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There continues to be a yawning

credibility gap between what the Â°

protagonists of a â\200\234yesâ\200\235 vote tell us

. the Government has in mind and
what the Government itself says
and does.

This week, The Sunday Times was
once again offering the astrological
prediction that Mr PW Botha will
set about including the blacks in his
new constitutional set-up just as
m as November 2 is safely behind

What a pity, it lamented, that
some misguided ministers keep on
insisting that black constitutional
development will take place only in
terms of the homeland policy. And
how helpful it would be if only the
- Prime Minister would make a clear
statement that this is based on a
- faulty premise.

Yes indeed, the only trouble is the
Prime Minister keeps on making
clear statements saying the very
opposite.

Like one in The Sunday Timesâ\200\231
own main story very day, in which

he was reported as offering consti- -

tutional development to the blacks
in the following terms: â\200\234We are
prepared to consult with black
leaders to make it possible for
them to gain independence and
share in the economic development
of South Africa, while at the same
time ensuring the security of the
white people in the country.â\200\235

If that isnâ\200\231t a clear statement that
black constitutional development
will take place in terms of the poli-
cy of independent homelands, then I
donâ\200\231t know what is. '

Allister Sparks

Then again, Mr Botha made it clear the other day that blacks not only have no place in the constitutional set-up but that they have no right even to join in the discussion of it.

He told Chief Gatsha Buthelezi to shut up and mind his own homeland

. business when the latter expressed his views on the constitution. And he -
_warned the Progressive Federal
_Party that it was â\200\234playing with
fireâ\200\235 by holding joint meetings with

Chief Buthelezi.

Yet, now the protagonists of a
â\200\234yesâ\200\235 vote would have us believe that this bitterly resented intervention is having a beneficial influence on the Prime Minister. The mounting black pressure, we are told, is forcing the Government to speed up

its constitutional planning for

blacks. ;
The nature of this speedy consti-

tutional planning remains undisclosed, however. Presumably one must just vote â\200\234yesâ\200\235 and all will be revealed on November 3.

But if the Government really does intend drawing the blacks into the

constitutional set-up after No-

vember 2, then why do so many of

its current actions and statements indicate otherwise?

â\200\230Why, for example, has it intensified its harassment of squatters, like the beating up of that pathetic little group at Katlehong last week and the sickeningly repetitive raids on the KTC squatters in Cape Town?

Do those strike you as being the actions of people who have had a change of heart and are preparing to offer a new deal to the blacks?

Why did Dr George Morrison, the Deputy Minister of Co-operation and Development, tell the Cape con-

gress of the National Party the
other day that Crossroads must be
destroyed at all costs, and why
did he announce with ap, t sat-

isfaction that 13 000 blacks had been -

'm't'is not even as though Dr Morri-
son was speaking in some CP
stronghold where he might have
been carried 'away by a. desire to
placate the rightists. He was ad-
dressing the Prime Minister's own
branch of the party in the Prime
Minister's own constituency of
George. . :
And if the Prime Minister didn't
like what he was saying, surely that
was an admirable time and place to
make a clear statement to the con-

convicted in four months for. ?enter-

expect to be

toothless talk shop?
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Dr George Morrison ... Cross-
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: _ costs.
trary. But Mr Botha did no such
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Why has the Government not
given the go-ahead for the building
of a shopping centre, funded by the
Small Business Development Cor-
poration, in Cape Town's biggest
black township, Guguletu? Can it be
as some people in Cape Town
think that the Government wants
no big development there because it
is secretly
entire population of all Cape Town's
black townships to a new and more
distant site called Khayelitsa? = A°

A removal which, if it takes
place, will make the uprooting of
District Six look puny and which the
Government may be keeping quiet
about until after November 2 so as
not to cause an outcry before the
referendum.

All these actions and statements
point irresistibly in one direction
to blacks being more closely tied to
the homelands and having their ac-
cess to the cities more rigorously
controlled than ever.

As this column has predicted be-
fore, the most blacks can hope for in
any post-referendum new deal is

that the special Cabinet committee
looking into black constitutional de-
velopment will propose some kind
of advisory council on which blacks
will be represented through the
homeland governments and urban
councils. e

It may be dressed up with some
fancy name like a confederal coun-
cil, but in practice it will be a tooth-
less talk shop similar to the late, un-
lamented Coloured Personsâ\200\231 Repre-
sentative Council.

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