

Estrangement is the Daily News May 8, 1979 increasing - Paton

Pietermaritzburg Bureau

THERE was an increasing estrangement between different cultures in South Africa, said Dr. Alan Paton in Pietermaritzburg last night.

He was participating in a seminar entitled "South Africa needs a new national culture" which opened the capital's Living Arts Festival last night.

Dr Paton defined culture as the "world of meanings in which we live" and said that such worlds were the products of environment.

"Clearly what we desire is a world of meanings more homogeneous than is the case in South Africa at the moment," he said.

A national culture did not mean uniformity, but the "preservation of a sufficient number of common elements, thereby promoting adhesion rather than fission in our society."

Dr Paton rejected

Afrikaner nationalism as a means of promoting such a culture, describing it as an instrument of domination of all races in South Africa. Large economic disparities between people also contributed to the difficulties of creating a shared national culture. turer in Afrikaans/Nederlands at the University of Natal in Durban sounded a pessimistic note. He said that a cultural synthesis in South Africa was not possible. He was also not sure if culture itself had any intrinsic meaning.

"Culture must create better people, but the lessons of history teach us that culture has been unable to prevent wars and man's inhumanity to man," he said.

Afrikaans was a threatened language because of Government censorship and the fact that it was regarded as the language of the oppressor and the police.

Black leaders asked to advise govt

Political Staff

THE government has invited a wide cross-section of leaders, Dr Ntatho Motlana, Mr Percy Qoboza and Bishop Desmond Tutu, to advise it on the position of blacks outside the homelands.

The composition of six regional committees to aid the Cabinet investigation into blacks in the "white" areas of South Africa was announced yesterday by the Minister of Co-operation and Development,

Dr Piet Koornhof.

Asked by Mr Ray Swart (PFP Musgrave), whether these people had already accepted their nominations, Dr Koornhof said although the black states had nominated representatives, he had not been able to speak to all the people involved.

However, he pleaded with them to serve on the committee, "for God's sake, let's give it a chance".

Dr Koornhof, who was

speaking during the committee stage debate on his vote, said if these people accepted their nominations it would be for the well-being of everyone in South Africa.

It was, he added, a genuine attempt to bring together leaders of all sections of the community.

Among the people invited to serve on the committees are: Dr Motlana, the former banned and once detained chairman of the Committee of

Ten; the editor of Post, Mr Percy Qoboza, who was detained for five months after his first newspaper, World, was banned in October 1977; the moderator of the Ned Geref Church in Africa, Dr S Buti; the general-secretary of the South African Council of Churches, Bishop Desmond Tutu, and the Makgotla leader in Soweto, Mr Sigfried Manthate.

Liberal academicians such as Professor Francis Wilson of

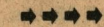
the University of Cape Town and Professor Mike Whisson of Rhodes University have also been approached.

Others invited were: the editor of Ilanga, Mr Obed Kunene; representatives of employer organizations, like Assocom and the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut; agriculture and local authorities; the governments of blacks states, including most of the chief ministers and members of their Cabinets, and representa-

tives of community councils.

In his announcement, Dr Koornhof said he did not want to anticipate the activities or possible findings of the Cabinet committee.

However, as the prime minister had announced in the policy speech during his vote, the Cabinet committee would be advised by six regional



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KOORNHOF



WILSON



QOBOZA



TUTU



Free trade areas proposed

18 MAY 1979

Political Correspondent

CHANGES AIM AT BETTER LIVING

CAPE TOWN: The Riekert Commission has proposed major changes in the group areas system aimed at better living conditions and business opportunities for blacks, Coloureds and Indians.

The commission proposes that free trade areas be created and that employers should be allowed to register homes in their own names which they buy for black employees in the townships.

However, on the principle of separate residential areas the commission says it has received too little evidence to adopt a standpoint. It also had no direct bearing on its terms of reference.

