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No-confidence debate

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by Brian Pottinger :
CAPE TOWN â\200\224 The Prime Minister, Mr P. W.
_Botha, has begun his reply to the no-confidence

motion submitted by the official Opposition by
laying heavy emphasis on party unity. .

His address continues
when Parliament convenes
again this afternoon with
speculation that he will
concentrate heavily on the

alleged failure of the PFP"

to involve themselves in
the constitutional debate
through the President's
Council.

In the few minutes be-
fore the Parliament ad-
journed last night Mr
Botha said attempts by the
Opposition and its news:
papers to create a split
within the National Party
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- PFP

Own Correspondent
THE Progressive. Federal
Party has raised doubts
about the importance . of
the impartiality of the
United Nations General
Assembly in the negotia-
tions over SWA/Namibia.

In the fullest Opposition
gtatement yet on the Ge-
neva talks, Mr Derrick de
Villiers, chief spokesman
on foreign affairs, said

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raises doubts ab
value of UNâ\200\231s Swapo

no differences in principle
within his party although
there might be differences

of opinion about the methods of applying policy, the procedural and administrative issues.

Mr Botha characterised the attitude of the Leader of the Opposition towards himself as 'he loves me, he loves me not, It is difficult to know if he is satisfied with me as Prime Minister or not.'

In reply to the questions raised by the Opposition Leader, Dr F. van Zyl Slabbert, Mr Botha said:

General Assembly were to

a pre-condition to settlement in SWA/Namibia all the efforts gone into past negotiations were fruitless.

Speaking during the no-confidence debate in Parliament last night' Mr de Villiers said there was little prospect of the General Assembly's attaining

seeable future.

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The referendum mentioned by him at a recent speech in Ladysmith would only be called if there was a suggestion from the President's Council that it was radically different from

the policy endorsed by the

National Party.

Such a referendum would be held if the congresses of the National Party had had a chance to discuss the issue and had accepted the change of principle implied.

The official Opposition, and not himself, should be answering the question of whom was stalking him with a dagger waiting to wound him in the back, as he recently claimed at a speech in Ladysmith.

Mr Botha said Mr Slabbert and his friends

â\200\230meaning the Rand Daily
â\200\230Mail newspaper, knew
whom it was that had
given = completely = false
information to the news-
.paper about his alleged
involvement in. altering
the Erasmus Commissionâ\200\231s
findings.

He charged the Rand

Daily Mail, with having
made a fool of itself by
publishing the story with-
out ascertaining the facts
and without doing him the
courtesy of first trying to
get his statement.

In reply to questions
from the Opposition he
re-affirmed that the per-
son responsible, was not a
member of the National
Party but would not reply
if 'he was a former

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â\200\234In the two years of dis-
cussion preceding Geneva
the sensible course was
taken to by-pass it or neu-

tralise it and try to trans- .
act a just settlement of *

the Namibean dispute in
other bodies and places.â\200\235

â\200\234The bias of the Gen-
eral Assembly could not

~ be the determining factor

s . ip negotiations.
fude changing in the fore- | Would give to the Assembly

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a dominant authority it

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neither has nor deserves.

Cape Town.)

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ment reached had

been achieved through the
patient efforts of the West-
ern members of the
Security Council while in |
the administration of the
elections the General
Assembly, the = Trustee-
ship Council and the

in Council while for Namibia had

no assigned role,

For Mr Mudge to ask .
Mr Urquhart to repudiate
at Geneva the General
Assembly's 1976 resolution
on the status of Swapo
was simply to force a
negative reaction, Mr de
Villiers said.

Mr de Villiers also chal-
lenged the arguments that
an anticipated danger of
the elections would be the
installation of a terrorist
regime in Windhoek.

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Own Correspondent
CAPE TOWN â\200\224 Non-
Nationalist members of
the Presidentâ\200\231s Council
yesterday re-affirmed their
determxnai~\201on to continue
_ membership of the body
despite ~ categorical
statement by the Prime

Minister that Blacks would

not serve on it.

Mr Japie Basson â\200\224 who
was expelled from the
PFP for agreeing to serve
on the council â\200\224 said yes-
terday the Governmentâ\200\231s
stand on the issue had
been known for a long
time. .

