

— poll 11
By Brlatt Stuart
CAPE TOWN. --The
country's lirst non-
racial general election
is expected next year.
causing a flurry among
parliamentary political
parties. which must
gear themselves for a
hard and protracted
campaign.

Members of Parliament
speculate that Codesa
may ngree an interim
measures when it meets
mt May 15 and 1h. and
that the interim system
will not last lat more thah
a year before a general
election is called.

Nobody is ruling out
the possibility 0! Mr De
Klerk calling I political
summit in the months
ahead. tor a round-tehle
debate on lutute options
for those in ?arlitiment,
1he National Party's
campaign tot wider sup-
port and membership
ahead of tin election he-
gins this Saturday when
Mt Dc Klerlt. Is NP lead-
er. visits Mitchell's Plain
in the Cape Peninsula.

Plans are hetng made tor
smtilair campaign Visits to
other Black areas.

The Democratic Party's
National Council has
already agreed tu set up

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cummittee. While thts
will report In the National
Cnuncil. the 09's future
political role will be fully
detreted tit tt national con-
gress to he held in Johan-
neshurg probably in 0:-
tohet.

Indications tire that
other political parties will
also use their congresses
later this year to ready
themselves for a general
election. NP provincial
congresses will meet from
September.

'the popular opinion is
that the transtinnul gov-
ernment will be elected

on a proportional system similar to that at Germany. This means a Parliament comprising MP5 elected on a local or regional basis. in place of the present smaller constituency. and the remainder of the sun ellected so that all parties are represented proportionally in their voting percentages. 1

Much speculation has taken place on the possibility of an alliance of the creative and new centrist parties in the legislature. with political leaders suggesting this realignment will not take place until an election is imminent. The subject is being debated openly among individual parliamentarians.

In the meantime. each of the five major political parties in Parliament -- the sixth is the CDA -- wants to retain its independent voice in Codesa.

The possibility of the country's first democratic election next year is expected to be the focus of the three-day debate on the vote of the State President. which begins at a joint meeting of all three Houses on April 21. In the debate. all leaders in Parliament are expected to spell out the future role of their respective political parties. including the possibility of alliances or mergers.

They are State President De Klerk as leader of the National Party the Democratic Party's Dr Zach de Beer. Solidarity's Dr J N Reddy. the National People's Party's Mr Amichand Ruibansi. and the Labour Party's the Rev Allan Hendrickse.

While the Luhnu Puttuuk part in last year's abortive attempt to get a Patriotic Front oil the

ext year?

ground many of its members are seen as likely to join a new centrist alliance. rather than move to the ANC or maintain an independent stance.

In such an alliance. the Democratic Party could lose its pro-ANC members. while CP sources speculate on the NP losing a few of its MPs to the Right-wing in a political realignment.

The CP plans a new Right-wing coalition with the aim of mobilising Afrikaner support for a "street-level struggle". But there is speculation the party could break into pro- and anti-negotiation groups before then.

Dr Andries Treurnicht. CP leader. will be one of the speakers in this month's debate on the State Presidents vote and greater clarity may be given then on the role the CP sees for itself in the months ahead.

The two Indian political parties. Solidarity and the NPP. have received appeals from both the NP and the DP not to break up at this point. but to retain their identities until further discussions are held on realignment.

What is already obvious is that the referendum result and impending Codes of agreements have compelled all political parties to undertake a reassessment of their positions.

The April 21st debate will be the first occasion on which parliamentary political leaders can set out to the broader public their visions for the future.