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Mr George J Hebert, Editor
The Ledger-Star
150 W Brambleton Ave.
Norfolk, VA 23510-5038

Re: 'Pretoria's Progress'

Sir,

Thank you for agreeing in principle to provide me with equal space to reply to Captain Russell Evans's ('Guest View', Sept. 16) joining of the Rev Jerry Falwell in attacking Archbishop Tutu and the African National Congress of S.Africa (ANC) and supporting the S.African neo-Nazi regime (see 'Apartheid: S.African Naziism', by the Rev Dr Sipo Mzimela of NewJersey, Vantage Press, 1983).

In so doing, he FALSELY: (1) equated Western civilization with God or Christianity; (2) accused Tutu of "perpetrating violence and bloodshed, and presuming to speak for the blacks of S.Africa"; (3) stated that it is the media who have 'created' the prestige of Tutu and paid little attention to Chief Gatsha Buthelezi (this is the correct spelling); (4) stated that Buthelezi is 'the chief of the largest tribe, the six million Zulus' and 'opposes the ANC plan for a unitary state of one-man, one-vote'; (5) implied that S.Africa is hopelessly divided tribally, linguistically, racially, theologically, and culturally; (6) stated that '23 of the 30 ANC Executive members are either communists or SACP backers'; (7) stated that Nelson Mandela is a Marxist-Leninist; (8) maintained strongly that the S.African government has made 'tremendous progress' and 'taken significant actions since 1976' and that 'Apartheid has been abolished under law, except for residential segregation!'; (9) stated that Apartheid is not the real issue but that the West's losing of S.Africa to the Soviet bloc is; (10) held Tutu to a selective standard ('Love your enemies...'), which neither he nor the so-called 'conservative' preachers and televangelists and the West and the S.African government -- and even Jesus, in chasing the money-lenders out of the temple -- can always adhere to; and (11) suggested that 'the Bishop Tutus might better serve their flocks by closer attention to churchly duties and by giving the Botha government a chance to fulfill its (38 years of) promises'!

My response, as a Christian white native and 30-year resident of S.Africa, is as follows:

(1) This is a common Christian error. In fact, 'Western civilization' more closely worships Mammon than it does God. The fact that the communists worship neither, officially, but are more on the side of the poor than the West is, is something to

contemplate when wondering why so many Third World people are opting for them, over the West. This is a source of shame to the West, and to Christians, and can't be wished away by fighting only economically and militarily for S.Africa.

(2) Tutu is totally non-violent, even in the face of what would, to most people, be intolerable provocation; has always gone to great pains to make clear that he does not speak for the blacks of S.Africa because all the polls show that he comes in a fairly poor second -- after Nelson Mandela of the ANC! (Buthelezi is way down the list, even among the Zulus, who also choose the Xhosa, Mandela! Mokoena, whoever he is, comes NOWHERE).

(3 & 4) Buthelezi is a government appointee, working as a puppet/ stooge within the Apartheid structure, at great financial benefit to himself. He (and Mokoena, who is not even engaged in politics) is the hand-picked darling of the Western business establishment, and of right-wingers, because he opposes disinvestment, despite the majority of his people supporting it, in all the latest polls -- yet he has opposed the 'homeland' concept and agrees with the ANC on the unitary-state/ one-person-one-vote goal.

(5) the majority of blacks, specifically also the most popular groupings in the ANC/UDF axis, minimize the tribal, linguistic, racial, theological and cultural differences and don't practice these 'divide and rule' strategies of the S.African government, as I can testify to, after years of collaboration with the ANC's Health Dept and with members of the UDF.

(6 & 7) Africa Report and the CIA would be able to tell Capt. Evans that the no. of ANC Exec. members belonging to, or supporting the aims of, the SACP is '12 or 13', not 23, out of 30; and that Nelson Mandela and the Acting President, Oliver Tambo, are part of the majority nationalist wing and not 'Marxist-Leninist'. Also see (1) above. Would Americans only be in favor of the democratic will of the majority of S.Africans being realized if they choose leaders that the West/ capitalism/ the right wing approve of, or would they allow them to choose socialism if they wish (and as they appear to wish)?

(8) What must one think of anyone who would say this?

(9) While 'the real issue' for Capt. Evans and many white Americans may be the U.S.-Soviet conflict, for S.African blacks it is definitely still Apartheid. It is the American and Western focus on the former which motivates many of those blacks to turn from the West and capitalism to socialism and the Soviet bloc. To prevent that, the West needs to offer them more than just 'more of the same' as they've had from the West for the past 38 (no, 334) years.

(10 & 11) The admonition to blacks that they should do nothing but love their oppressors in a Christian way, is exactly the kind of advice which blacks have universally pretty well seen thru. They know that when the white man came to Africa the blacks had the land and the whites had the Bible, that the white missionaries asked them to close their eyes in prayer -- and when they opened them they found that the whites had the land and the blacks were left clutching the Bible! We whites need to try much harder to realize the premise -- and the promise -- of the Lord's Prayer: 'Thy Kingdom come, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN'. We

Yours faithfully.

7