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# Door shut on rapid change

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The bugging device which the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, showed Parliament yesterday. He said it had been planted by "a foreign organization" attempting to monitor discussions at a National Party caucus meeting. The device can be planted in a ceiling with only the pinhead microphone on the tip (extreme left) protruding into the room. Sound is conducted through wires to a monitoring point.

By MICHAEL ACOTT  
Political Correspondent

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.** — The Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, yesterday shut the door on hopes of far-reaching changes being implemented this year.

In a speech lasting more than two hours, he emphasized the need for gradual, orderly renewal which would not affect stability.

As other cabinet ministers had done earlier in the no-confidence debate, he rejected the suggestion that he had awakened expectations which he would have to fulfil or court a national disaster.

"I am prepared to accept the consequences of my own actions, but I am not prepared to accept the consequences of distorted meanings which others have added for their own purposes," he said.

Government members have accused the opposition of exaggerating expectations of changes which Mr Botha intends bringing about.

He appeared to be reconsidering the idea of changing Section 16 of the Immorality Act, which forbids sex across the colour line, although he said that the Mixed Marriages Act would be applied with compassion.

Mr Botha said the Immorality Act was specifically designed to protect black and coloured women from unscrupulous white men, and the country could not afford to allow its moral standards to decline.



He was still prepared to consider improvements to both measures, but the Cape National Party congress was opposed to the repeal of Section 16 of the Immorality Act.

Mr Botha said the National Party had, since 1915, stood for renewal and progress, and he was continuing this process.

Attempts were being made, for party-political purposes, to play him off against his predecessors and to give the impression that he had suddenly turned his back on their clear guidelines.

Mr Botha repeated his contention that apartheid, as understood by the government's political opponents and by "hostile elements", was dead. He defined this as a policy held up as a tyranny which destroyed other people.

To lead one's people to a goal required the formulation and application of a total national strategy, he declared. This was more difficult in a democracy, where people had to be convinced and persuaded, than in a dictatorship, where it could be enforced.

"You cannot improve the circumstances of life for all without stability, orderly government and orderly development."

The dilemma which the government faced was to maintain orderly and effective government while satisfying peoples' just aspirations.

Mr Botha said that after the rationalization of the civil service, all legislation would be reviewed with the aim of repealing outdated measures and consolidation remaining legislation.

His party had never run away from the idea of gradual removal of hurtful discriminatory measures, many of which were the heritage of a colonial era and not the creation of his government.

Mr Botha asked whether the opening of hotels and restaurants to people of other races was not progress.

Asked what discrimination he regarded as necessary, he said a people had the right to protect its community life, where its schools and churches were.

"I will not divert from that and I will fight for it. I have the right to bring up my children in my language in my own community."

Self-respecting black leaders with whom the government spoke understood this.

Mr Botha criticized allegations that South Africa was an "unjust society", particularly when the argument was used to deter young people from doing national service.

Many of the third world countries which accused South Africa of being an unjust society had far less judicial independence, press freedom or freedom of religion, he said. The fact that South Africa's press made "so much noise" showed how free it was. Many Western countries had specific laws on the press.



Mr P W Botha . . . prepared to consider improvements

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