

## SHOULD WE PARTICIPATE IN TRI-CAMERALISM?

### A POSITION PROMOTING THE IDEA

(Read with an analytical mind and do not accept the viewpoint as correct).

I must start off by saying that, entering the tricameral parliament, is not a principle move, but rather a change of tactic. We remain committed to the realization of the people's demands as stipulated in the FREEDOM CHARTER. We remain committed to the demands that the people shall govern, that the people shall share in the country's wealth, that all shall be equal before the law, that there shall be work, security and comfort, that the doors of learning and culture shall be open and that there shall be houses for all.

The very first question that can be raised is whether these demands can be met as we enter the tricameral system. The answer is quite clear, DEFINITELY NOT! Also when entering we must have clear goals as to what we want to achieve. If somebody say that by entering we make the system work, our reply must be clear - by no means do we want the present system of tricameralism to work because it is racist, fascist, exploitative by nature and the people's demands will never be met. We must be clear that our goal is to smash the tricameral parliament and to make it ungovernable - that must clearly be our goal.

When one engages in a tactical change of strategy there are no certainty that the change of tactic will have the desired affect and co-incide with your total strategy. What one does is to look at the tactic from all possible angles, to look for stumbling blocks and then make a decision. We must remember that all decisions that we in the progressive forces take, must presuppose unity in our ranks and futhering our ultimate aim. We must realize that even an indept analysis of our tactic, does not ensure success. When all indications are that the tactic is not having the desired effect, we need to adapt it or seize going on that particular path.

1. The strategy of the state has been twofold: to remain "legitimate" to the Western world and the confused minority within the country the state is set on a course of "reform" at the same time increa-  
oppressing the progressive majority.
2. One other big problem for the state is the ultra-right within S.A. politics - the powerful Conservative Party/HNP/AWB alliance. They believe in a white minority rule without the option of "sharing power".

3. The dilemma of the state is to ensure that all interested parties are satisfied. The government dare not move too much to the left without facing a white revolt in its own ranks - the CP/HNP/AWB alliance. - nor can it move too much to the right without facing disapproval of the confused coloured, Indian and black minority and the western world.
4. I do not imply that our liberation depends on either the western world, the confused minority or the right wing. What I am saying is that we need to identify the potential weakness within the system and exploit it to the fullest. This tactic must be part of a total strategy to seize power.
5. Since the inception of the UDF in 1983, our strategy was to isolate the state and make it unpopular to the toiling masses inside and outside the country, while at the same time we build strong people's organisations to resist .

#### SO WHAT MUST WE DO

1. In practise the extra-parliamentary opposition must remain and need not to be silenced by UDF entering parliament. The UDF must remain and must set a party to represent the extra-parliamentary mass. Nobody can make themselves available as a candidate. All candidates in the regions must not be opposed by other UDF candidates. Extra-parliamentary events of the mass will continue.
2. The above practical application or consideration pre-suppose that nation-wide discussion of affiliates of all national bodies e.g. NECC, SAYCO, COSATU, FEDSAW, UDF and the ANC. These discussions must arrive at a democratic decision, whether to enter or not.
3. Tricameralism is one of the last options of the state to co-opt coloureds and idians. This is very important and should be taken note of. When entering we must ensure that the tricameral parliament collapses. While the tricameral parliament operates, the West will accept this concept of democracy to ensure big profits for their investments. - the West will accept anything as long as their profits are guaranteed.
4. When tricameralism collapses, we will force the state to resort to more and more repressive measures or move closer to the right, with another option of dispensation. What I am saying is, that more repressive measures and the failure of the state to concede to the demands of the people will increase the pressure of the West (their profits are in grave danger); leaning to the left might just force the state too far to the left - causing a major revolt on his right.

~~The~~ We must realise that the state is daily fighting a battle for survival. ~~The~~ If we widen that crises, no one can forsee what might really come of it - but the tactic has all the ingredients of a mojour upset and setback to the State. If the tactic has the slightest chance of ensuring a revolt within the state, or isolating the state from the West, then I say, we must engage in it.