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ANC's recruitment irks soccer fan

Sowetan 10/6/91

SIR - I have nothing against political groups recruiting members, but I think they should do it in the right place.

Political violence has caused us a great deal of sorrow. It is, however, good to know that if we go to places like churches and sports grounds we are able to put our minds at rest for a while.

Unfortunately the ANC is interfering with us at soccer grounds.

You will find them selling ANC membership cards, flags, caps and so on.

Lately a certain man bothers us by going around asking people for their signatures.

I am not sure he is a supporter of our club, but he wears our colours.

I think he does this to look like one of the supporters so that we do not reject him.

I appeal to this man and others in the ANC to give us a break.

The fact that there has not been political violence at soccer grounds, is because we do not identify each other politically.

If I see somebody next to me buying an ANC membership card, a flag or anything, then I will start seeing him or her as my enemy, since there is no political tolerance in this country.

I appeal to the NSL to stop the ANC from operating inside or near the soccer grounds.

And I appeal to all soccer fans to reject such people, because I foresee us swimming in our own blood if this is not stopped immediately.

There should be no singing of political and freedom songs and no shouting of "Amandla Awethu" where people are gathered to watch soccer.

Nothing should be done or said there to remind people of politics.

Who knows, maybe this is one of the reasons fans stay away from soccer games.

JABULANI KHAMBULE
Edenvale

The leader of Zambia's Movement for Multiparty Democracy Vernon Mwaanga, left, and party officials Ephraim Chibwe, centre, and George Chilupe on their arrival at Jan Smuts Airport yesterday. Picture: CATHERINE ROSS

Zambian opposition visits SA

JONATHON REES

THREE senior officials of Zambia's main opposition Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) arrived in Johannesburg yesterday.

They are to spend a week discussing the MMD's future trade policies with business and industry leaders.

MMD SA spokesman Don Smart said at the weekend the unofficial visit was solely to advise the SA business sector on what Zambia's future would hold under an MMD government.

Leading the delegation is MMD international relations head Vernon Mwaanga, former UN representative for Zambia's ruling United National Independence Party.

He planned to meet the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut and other interested parties, Smart said.

Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda legalised opposition parties last year and promised parliamentary and presidential elections before October.

He recently came under fire for the delay in setting a date for the first multiparty challenge to his 26-year hold on power.

Smart said the MMD was committed to establishing diplomatic links with SA.

COMMENT

Think again

ROGER Hulley's draft proposals for a formal parliamentary alliance between the Democratic Party and the Nats seem to have won more support within the DP caucus than might have been expected after Zach de Beer's strenuous rejection of an alliance a week ago. Hulley received significant backing from some MPs on Thursday, and his proposals are to be further discussed by the caucus today.

Hulley and his supporters, like the left-wing caucus members who have argued for a similar deal with the ANC, have lost sight of the entire reason for the existence of the DP and its predecessors.

The National Party has moved closer towards the traditional liberal values and policies held by the Progressive Party and its successors since 1959 — and by the Liberal Party before then — than we would have dared to expect just 18 months ago. So, arguably, has the ANC.

None of this means that either has undergone the metamorphosis required to bring them into line with the principles for which South Africa's small but vocal liberal community stands. The ANC's deficiencies in this have been well and frequently documented. It is now time for the DP to examine how the National Party measures up to these principles — for it is in the National Party's direction that the Democrats now seem in most danger of lurching.

The National Party has gone far towards abolishing the pillars of apartheid. Elimination of those remaining — the Population Registration Act, and the tricameral Parliament in particular — is a matter of time.

Nevertheless, the Nats have still not managed to wean themselves completely from a predisposition to some forms of racial separatism. The residential norms and standards provisions of the Bill abolishing the Land and Group Areas Acts are a powerful illustration of this. So are the woolly "cultural" privileges built into the party's recently published Education Renewal Strategy.

No less disturbing is the failure to deal cleanly with the detention provisions of the Internal Security Act. Softening laws which allow detention without trial was a significant advance. But it remains a part of law applied daily, not one held in reserve to be invoked if emergency powers become necessary.

