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By Brlatt Stuart

CAPE TOWN. --The

country's first 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 agree an interim measures when it meets next May 15 and 16, and that the interim system will not last for more than a year before a general election is called.

Nobody is ruling out the possibility of Mr De Klerk calling a political summit in the months ahead, for a round-table debate on future options for those in parliament, the National Party's campaign for wider support and membership ahead of the election begins this Saturday when Mr De Klerk, its NP leader, visits Mitchell's Plain in the Cape Peninsula. Plans are being made for a similar campaign visits to other Black areas.

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

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the election preparatory committee. While this will report in the National Council, the NP's future political role will be fully debated at the national congress to be held in Johannesburg probably in October.

Indications are 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 transitional government 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 sum allocated so that all parties are represented proportionally. In their voting percentages. 1

Much speculation has taken place on the possibility of an alliance with the newly created new centrist party 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 Constitutional Party - 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 members 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 Peoples Party's Mr Amichand Ruibansi. and the Labour Party's the Rev Allan Hendrickse. While the Luthuli Party) - took part in last year's abortive attempt to get a Patriotic Front out of the

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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 I l'ew ot its MPs to the Right-wing in a political realignment.

The CP plans a new Right-wing coalition with the aim of mobilising Atrikaner 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 President's 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 re-align their identities until further discussions are held on realignment.

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

The April 2nd debate will be the first occasion on which parliamentary political leaders can set out to the broader public their visions for the future.

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