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## 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 to the South African delegation visiting India.

The delegation - on an official visit - included Cassim Saloojee (TIC president), Reggie Vandeyar (TIC vice president), Fred Gona (COSATU vice president) and Yunus Carrim and Charm Govender 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 resolution 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) Gandhiji had not been exposed to the shock of apartheid, India's history might have taken a very different course".



The South African delegation, face to face with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi:

He also focussed 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 delegates throughout the visit.

During a meeting with the Minister of External Affairs (Foreign Minister), Mr PN Naharisma Rao, 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 "collabo-

rators" 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 tri-cameral elections, to deny them entry into that country.

In a moving ceremony, Mr Cassim 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 Pundit Nehru and Indhira Gandhi.

## Why the TIC is building links with India

### EDITORIAL

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 marks 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 country 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 treat-

ment 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 is more than just an anti-apartheid alliance. The

histories of both India and South Africa are profoundly interlinked and intertwined. Indeed, it was Rajiv Gandhi who declared to the visiting delegation that "Who knows if (Mahatma) Gandhiji 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

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# Why we're building contact with India

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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.



**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 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.

**AS: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 espoused a composite, pluralistic and egalitarian society. On the economic front, we have accepted what we call the mixed economy, of the which the commanding heights are under public ownership but which also affords opportunities for private and individual enterprise.

**AS: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 the 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



**A strong position on South Africa: Members of the delegation were given red carpet treatment during their visit to India**

# India in the world

This interview was conducted by Amarnath Singh, senior labour editor of the Financial Mail, who accompanied the delegation to India. This interview with the Indian Minister of External Affairs, Narasimha Rao, appeared in the Financial Mail (19/5/89).

that problems which have bedevilled relations between the two countries cannot disappear overnight.

**AS: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 sover-

eign, non-aligned and independent status of Afghanistan.

**AS:How do you see the situation in Punjab, the Sikh issue, resolving itself?**

**NR:**The government of India has been regularly consulting 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.

**AS: 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 prob-

lems" 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 ironical that the country where Mahatma Gandhi started his campaign against this system continues to reel under its perversion.

**AS: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 set up a group of foreign ministers who meet 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 censorship imposed by the SA government, reporting about developments within SA has diminished. Unless information is more freely available to the outside world, there is bound to be a marginalisation of this issue on the international agenda.

**AS: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.

**AS:Under what conditions would India be prepared to restore diplomatic relations with SA?**

**NR:**India would be prepared to have diplomatic relations with a SA which is nonracial and democratic and from which the system of apartheid has been totally eliminated.

**AS:What is India's attitude towards the tricameral 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 tricameral parliamentary system is one which operates 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 India community should move with the mass democratic movement within the country to change the system entirely. The government has already banned the entry into India of those 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 Africa's last colony - will be 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 1883 with the German annexation of the territory. Under German occupation systematic genocide of all the people of Central and Southern Namibia began. The issuing of the notorious Extermination Order by the German commander resulted in the extermination of 60% of the people in the region. By 1907 the Herero population had been reduced from 80 000 to 20 000.

After the Germans were

defeated in World War I, in 1919 South Africa was awarded South West Africa and mandated to administer it as an intergral 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 voteless black majority continued on a scale similar to that experienced under German rule. This was evident when Smuts ordered the bombing of the Bondswarts village resulting in considerable loss of life.

After the second World War, when the United Nations was formed and all mandated 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 through 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 occupation of Namibia is 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 prin-



Heroes' homecoming: Some of the thousands of people who gathered at Windhoek airport on June 13 to welcome back exiled Namibians.

ciple to the resolution, it repeatedly raised obstacles to its implementation and pursued policies which made implementation of resolution 435 an impossible task. Instead it installed a stooge administration in defiance of the UN. Its programme of aggression and destabilisation against the people of Namibia and Angola intensified. In May 1978, South African troops backed by bombers, attacked SWAPO bases and refugee camps at Casinga in Angola killing 314 adults and 298 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 defenseless people to give in after so many years and agree to Namibian independence?

Certainly not the diplomacy of Pik Botha and Chester Crocker. ON the contrary the sustained resistance of the Namibian people, the financial cost of South Africa's war with Angola and the defeat of the SADF at Cuito Cuanavale.

In July 1987, Unita and SADF troops tried to seize the strategically important town of Cuito Cuanavale. This time they faced a different, more prepared and better equipped FAPLA (Angola Armed Forces). When South Africa's ageing fleet of Mirage fighters arrived into Southern 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 scramble 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 Africa's ailing economy could ill afford a war and the occupation of Namibia (thought to 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 Africa's 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.

## BRIEFS

### Obituary

On May 1, 1989 Dr David Webster (44) was tragically gunned down outside his home in Troyeville. Dr Webster worked tirelessly helping friends and family of those in detention. He was also founder member of JODAC and the Five Freedoms Forum.

Over 7000 people attended his funeral to pay tribute to him. Firoz Cachalia, Publicity Secretary of the TIC had this to say of David: "He gave solace and support to the victims of repression... he had come to symbolise the re-emergence of the spirit of the Congress Movement and the struggle for a non-racial, egalitarian and humane society."

The TIC would also like to extend condolences to the families of Mr Malek Rasool, vice president of the TIC, Dr Aboobaker "Hurley" Asvat, Mr Elliot Shabangu and the many others who have paid with their lives in the struggle against Apartheid.

Hamba Kahle, Comrades

### ANC stalwarts

Executive members from the TIC and NIC visited Harry Gwala at his home in Pietermaritzburg. Gwala 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 Secre-

tary, Firoz Cachalia met with Govan Mbeki 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 Laudium at 8pm. Mohammed Valli, acting general secretary of the UDF speaking at both the rallies called on the communities 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 Economy 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 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**

# DP must not divert itself from fighting the Nats

The TIC is concerned at the launch of a DP branch in Laudium. 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 discredited individuals who have come forth to join the DP in Laudium.

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 institutions like the HoD, HoR and Black Local Authorities (BLA) 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 recognise that the political scenario is far too complex for such simplistic analysis. Although TIC rejects any participation in the white-dominated Parliament (including



The tricameral elections: The HoD and HoR have proved to be toothless

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 pacts 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 inadvertently sharpen the differences between the DP and the mass democratic movement. In the process, instead of concentrating its energies on a single front fighting the NP, 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 also be taken into account in this regard. The HoD and HoR serve as a mechanism to co-opt and insulate 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 embarrassment as Indian and Coloured DP members cross the floor whenever FW de Klerk dangles a carrot. The DP will be forced 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 dented 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 no 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 that of voting for the tricameral parliament. SA is in a period of transition, a period in which the ANC Constitutional Guidelines serves 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 pro-

vide 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 tri-cameral 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 SADF in Cuito Cuinavale, has forced Botha to reluctantly agree to independence for Namibia.

The Nats traditional allies in the West are also demanding that Apartheid be dismantled. FW 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 decrepit order.

Instead the TIC believes that Indian South Africans have a positive role to play in preparing for the future SA.

The visit last year to the ANC, the visit to India this year and the recent TIC Business and Economy Conference highlighted the tremendous potential role of the Indian community in the process of change.

The issue facing us presently is our active participation and contribution towards this new South Africa that is waiting to be born.