Hulley and his supporters must reflect on the implications of sidling up to a party whose policies, while unrecognisable from those of two years ago, remain flawed.

The DP will probably never become a ruling party in its own right. But it will have an important watchdog role as South Africa wrestles with its transformation into a democracy. Under the right circumstances it might even be correct for the DP to agree to participate in a broad coalition government. But if the party abandons its distinct and separate identity, a vital part of the South African political tradition will have died.

Australia 'to keep up pressure on SA'

AUSTRALIAN Foreign Minister Gareth Evans told ANC internal leader Walter Sisulu yesterday that Canberra would keep up pressure on President F W de Klerk to end SA's township violence.

Evans, speaking after talks with Sisulu, said he had dismissed ANC fears that Australia was abandoning its support for the black cause.

Evans, the most senior Australian minister to visit SA since apartheid rule started in 1948, told a news conference after meeting Sisulu at his Soweto township home:

"As I said to Mr Sisulu, the Australian government will give every help that we can along with the rest of the international community to keep the pressure up, because obviously it's a very depressing and a very worrying situation."

Potential

Evans said earlier in his week-long visit that Australia welcomed De Klerk's reforms and would be as active in ending sanctions as it had been in imposing them.

Evans said he had also discussed the township violence with government in Cape Town during the past several days.

Sisulu said he was confident about movement towards solving the violence. There was "great potential" for peace, he said.

However, he added that government had to move further on the question of violence. The ANC had already taken steps to address it.

Sisulu said the two had not discussed sanctions, but the "real discussion" between Evans and the ANC would take place today.

On Saturday Evans met Archbishop Desmond Tutu in Cape Town and assured him that the Australian government had not abandoned SA's blacks in their struggle for political rights.

Evans paid a 40-minute visit to Bishopscourt, Tutu's residence, where the two men had "frank and very, very friendly discussions", Tutu said.

Tutu said he had expressed the deep appreciation which blacks felt for Australia's role in supporting "the black struggle".

He had indicated to Evans his distress at Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke's reported enthusiasm for President F W de Klerk's reform announcements in January, said Tutu.

"But he has reassured me ... I thought we were being abandoned," Tutu said.

Evans followed his meeting with Tutu by calling on Alan Boesak, director of the Foundation for Peace and Justice.

Yesterday Evans laid flowers at the Pretoria grave of Australian folk hero Henry "Breaker" Morant, a volunteer who fought for British forces in the 1899-1902 Anglo-Boer war.

Morant, a former horse-breaker, and another Australian officer were court martialled and executed by British troops in 1902 for killing unarmed, surrendering Afrikaner guerrillas.

The two were acquitted of the murder of a German missionary who had witnessed the killings. — Sapa-Reuter.

● Comment: Page 4

Mandela to take up sanctions with Delors

KIN BENTLEY

LONDON — ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela is expected to meet European Commission president Jacques Delors in Brussels today to discuss SA sanctions.

Mandela is concerned that the EC summit in Luxembourg later this month will take further steps to relax sanctions.

Earlier this year the EC decided to allow imports of SA iron, steel and Krugerrands.

During his visit to Paris last week, Mandela called for the retention of sanctions until all apartheid laws have disappeared.

Compared with the widespread media coverage during his visit to Paris last year, this was a very low-key affair.

The French government and businessmen were reportedly far from enthusiastic about the ANC's close contacts with the French Communist Party and its sanctions-at-all-costs policy.

B/Day 10 June 1991

Soviets setting up 'big embassy' in Pretoria

Own Correspondent

LONDON — The Soviet Union has bought a large embassy building in Pretoria, the Sunday Telegraph reported yesterday.

The development is said to underscore the cooling of relations between the USSR and the ANC, illustrated at the weekend by Moscow's snub of Nelson Mandela.

According to the Telegraph's SA correspondent, Fred Bridgland, the Soviets have bought "the big embassy at 460 Aries Road, Pretoria, which can house 30 families".

The report said although theoretically the embassy was attached to the "interests section" of the Austrian embassy, it was physically separate.