On free trade areas it suggests that the Group Areas Act of 1966 be so

amended that "the restrictive provisions on acquisition, ownership or occupation by disqualified persons in specific demarcated areas in the central business centres of cities and towns not be applicable to buildings, land premises in areas used exclusively for trading, commercial or professional purposes."

It suggests that local authorities should be able to ask for such free trade areas to be created and that the Minister of Community Development should grant such requests.

On housing, it suggests that ownership should be granted to employers who wish to provide ac-

commodation for their black employees in their residential areas.

Such permits to employers should be made subject to conditions that will protect employees from exploitation and which will ensure that homes provided in this manner would only be occupied by the employers' employees.

The commission has found that there is a definite need for a greater variety of housing in urban black residential areas.

A scaling down of the Department of Co-operation and Development and a reorganisation of administration board are also proposed.

State backs end to principle of closed shop

CAPE TOWN: The government has accepted the idea that the closed shop principle in trade unionism should be phased out.

This emerges from the White Paper on the Government's attitude to the recommendations of the Wiehahn Commission which has been tabled in Parliament by the Minister of Labour, Mr S. P. Botha.

In this the Government accepts the recommendations of the minority which had misgivings about the system in preference to those of the majority which recommended its retention.

As the White Paper points out the minority of commission members found that the closed shop practice was not only undesirable but that it held serious dangers in the new dispensation that was envisaged.

"It is a negation of freedom of association and is the commonest form of work reservation."

The Government is, however, not inclined to introduce an absolute prohibition at this stage and prefers to receive further

Political Correspondent

guidance from the proposed National Manpower Commission.

In the meantime the closed shop practice will be suspended and no further agreements of this nature will be permitted. But existing closed shop agreements will, for the present — and dependent on the wishes of the parties concerned — be permitted to remain in force.

At the appropriate time, and depending on the advice given by the Manpower Commission, the possibility of either the total prohibition or reinstatement of the practice will be considered.

Top labour experts today agreed that the Government has opted for a going-over period, that there cannot be a return to the closed shop system and that it will therefore eventually be phased out.

The White Paper reaffirms the Government's acceptance of the recommendation that job reservation should be scrapped because it is "an impractical and inadequate

measure which harms race relations and is out of keeping with the needs of our times".

Referring to the principle of "equal pay for equal work", the White Paper says that the Manpower Commission will be asked to give guidance on the formulation and application of this.

Existing job reservation determinations will only be abolished after consultation with the parties concerned.

The recommendation that the training of black apprentices in white areas of the Republic should be allowed is also accepted.

This can make a valuable contribution to the development of the self-governing black states by allowing the indenturing of black apprentices in white areas, thus ensuring a high standard of training.

The White Paper has, for the present, an important reservation on the commission's recommendation that mixed unions should decide for themselves about their management. At present whites have to manage such unions.

Brazil THE DAILY NEWS explains refusal 18 MAY 1979 of visa to Buthelezi

BRASILIA: The Brazilian Foreign Ministry said yesterday that its refusal of a visa for KwaZulu's Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, was in keeping with its anti-apartheid policies.

"Brazil has never recognised the independence of the South African Bantustans," said the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr Bernardo Pedicas. "We therefore cannot grant a visa to any official of the Bantustans."

"KwaZulu is not yet independent," Mr Pericas said, "but the intention of the South African Government is to make it autonomous like Transkei, which we do not recognise."

Sapa-AP

In reports published here, Chief Buthelezi said the rejection of his visa request was inconsistent with Brazil's stated support of independence for black Africans and opposition to apartheid.

Chief Buthelezi had been invited to an international businessmen's conference that began yesterday in Rio de Janeiro.

A power debate is urgent

THE DAILY NEWS

18 MAY 1979

By Terry Edwards

THERE is no chance — as Cape Town city councillor Tom Walters demanded last week — of the Government suspending work for 20 years on the Koeberg nuclear power station. But it would be unwise to dismiss Mr Walters as just a quaint anti-Government jousting. His reaction can be seen as the outcome of a critical shortcoming in South Africa's venture into nuclear power technology: this is the lack of public debate and awareness on a subject that, seen in its broad perspective, could have incalculable consequences for the future of mankind.

