

REPORT ON THE TALKS HELD BETWEEN THE INKATHA MOVEMENT, LABOUR PARTY AND THE REFORM PARTY.

At the 12th Annual Conference of the Labour Party of South Africa held recently at Oudtshoorn, the Secretary-General of the Inkatha Movement, Dr S M Bhengu, delivered a paper on "Politics of the Situation".

A suggestion had come from him that the Labour Party and Inkatha Movement should team up and that we organise ourselves into a mass movement for liberation on the same lines as Inkatha.

He went further, stating that it was important for the Labour Party to indentify itself fully with the African cause if there was to be a common destiny.

Conference, after discussion, decided by resolution, "That the Labour Party of South Africa takes urgent steps to meet with Inkatha leaders with a view to forming a co-ordinating committee immediately aimed at unifying the strategy of the two movements at all levels as a first step towards total unification of strategy of all such liberatory movements." This decision was unanimous.

Chief Gatsha Buthelezi subsequently fully endorsed the call by Dr Bhengu and extended an invitation to our Party for talks on these lines on Wednesday, 11th January 1978.

The Reform Party indicated their interest in these talks and an invitation was also extended to them.

The historic meeting took place at Ulundi, capital of KwaZulu in the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

The Inkatha Movement was represented by:

- Chief Gatsha Buthelezi (President),
- Messrs. Z Nxumalo, G Thula, A Mdludse, Chief Sithole and Dr A Madedo.

The Reform Party was represented by:

- Mr Y S Chinsamy (Leader),
- Messrs K Rajbansi, Y Meer, P Moola and Dr Mayet.

The Labour Party was represented by:

- Mr L S Leon (Leader),
- Rev H J Hendrickse, Messrs D M Curry, N S Middleton and F E Peters.

The Chairman of the meeting was Bishop A H Zulu.

The First Session from 11 am until the lunch-break at 1.30 pm was open to the public and the Press and was confined to the viewpoints of each group as expressed by their respective leaders.

Consensus was immediately reached on the importance of an alliance formed on a basis to formulate a common strategy against apartheid. We would join hands, but we would not refuse to extend our hands to other Blacks and those Whites who were genuinely concerned about South Africa and who were willing to talk.

VIEWPOINTS OF THE RESPECTIVE LEADERS: (Extracts)

Chief Gatsha Buthelezi's speech is contained in the annex hereto.

Mr L S Leon in his opening remarks said that the viewpoint of Labour Party was wellknown.

In spite of the many obstacles that had been encountered and could be expected we would meet as people and join hands as Blacks. We would not refuse to extend our hands to those Whites who were

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truly concerned about South Africa.

It had become a matter of extreme concern to us to meet not as ethnic groups but as a people to discuss common problems, seeking to find a way out of the impasse.

We have a right of common existence in this land of our birth but we are denied that which is rightly ours because of the colour of our skins. We have been denied our rightful place in the South African Society. My sin is my colour.

We want a fair share, nothing more, nothing less. Unless there is universal education South Africa is doomed. If those who invest in South Africa are not prepared to contribute towards the upliftment of Blacks then they should get out.

After we had offered our lives for South Africa we were discarded and the same will happen to those who accept the new dispensation.

We have made a call to the Government to call a National Convention but this has been turned down. The Labour Party will reject any form of government unless it is a rightful government in which all would share. Our concern is the consolidation of all the oppressed peoples of South Africa.

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Mr Y S Chinsamy thanked Chief Buthelezi for having called this meeting and that this was an historical occasion, being the first time we were meeting jointly in KwaZulu to lay the foundation for many things to follow thereafter. He endorsed every word that had been said by both Gatsha and Leon, as the Constitution of the Reform Party was similar to that of both Inkatha and the Labour Party.

"If we accept the new dispensation", he said, "we would not only be traitors to our Black brothers but would also bring about their downfall. That is why it is so important for us to get together to resolve a reasonable dispensation."

"The Alliance should not seek confrontation and it must be made known that we are not trying to sabotage our country. We want the repeal of all oppressive laws. It is important that there should be proper leadership, and this meeting would assist in finding such leaders. The White man was driving South Africa to chaos and there was a need for a Black united front".

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The talks continued in Close Session.

During the discussions the Reform Party representatives indicated their unanimous support for an Alliance; such action would have to be ratified at their executive meeting.

The Labour Party representatives read their Conference resolution which mandated them to support an Alliance.

After further discussion it was agreed that a committee be appointed representing each group to formulate a resolution which would be a basis for further discussion.

The Resolution reads as follows:

"Throughout the history of South Africa the oppressed people have been subjected to the policy of divide and rule. Conscious of the deliberate attempts and calculated measures aimed at keeping the oppressed people separated and divided, and regretfully aware of the support for such division by some people within the oppressed group itself, the Labour Party, Reform Party and Inkatha Movement met at Ulundi on 11 January 1978 to affirm the belief of the oppressed people in a common destiny, in this our land South Africa and to this end unanimously resolve/...

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resolve that an Alliance be formed by the Labour Party, the Reform Party and Inkatha Movement on the following basis:

- 1 These movements are representative of the oppressed people of South Africa;
  - 2 They share common aims and objectives and have the same principles in their Constitutions;
  - 3 The time is now ripe that the oppressed people of South Africa should come together to formulate a common strategy against apartheid;
  - 4 They pledge themselves to form an interim co-ordinating committee, the purpose of which would give practical effect to the implementation of the Alliance;
- and 5 To prepare the groundwork for the calling and holding of a National Convention to which all South Africans will be invited in order to map out a charter for a non-racial community and a new constitution for South Africa."

The meeting was fully aware that the actual convening of a National Convention was the Government's function, but it was felt that there was no reason, why the Blacks could not get together to prepare a blue-print for an alternative society.

It was also agreed that there should be consultation with youth groups.

An interim co-ordinating committee of nine was appointed, which would implement the Alliance resolution and investigate issues on which a joint strategy could be adopted.

Members appointed: Messrs Y S Chinsamy, K Rajbansi and Dr Mayett of the Reform Party.

Messrs. G Thula, Z Nxumalo and Dr A Madedo of the Inkatha Movement

Rev H J Hendrickss, Messrs D M Curry and F F Peters of the Labour Party.

It was unanimously agreed that Chief Gatsha Buthelezi be the Chairman of the Alliance and that the Secretary of the Inkatha Movement be the Secretary of the Alliance.

No date has yet been set for the meeting of the co-ordinating committee, but talks would resume at Cape Town on 13 March 1978. It was also agreed that talks be held once every two months on a rotating basis, and that the maximum representation of each group would be ten. Members of either group may attend but as observers only.



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