Two senior diplomats had already moved in, the report said. They are Alexei Andreyevich Makarov, whose rank is counsellor, and his deputy, Vladimir Vladimirovich Lebedev.

Makarov is described as an old school diplomat "having risen through the Communist Party's international department which maintained very close relations with the ANC".

Lebedev had been posted in Harare and belonged to a new school of diplomats responsible for ending the Soviet underwriting of African liberation movements.

The report said Soviet ambassador to Zimbabwe Yuri Yukalov was most likely to be the first Soviet ambassador to SA.

While the Kremlin had asked permission to bring 30 diplomats, on the advice of Western intelligence services who feared a greater KGB presence, SA was said to be limiting it to 15.

Spokesmen for Foreign Affairs and the Austrian embassy could not be contacted for comment last night.

B/Day 10 June 1991

Slovo's Moscow Radio — talks reveal all

Dear Sir

REPORTS have appeared in the national Press recently to the effect that SACP leader Joe Slovo, in late April and early May, made two broadcasts over Moscow Radio in which he implicitly reaffirmed the ANC/SACP alliance's fundamental objective to grab power. According to one report, he "confirmed his prime commitment" as being to Moscow. It appears he also made harsh references to President de Klerk.

It would seem to be foolish for the public — or for that matter government and the media — to underestimate the capacity of Mr Slovo to harm this country.

The fact that the government, followed in typically credulous Pavlovian fashion by the public and the media, has tacitly "forgiven" SA's erstwhile public enemy No 1 and absorbed him into the bourgeois bosom of Observatory, clearly does not mean Mr Slovo has forgiven the government for its successful creation of an Afrikaner-dominated capitalist state, or for forcing him into exile.

Neither, obviously, can it be blandly assumed that because De Klerk and his Cabinet have seen the light about apartheid, Slovo and his co-ideologues have surrendered their faith in the benefits of Bolshevism.

On the contrary, if Mr Slovo has been correctly reported — and no denial has so far appeared — he, his party and its grateful ANC-illary, not to mention the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, Moscow Radio, for all we know the Soviet Africa Institute, assorted businessmen in southern Africa, and the Kremlin are still right on track with the revolution they have been preparing.

As Joe keeps telling us, the Soviet Union has collapsed, but the faith still lives on. It was not communism that was fallible: it was mortal man.

COLIN VALE
Wits University

Citizen 10 June 1991

Buthelezi warns of White backlash

Citizen Reporter

THE establishment of a constituent assembly to decide on a new constitution for South Africa could lead to the formation of a White resistance movement similar to Renamo in Mozambique and Unita in Angola, said Inkatha Freedom Party leader, Mr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, in Ulundi yesterday.

Addressing a Portuguese Government delegation visiting KwaZulu, he said most Whites, and he personally, rejected a constituent assembly because, among others, it was a mechanism the African National Congress wanted to use to establish itself as the only contender for power in the new South Arica.

Whites, said Mr Buthelezi, would remain in key decision-making positions for the foreseeable future.

"They are not expatriates who can be sent home. They are Africans, they are here, this is their country and they really do have a powerful entrenched position in it."

There have been no victors and there have been no vanquished. We have to learn to come together and we will not come together if a Black majority rides roughshod over a White minority."

He said the means of the disposal of Whites should serve as a warning that it would be "fateful for South Africa to be thrust into a final Black-White conflagration."

He said the ANC wanted to set the stage to become the only power in the country. "The world must hear me when I say that nowhere in the world do revolutionaries fight to make it possible for other political parties to form a government. They fight to take over governments."

The ANC, he said, was talking about itself as a government-in-waiting and would play the "negotiating game" only insofar as it was thereby assisted in becoming the only contender for power.

"As negotiations begin spreading political responsibility, the ANC will begin withdrawing from negotiations."

Coloureds in Cape '54pc for FW, 3pc for Mandela'

By Poen de Villiers

COLOUREDS in the Cape overwhelmingly support President De Klerk as the man to lead South Africa, according to an opinion poll conducted on behalf of the Sunday Afrikaans newspaper, Rapport, last week.

