

P.R.34a/49  
11.11.53/JCF.

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (INC.)  
SUID-AFRIKAANSE INSTITUUT VIR RASSEVERHOUDINGS (INGELYF)

Findings of the Institute's Council in January, 1949, on the Political  
Aspects of South Africa's Racial Problems.

In considering the political aspects of our racial problems this Council keeps in mind that the main aim of the Institute is to promote peace and goodwill and practical co-operation between the racial sections of the population. The Council therefore feels that no political action should be taken which would make this aim more difficult of achievement. Consequently, the Council endorses the action of the Executive Committee in asking the Prime Minister not to violate the spirit if not the letter of the clauses of the Constitution which entrench the political rights of the Non-European peoples. It notes that such action is not forecast in the speech from the throne at the opening of Parliament, and records its appreciation of those influences which have been at work to stay this policy. Political good faith is no less essential a virtue for the good society than are other virtues, and unless this is recognised in high places the effects upon racial relations must be disastrous. The Council appeals to all political parties to maintain the entrenched clauses in their full integrity.

The Council has heard with deep interest the various and opposing views presented to it and recognizes the earnestness with which views are held. The Council maintains its declared attitude of recognizing human reactions to racial situations and taking due account of opposing views earnestly held, and considers that if this attitude were maintained generally in consideration of our racial policies there would be greater hope of achieving policies consonant with peace, goodwill and practical co-operation between races. The Council is convinced that no policy will prove practical that does not command the approval and support of the bulk of both the European and Non-European peoples, and it urges that the leaders of the Non-European peoples shall be consulted fully on all proposals affecting them and their relations with the Europeans. In this connection the Council re-affirms its declaration of January 19, 1945 which said:-

"The Institute was conceived in the faith, that however great  
"the difficulties and however dark the skies, the racial  
"problems of South Africa can be solved by constructive  
"and continuous co-operation between all those concerned in  
"discovering the facts and working for them (the aims of the  
"Institute) with goodwill, reasonableness, and reliance upon  
"those sources of moral and spiritual strength which alone can  
"fit us to face the formidable difficulties of our country in this  
"generation. We cannot yet propound any general solution fully  
"acceptable to every racial group, but we can and do pledge  
"ourselves to continue to seek for it and to seek for it together,  
"believing also that every positive advance we make together on  
"specific points will hasten the day of general agreement on  
"principle."

The Council would welcome any further elucidation of the Government's racial policy and programme which would provide positive points for co-operation. Whilst the country searches for racial policies which will achieve the aim of peace, goodwill and practical co-operation between the races the Council, holding that no section of the population should be unrepresented in Parliament, and expressing its deep regret that the Indian community have been deprived of their very limited franchise, urges that no further restrictions should be placed upon the political rights of Non-Europeans, and European political power should be exercised in the spirit of responsibility and service extending to Non-Europeans the means and the opportunities for the development of the best in them.

-----

**Collection Number: AD1715**

**SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation*

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

©2013

**LEGAL NOTICES:**

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document forms part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR), held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.