

# 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 express 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 extend the definition of collaborators to include members of management committees, members of the president's council, provincial executives, regional services 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 Censorship 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 indicated that those evading the immigration authorities and entering India, would be



**A gift from afar: The South African delegation was presented with three of Nehru's works, to be passed on to jailed UDF leader Terror Lekota. They were presented by Teen Murthi of the Nehru Museum**

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 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 de-

prive 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 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 relative 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 artistes and sportspersons from Pakistan to South Africa for commercial gain.

\* Visits by cultural and religious personalities to South Africa for non-commercial purposes.

\* Visits by Pakistani citizens to South Africa generally.

\* The political, economic, cultural, sports and academic boycott of South Africa by the international community and the position of the Pakistani government in this regard.

Meanwhile, the Mauritan government has expressed keen interest in meeting a delegation from South Africa and has officially invited them to visit that country.



**United action against apartheid: TIC's Cas Saloojee and an Indian Government representative during one of their many meetings**