The snap poll was conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council among 603 Coloureds in the Cape, who were interviewed telephonically.

The results, published yesterday, show that 54,5 percent of those interviewed prefer Mr De Klerk as their leader.

They were asked who they would vote for if they could elect a leader for South Africa from any of the population groups. No names were provided.

Second to Mr De Klerk was Mr Nelson Mandela. He received 3,3 percent of the votes. More than 33 percent did not know whom they wanted as leader.

Support for other leaders were: Mr Pik Botha — 1,1 percent; Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi — 0,9 percent; the Rev Allan Hendrickse — 0,6 percent; Mr P W Botha — 0,4 percent; Mr Thabo Mbeki, Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert and Dr Alan Boesak — 0,3 percent each.

Mr Joe Slovo, general secretary of the South African Communist Party, received one vote.

Participants were also asked which party they would vote for in the event of a general election. Of those who said they would vote (53,[illegible] percent), nearly half (49,[illegible] percent) said they would vote for the National Party. The Labour Party (10,2 percent), the African National Congress (9,3 percent) and the Democratic Party (3,[illegible] percent) were the other main parties to receive support.

Almost a quarter of those who indicated that they would vote were however, not sure for which party.

To the question which party's policy corresponded with their views the NP (33,8 percent) received the most support.

The ANC received 5,8 percent, the DP 4,8 percent, the LP 4,6 percent and Inkatha and Idasa 0,[illegible] percent each.

The biggest group (36 percent) did not know, while 12,7 percent said there was no party with a policy which corresponded with their views.

SACP membership 'to be made known by end of 1991'

BY the end of 1991 the membership of the South African Communist Party will no longer be a secret.

This is according to Mr Jeremy Cronin, a member of the SACP's central committee, who was speaking in a debate screened on SABC TV last night.

The debate was ostensibly one between capitalism (represented by Sunday Times editor Mr Ken Owen) and Communism (whose spokesman was Mr Joe Slovo, general secretary of the SACP), but it in fact covered a wide range of topics.

Members of the studio audience — labelled fat cats by Mr Slovo — saw questions and statements from, among others, a doctor from the Transvaal Provincial Administration, several church leaders, a member of the Pan Africanist Congress, and Right-winger Mr Piet "Skiet" Rudolph.

Mrs Sheila Camerer, National Party MP for Rosettenville in Johannesburg, asked Mr Cronin, who was in the audience, why the membership of the SACP was a secret.

"We are not secret. By the end of this year, at our first conference inside the country, membership will be entirely open," Mr Cronin replied.

Mr Owen, off camera, was heard to ask whether the SACP was therefore confident of controlling the trade unions.

Mr Cronin said: "We are not trying to control trade unions and we welcome their growing signs of independence in regard to all political parties, not just our own."

Most of the questions from the mainly-White audience were directed at Mr Slovo, and most questioners appeared to be critical of Communism.

During the debate the SACP general secretary blamed "big capital" — such as the mines — for laying the groundwork for apartheid, by demanding pass laws and Land Acts long before 1948.

He also said that Stalinism, a distortion of Communism, had been responsible for the failure of the system in Eastern Europe and the USSR.

Mr Peter Soal, Democratic Party MP for Johannesburg North, said Stalinism had been in vogue when Mr Slovo had become a Communist. The DP MP wanted to know if there had since been a change.

"People do change . . . we have learnt from the failures, we have learned from the experience and we have changed," Mr Slovo replied.

In reaction, Mr Owen said he was alarmed that Mr Slovo had not listened to people such as novelist George Orwell (author of "1984") who told him that "the system that he believed in all his life would turn out and would be evil and tyrannical, and now he still will not listen to any criticism".

"Now all I can say is that if it looks as if a government is coming to power in which Mr Slovo will play a major part, take what you can and run because he's going to destroy the country."

In conclusion, and after some shouting for order from SABC's presenter Mr John Bishop, Mr Slovo said: "All I'm trying to say — and I know it's not going to be received very well by this fat cat audience in front of me — capitalism in this country has caused nothing but misery and the only way in which we can deal with the future is a democratic socialist system." — Sapa.