Whether the consequences will be very, very good or unremittingly evil — and there are powerful lobbies for both camps — nobody has yet been able to say with certainty. It simply is not a case of building this R2 000-million power station, throwing a switch and watching cheap electricity flow endlessly into the national grid with nothing but a rosy, high-voltage future to contemplate. Many matters still need debate.

For instance: What is the human risk, if any? What will the final overall cost be? What about fuel supplies? What about radioactive waste disposal? What about environmental damage? What is the life expectancy of a nuclear power station — and what does one do with a thoroughly contaminated and worn out facility? And what about the unfathomed complexities of security in a nuclear society?

And yet, given this, hardly a word has been raised in South Africa about the Koeberg project . . . and it's now more than two years since the deal was signed with a consortium to build the plant. It seems it was enough for official experts to say soothingly that it was safe and necessary to have nuclear power for

debate to be virtually stillborn. Perhaps this reflects a South African propensity to leave complex things to the State.

But then came the Three Mile Island mishap in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and alarmed questions at last began to be asked about Koeberg.

Mr Walters, along with a few other concerned individuals, suddenly tried to understand what it might mean to have a nuclear giant on the Mother City's doorstep. But it wasn't easy. Perhaps something of the ungrasped vastness of the problem and the paucity of South African awareness of what is being done struck Mr Walters, because when he emerged from a visit to Koeberg last week, his main suggestion was: "Put a plastic bubble over the Koeberg nuclear power plant site and leave off all further construction for 20 years."

That might be long enough for South African public debate and understanding to catch up with the rest of the world, but unfortunately the country will not have such uncomplicated luxury. Koeberg will go on stream in about two years and any debate will have to be done in the light of that reality.

It is now becoming

realised in a number of quarters that even at this late hour, the debate must be joined. It is not enough, it is felt, for officials to make reassuring noises about safety at a time when in parts of the United States a moratorium has been declared on the construction of further nuclear plants; at a time when accidents are not a rarity; at a time when shutdowns because of leaks do take place in spite of the most rigorous surveillance.

And what of radioactive wastes? Some of them will remain dangerous for more than a quarter of a million years — longer than man has been on the earth. A recent US federal task force admitted that, at present no one has an answer to the permanent waste storage problem.

And while the commissioning of a nuclear plant may be a euphoric occasion, what of its retirement in an estimated 30 years' time? This is something that has never been done on a commercial plant and there is no recognised way to go about the job. The equipment does not even exist for such a task. Certainly the local demolition firm will not be called in to swing its hammers at the contaminated structures. And then, what of the cost of the demolition? It has been suggested that it will cost as much to decommission Koeberg as it cost to build.

If the debate has been slow getting started, it is certain there is enough material to keep it going. A soothed people might ease the way for bureaucrats, but it won't help much if there has been a colossal error of judgment. There are signs of a realisation that it is in openness that public distrust and dismay will be averted.

More libraries

THE DAILY NEWS

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for blacks urged

Daily News Reporter

WHITE local authorities in Natal were strongly criticised yesterday for failing to take advantage of funds made available by the Province to provide libraries for blacks.

Speaking during the second reading of the Budget debate in the Provincial Council, Mr Cliff Mathee, chief whip of the New Republic Party, said the Province had made available a total of R60 000 last year for the development of libraries in Indian and Coloured areas and he was ashamed when informed that not one local authority had taken advantage of this.

Mr Mathee said a total of R126 000 was due to be made available this year and he appealed to local authorities to make utmost use of these funds.

"It is a disgrace to deny our fellow black men the right to use libraries, especially when these funds are available. It is money going to waste," he said.

Mr Mathee also appealed

to the Administrator-in-Executive Committee to work towards a better deal for the Province's "badly-paid" traffic officers — a problem that had now reached crisis proportions.

