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Copies to

Eomrade President.
and
The Working Committee.

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London

February 2

1987

Comrade A. Nzo,
Secretary General
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
Lusaka.

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Dear Comrade Alf,

Re: My objections to the usage of "so-called

Coloured" or Coloured in quotation
marks in our terminology.

For sometime now, I have been deeply concerned about this matter.
I have raised it in discussion with comrades in our N.E.C. and
"I had hoped that somehow it would cease to be used. I had hoped
that the two letters written by Comrade Alex LaGuma in Sechaba
of June, and, November 1984 of which copies are attached; also
the article written by de Bruyn in the African Communist no.97,
;second quarter 1984, of which a copied extract is attached, wouldi
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â\200\234i-\201have been enough to persuade us to cease its usage.. I can only
-assume that comrades haVexbeen too busy to read these contributions
wand*areâ\200\235therefore'not aware Of the anguish caused. On seeing it
being used once again in the January 8 Statement, I must now ask
that this matter be discussed at the next meeting of the N.E.C.

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We, who have gone through the mill, readily

I believe that the way the regime has manipulated, misused, tortured
and prostituted the whole issue of differences between the different
communities, causes an immediate reaction of black conciousness
among our people.

appreciate this reaction.

when referring to a specific community, is part of this reaction.

We, however, who have the responsibility of leading our COUNTRY,
will need to display keen sensitivity in the process of struggling
for respect for the values of the various communities; in the
struggle for harmony among the different cultures; in the struggle
â\200\231for a common denominator.

relationship between different communities is fraught with Serious
problems and under no circumstances can we allow a belittling of
identity, be it Zulu, Afrikaner, or any other community.

The use of the tortuous term "so-called"

We know that the situation of the

What ever the origin of the term, there has never been any decision
by the community to change the description. People who are of recent
black concious backgrounds such as Allan Boesak do so: however,
some examples of U.D.F. statements, which are attached, show that
they do not use the prefix soâ\200\224called, or Coloured in quotes.

I consider it completely demeaning to describe any group as "so-called" as if they do not merit any identity.
cease the use of so-called Coloured or Coloured in quotes in official declarations and speeches.

I therefore propose that we

our

We have a long way to go yet in order to win substantial sections of the Coloured community to our side. Let us not make our task unnecessarily difficult.

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