

# EDITORIAL

NOTHING underlines more clearly the importance of the creation of the department of Religious Affairs as the confrontation between the racist regime and the religious community. This development underpins the profound analysis made by prominent Church leaders in the Evangelical Witness and the Kairos Document which challenges the moral, political and religious legitimacy of the apartheid regime.

There can be no reconciliation between apartheid and the Church, the documents assert.

"This is tantamount to reconciling sin with righteousness, evil with good. It is trying to reconcile the Devil with God. Is this not a hypocritical form of reconciliation? No compromise with evil is possible in terms of our evangelical faith and thus we must work for real and genuine reconciliation in South Africa. . ." — Evangelical Witness in South Africa.

Apartheid is fundamentally unjust, ungodly and demonic. It is negation of the most basic Christian teachings; to love your neighbour as you love yourself; a denial that man is made in the image of God. There is no question of loving God, claiming allegiance to God when your first enemy is exactly His creation.

Anwar M. Sadat Barkati, in his introduction to the Kairos documents brilliantly describes the racist state, he writes:

"The state becomes God, demanding ultimate obedience through violence and oppression of defenceless people. In the name of law and order and fear of communism, the idolization of the state becomes an official ideology to be enforced by all means."

He concludes that the God of the South African state is not merely a false God, but the Devil disguised as Almighty God the anti-Christ. Thus the Church can not, but be part of this religious awakening unfolding in merely engaged in a lone battle for religious rights, but is essentially part of that divine battle — the people's divine war for a free democratic South Africa.

The awakening of the Religious community is of momentous significance in South Africa. It is the resurrection in Christ of that old age movement of revolutionary prophets who proclaimed liberty to captives and preached doom to oppressors. Just as the national awakening of the African people was inspired by prominent clergy of our times in the formations of the ANC in 1912, the ANC can not, but be part of this religious awakening unfolding in South Africa. The ANC Department of Religious Affairs is part of that religious witness which once more asserts the indisputable role that religion has and

will always play in the struggle of our people for freedom.

While we appraise this development within the religious front in South Africa, we are at the same time mindful that our opposition to apartheid, our rejection of the racist tyranny still lacks direction. Our theology still lacks the fundamental perspective of revolutionary transformation. A truly liberating theology must be developed and express the most basic and fundamental aspirations and demands of our people for freedom.

"You are the light for the whole world. A city built on a hill can not be hidden . . . In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your father in heaven." Mat:5: 13.

A truly liberating perspective must contain a vision of a free democratic South Africa such as proclaimed in the Freedom Charter — It must be clear to the racist regime that the Church, or religious community is not just fighting to reform and adorn sin with the fragrance of roses — our people are not dying in their thousands for reconciliation with the devil. Apartheid must be destroyed — this is the prophetic message from the signs of our times. Advance to people's power!