He said the police as a whole in South Africa, who were doing a dangerous job, were poorly paid. Since 1976, 104 white and 15 black traffic officers had resigned from the Provincial service.

Mr Mathee also called on the Administrator to take the lead in creating a regional orchestra for the Province, following the demise of the Durban Symphony Orchestra two years ago.

The NRP MPC for Berea, Mr Peter McKenzie, criticised the spending of money for the maintenance of ideologies and said the ruling National Party was at present staggering under the load of upholding apartheid.

The Budget debate will be resumed on Thursday.

(News by D. Pather, 83 Field Street, Durban.)

Seven charges against Horwood

THE DAILY NEWS

18 MAY 1979

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Parliamentary Correspondent

CAPE TOWN: The Minister of Finance, Senator O. P. F. Horwood, faced at least seven charges on the Information scandal, Mr Harry Schwarz (PFP, Yeoville) said in the Assembly yesterday.

Speaking in the debate on the Finance Vote, Mr Schwarz accused the Minister of having failed to reply to the case made against him during the debate.

The charges outlined by Mr Schwarz, were:

- The Minister had asked Parliament to pass the budget, including the Defence Vote, when he knew that the Defence Vote had included money to be used secretly for Information.

- He knew money was being transferred from one vote to another, which was contrary to the provisions of the Exchequer and Audit Act.

- He knew that when certificates were being given in terms of the Defence Special Account Act, they covered amounts transferred to Information and not expended in terms of that Act.

- The Minister failed to use his powers under the Defence Special Account Act to ensure an audit of all funds voted under the Act, which would have enabled an audit to be done of the secret funds:

- He admitted last Friday he had given incorrect evidence under oath to the Erasmus commission on the To the Point issue, and appeared

to have given evidence to correct it only after further public discussion about To the Point.

- He had been a party to the continued financing of To the Point, which advocated a party-political standpoint no different from that of the Citizen newspaper.

- The Minister's statement about "obliterating" information on a document which he initialled concerning secret funds appeared to be in conflict with his previous statements and inconsistent with previous attitudes in seeking to obtain information.

tion.

Mr Schwarz said he did not think the Minister's explanation about obliterating information when he signed would stand up in a court of law.

"When you sign a document you bind yourself to it," Mr Schwarz said.

The Minister did not reply to the accusations, but earlier in yesterday's debate he said: "I take full responsibility for everything I have done."

He also said he stood by his statement to the Assembly last Friday on the Information matters that were raised.

BAN ON REMOVALS TO CISKEI URGED

The Daily News May 8, 1979

Parliamentary Correspondent

CAPE TOWN: Mr Rupert Lorimer (PFP, Orange Grove) yesterday made an urgent appeal to the Minister of Plural Relations and Development Dr Koornhof, to halt immediately the removal of people to the Ciskei until the people living there had been adequately catered for.

Mr Lorimer was one of three speakers representing the three main political parties who warned of the dangerous situation developing in the Ciskei because of the lack of jobs, land and food.

Mr Lorimer warned that there were thousands of black people in the Ciskei who were landless and had no means of subsistence.

"A very serious situation exists as far as the

consolidation of land is concerned. This is being aggravated by the Government because of its policy of shipping black people from white areas to the Ciskei when there is no land available for them and no job opportunities exist," he said.

Mr John Malcomess (NRP, East London North) said there were 200 000 people at Mdantsane and would soon be 300 000 at Potsdam who did not have a nearby industrial area where they could get jobs.

The Government had not allowed the industrial area of Berlin to develop because it had offered better concessions to industrial areas like Butterworth and Dimbaza.

Replying, the Minister said the Government regarded developments in the Ciskei in an extremely serious light and agreed that something drastic had to be done.

Reports on this page by P. Esterhuysen, J. Battersby and A. Brand, all of Press Gallery, House of Assembly, Cape Town.