Indian and Coloured troops build.

South African Defence Force requires Coloured and Indian youth. A crucial problem is recruitment. There are under a million white men that both the military and the economy require. If the military draws on these for longer periods it would worsen the already existing skill shortage in the economy.

The call up is also an attempt to pacify the Nationalist Party followers. They want to show white Indians and Coloureds get the vote they must at the same time "bear the responsibility" of defending the country. P.W. Botha and Magnus Malan, the Minister of Defence, have already stated they need Indians and Coloureds. They call-up would affect all Indians and Coloureds males. Those who are 18 years will have to do their national service for 2 years. In addition, all males from 18 to 25 years will have to spend 6 weeks every year on army duty.



Workers will suffer

For a growing number of breadwinners increasing unemployment and retrenchment, decreasing take-home pay and inflation is seriously undermining their ability to survive. As unemployment increases, trade unions force workers which in turn weakens their bargaining power. This is what you can expect from a constitution which gives the corporations and big business the freedom to do what

they want by promoting free enterprise. While the government will spend less on welfare by restricting public expenditure it will spend more on defence. The savings, donations, harassment of trade unions and their leaders prove the repressive nature of the state. By increasing U.S.T. to 7%, workers will be hardest hit, since this is a tax they cannot avoid but have to pay.

Denial of Human Rights

The constitutional proposals reject the concept of South Africa as a single society and instead stretches race and ethnicity. In other words, the Nationalists see South Africa as being an

The Government refuses to accept the 20-million African people as citizens of this country.

ETHNIC PLURAL society. This means a society made up of different ethnic and racial groups (e.g. Xhosa, Zulu, Tswana, White, Indian and Coloured). This is an approach which emphasises division rather than unification. In its crystallised form this policy has resulted in the creation of ethnic homelands.

African people have been restricted to 17% of the land in South Africa, which have been given the status of "independent countries" however these bastions like Transkei, Bophuthatane, Ciskei, Venda, etc. do not have any industrial development and are totally dependent on Pretoria. All its citizens have to find work in white South Africa.

It is on this basis that the new constitution rejects the inclusion of Africans.

None of these bastions are recognised by any country in the world, except for Pretoria and Israel.

Our problems will get worse

It is quite clear that the South African state is in a crisis. A crisis occurs when long term political and economic problems reach such a point that the stability of the entire system is threatened. When this happens the state has to give up its old ways and develop new methods and strategies to maintain its rule.

There are various ways and means open to us to stop the new constitution from being implemented. We need to consider all these and make sure that we advance our struggle and not retard it.

Therefore to allow the State to break our alliance today which has taken years to build and create will be like committing political suicide. More than that, to commit ourselves to the new constitution for a few concessions is a high price to pay — the price is military conscription. Today, more than ever before, we need to address ourselves urgently to stand together, in unity and show our oppressors that the crisis that they have created is their doing and will only deepen the conflict and civil war in the country.

It is most essential to analyse and develop lessons from all the changes that the State is making. Because the State is making new attempts to rule, it means that the strategies we employ must also change. We need to move forward and to do so requires political creativity. We may have to discard old tactics that were positive previously but may not be so anymore because today we face very different circumstances.

We must ensure that we remain true to the ideals of freedom, and not collaboration. Our demands as outlined in the Freedom Charter for a non-racial and democratic South Africa is not satisfied under the new constitution. The new constitution does not meet with our aspirations, and our community must reject the new constitution as a fraud.

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 Koornhof 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 Koornhof 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 Gumede interview with Cliff 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 Cliff Saunders the most notorious of propagandists.

Archie Gumede's statements were not aimed at the Indian people. They were aimed at the stooges and collaborators in our community serving on the SAIC and the President's Council.

When racists like Cliff Saunders and Rajbansi attack Gumede 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 fist 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 Gumede, 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 Cliff Saunders. So much has been made, distortions created, and insinuations implied, about a single sentence that I used to attack a small minori-

ty 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 Sebes, Matanzimas and Hendrikses prove.

I will never shirk my responsibility to all the Indian people and to democracy by failing to expose with you in the TIC the likes 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.

message from Archie Gumede, UDF President

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