â\200\234There is not.â\200\231n.lng new
in what the Prime Mini-
ster said yesterday and it
does not change my mind
in way about the im-
portance of the body.â\200\235

. Mr Bill Sutton, the New

Republic Pwtyâ\200\231s nomina-
tion for the ecouncil said
he did not believe the
Prime Ministerâ\200\231s state-
ment was any reflection
on the council.

He said the Government
was making clear that the
council would only be deal-
ing with â\200\230the White, Col-
oured and Indian groups.

â\200\234But once this group has
been able to reach agree-
ment around the table it
will be able to reach out
to homeland Blacks and
discuss means of reconcil-
ing differences.â\200\235

He said it was inevitable
that once the groups in
common South Africa
found consensus there
would have to be some sort
of agreement reached with

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One of the councilâ\200\231s first taskn would be to deter- mine exactly who were the â\200\234urbanâ\200\235 Bldcks.

Mr Lofty Adams, a mem- ber of the councilâ\200\231s Scien- tific Committee and a for- mer Labour Party member, denied. the statement in any way altered his stand.

Although he personally | would -fight for the inclu- sion of Blacks in the deliberations of the coun= cil, he did not think the Prime Ministerâ\200\231s state- ' ment detracted from the significance of the body.

â\200\234When the door is opened even only a crack, one must take the oppor- tunity to open it wider,â\200\235

At the same time Adams charged the PFP with hypocrisy by accept- ing = nomination in the enlarged Assembly while refusing nomlnation to the council.

The commÃ©nts of the councillors followed an exchange during the no- confidence debate on Mon- day in which Mr Botha confirmed he would op= pose any, recommendation from the Presidentâ\200\231s Council that Blacks be included.

Mr Botha also confirmed by way of reply that he believed in a . separate â\200\230constitutional dispensa- tion for Whites; Col- oureds and Indians from that of Blacks.

Slabbertâ\200\231 S

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â\200\224The sort

of declaratlon of intent
that the Leader of the Op- ',

port Affairs, said South

Africa could not follow

.the road taken by the rest
Africa,

position yesterday called = of

on the Government to.

make would mean the end
of group security and pro-
tection of the rights of
minorities, the Minister of
- Mineral and

said yesterday,

Resuming debate on Dr
F. van Zyl Slabbertâ\200\231s mo-
tion of no confidence, Mr
â\200\230de Klerk said it appeared
the Leader of the Opposi-
tion was looking for ways
to avoid conflict in South
Africaâ\200\231s multi-racial com-
munity.

Dr Slabbert called on
the Government to' de-
clare its intention to in-
volve all populatien
groups in negotiating a
system
would be equal citizenship
and no racial discrimina-
tion.

Mr de Klerk said this
raised the question of

what security and guaran- .

tees the Progressive Fede-
ral Party model gave to
minority groups. Â«

. Also speakingâ\200\231 during
debate Mr Hendrik Schoe-

man, Minister of Trans-

j - Energy
Affairs, Mr F. W. de Klerk,

in which there is

The cry for one man,

.one vote was fading in

Africa as it was becoming

evident that such a system
could not succeed, he said.

Mr Louis Nel (NP, Pretoria Central) said the National Party and the Government placed a high premium on the freedom of the Press, but such freedom was relative to the many other interests of the community. Sapa.

Teacher

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on Govt

CAPE TOWN The whole crisis in the teaching profession should be laid at the door of the National Party, Mr Andrew Pyper (NRP Durban Central), said yesterday.

Speaking in the no-confidence debate, he said teachers were worse off now than in 1970 and for this the Government deserved a motion of no-confidence.

Mr Pyper said there would always be a wage gap between the private and Government sectors, but it should be a tolerable

gap.

There should be no more promises. Even if the promised April increases were reasonable, the Government should consider a lump-sum pay-

. ment to teachers to compensate them for their losses in pay over the

years, â\200\224 Sapa.

NRP call to
drop petrol pnce

Own Correspondent

GAPE TOWN â\200\224 The New Republic Party yesterday pledged itself to reducing the price of petrol to 40 cents a litre and making petrol selling hours for seven days a week.

Mr Nigel Wood, NRP for Berea and the partyâ\200\231s- chief spokesman on energy, accused the Government of misinforming the public about the' true state of affairs as regards the countryâ\200\231s petrol supplies.

Speaking during the no-confidence debate, Mr Wood said inflated petrol prices were one of the major factors causing high inflation rates and claimed there was no petrol shortage in South Africa.