

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. India's 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 in 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 advocated the establishment of a "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 Nkosi Sikelel i'Afrika and dance and poetry based on the theme of freedom in South Africa, with Nelson Mandela as its symbol.

