

"What the UDF would like to see in 1988"

Ideally, what the UDF would most like to see next year is an end to apartheid and the white's - at a non-racial democratic SA based on the F. C. An end to the brutalisation of our country and its people by apartheid is what the United Democratic Front (UDF) would want. Unfortunately, however, we cannot plan on the basis of hope or wishful thinking. ~~However, difficult times demands clear-sightedness and a realistic vision of the future from the legal democratic movement.~~ (I have to achieve our goal of peace.)

Forty years of National Party rule have led us to expect nothing but blindness, ineptness and reliance on repression and confrontation on the part of the government. The State of Emergency will probably remain in force, there will be no inroads made into unemployment and social problems like the housing shortage or inferior education will remain untackled. Unfortunately what we are more likely to witness is the country sucked further into spiralling violence, increasing curbs on freedom of speech and the press and greater efforts by the government to force the National Council and long-rejected black local authorities down the throats of our people. President Botha and his national security advisors will dart between brutal repression and limited reforms. A survey of the government prospects for next year will discover a barren political programme and a lack of commitment to creating the climate for fruitful discussions. Economically, the situation does not look good either and the desperate plight of many of our people will worsen as the world stock market crash begins to reap its toll. Despite Black's release, we remain convinced that the government is not serious about a resolution of the conflict. Our demands are well-known. But the UDF is able to view glimmerings of hope for South Africa in 1988. Very clear is the growing unity among the majority, ^{guided by our modest} on the basis of the Freedom Charter, ^{the Freedom Charter was} adopted as a vision of the future by COSATU and the UDF this year, ^{are now} Less distinct and somewhat blurry around the edges, but ^{nonetheless} equally hopeful, is the realisation by increasing numbers of whites that they have to break with apartheid and begin contributing to a new South Africa, free from racism and injustice.

~~And so, while anticipating attacks by the government and its agents on extra-parliamentary and democratic opposition, the UDF is able to move forward into 1988 with confidence determined to find the end of the dark apartheid tunnel.~~ we are committed

to building of a massive anti-apartheid force, of both blacks and whites, which will further isolate the Nationalists and ultimately leave them with no alternative but to seek a peaceful resolution to the conflict in our country.