

**TIC MEETING LENASIA CIVIC CENTRE
1984-02-08**

SPEAKERS:

1. Dr E.E. Jassat (Chairman)
2. Patrick alias Terror LEKOTA *p 7 ab 10,*
3. Firoz Cachalia
4. Group from Lenasia Youth League
5. Prema Naidoo *28 ab 31*
6. Mewa Ramgobin *ab 44*
7. Dr. R.A.M. Saloojee (Resolutions)

*Verwagte
Swak
vorige
transkriphe*

IMPORTANT PEOPLE, EVENTS AND ORGANISATIONS MENTIONED

1. Anti-SAIC Campaign
2. Mahatma GHANDI
3. Doctors Pact 1947
4. DADOO/XUMA/NAICKER
5. NANABHAI SITA
6. MANDELA
7. WALTER SISULU
8. AHMED TIMOL
9. NEIL AGGETT
10. MXENGE

GENERAL

The quality and sound of the video recording is extremely poor and inaudible parts as well as interruptions are either directly indicated or denoted by dots.

HERSIENDE UITGAWE

SERTIFIKAAT

Ek, ABIE ABRAM MAHLANGU, is 'n Senior Tolk in die Departement van Justisie en is gestationeer te Landdroskantoor, Johannesburg.

Op die 27ste van Junie 1986, het ek van Kaptein D. Heystek 'n video band ontvang met die opdrag om dit te hertranskribeer van die hof af.

Ek het van die band die hierop volgende transkripsie gemaak, wat na my beste vermoë juis en korrek gedoen is.

Op Bladsy 41 van hierdie transkripsie verskyn die volgende woorde in die Indiese Dialek "URDU". "Noker maliki te izip ka namulu ukai". Hierdie stuk is nie vertaal nie, die taal is nie aan my bekend nie, en is dus nie vertaal nie.

(GET.) 

ABIE ABRAM MAHLANGU

OPMERKINGS

1. Hierdie is 'n transkripsie van die klank vanaf die video bandopnames soos ontvang. Die transkripsie is so akkuraat as moontlik en is so ver as moontlik woordeliks korrek.

2. Verskillende sprekers kon van mekaar uitgeken word op die opnames en hulle word direk aangedui binne die transkripsie. Die akkuraatheid van die aangeduide sprekers is nagegaan in oorleeg met die beeld op die video opnamens.

NB Die transkripsie van enigiets wat deur die aangeduide spreker gesê word, begin altyd aan die linkerkant van die bladsy. Op verskeie plekke is daar uitings vanaf 'n enkele ander onbekende persoon, of vanaf 'n aantal persone uit die gehoor. Sulke opmerkings of ander uitings word op een van die volgende maniere aangedui:

- (1) Uitinge van 'n enkele ander onbekende persoon, begin nie aan die linkerkant nie, maar 'n aantal spasies na regs.
- (2) Gesamentlike uitings van 'n aantal mense uit die gehoor, is ingeskuif na regs en word in vet letters uitgedruk.
- (3) In sommige gevalle word slegs 'n beskrywing gegee van die geluide wat gehoor word, en dit word dan in hakies aangedui.

3. Enige teks tussen hakies is kommentaar en is nie die direkte geluide vanaf die bandopname nie. So byvoorbeeld word agtergrondgeluide en ander opvallende klanke tussen hakies aangedui. Enige ander moontlike kommentaar soos byvoorbeeld "Interruption in the recording" word ook in hakies binne die transkripsie aangedui.

4. 'n/...

4. 'n Vraagteken in hakies na 'n woord of 'n sin, dui op 'n mate van onsekerheid oor die korrektheid daarvan.
5. Woorde, sinsdele of sinne wat heeltemaal onverstaanbaar is, byvoorbeeld weens swak opname, geraas of waar sprekers gelyk praat, word aangedui met stippellyne, byvoorbeeld "I know...".
6. Waar woorde of sinne onderbreek word, word dit aangedui deur 'n koppelteken na die woord of gedeelte daarvan, byvoorbeeld "Ek het gist- nee eergister vir hom gesien".
7. 'n Heropname van die video bank is gemaak vanaf die oorspronklike video band, en is beskikbaar om in die hof voorgespeel te word. Hierdie heropnames bly die eiendom van die SAP en sal normaalweg nie in die hof ingedoen word nie.

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T.I.C. Meeting Lenasia 1984-02-08.

DR. JASSAT (Video Interruption) Even from his office in London, this giant of a man The whole state of this country. This man even in his constituted a threat to this racist re . There was another man who had played a very important role in our lives and who left us in May last year, and that is Molvi Ismael Saloojee, who you might recollect appeared on this platform and many others during the anti-SAIC Campaign, like this two there have been numerous other individuals who in the past year have left this world, and I would like to request you to stand up and show our respect to these individuals by one minute silence (audience stands).

Thank you, (and audience sits down). Thank you for having turned out in this huge crowd, to listen to the voice of this organisation which is but one year old, some of you might recollect that the anti-SAIC Committee which was the forerunner of the defunct Transvaal Indian Congress, also launched its campaign against saic forces from this very hall on a very bitterly cold night in June 1981, Seems that tonight we have a very warm, the Campaign that was launched by the anti-SAIC Committee contributed towards bringing the polls down to 10 % and in and even lower, we in the T.I.C. are quite confident that our success will become even greater in the coming days that lie ahead. But this can only take place if your the people, support us both morally physically and financially. Do we have that support.

Audience: Yes!

Thank you. We meet here tonight at a very critical point in the life of our people. We meet at a time when the ~~discission~~^{decision} to accept on reject the new constitution is of great concern to all the oppressed people of this land.

Let/...

Let us look at the numerous political parties that have mushroomed in the past few months (interruption in recording) . He explained system, and having excluded the social welfare in this land. Rajbansi has been delidaling by not letting the people know where he stood as far as the now dispensation is concerned on this very recently. We however have not gone along with his stand, and he stand four square behind his political and spitual masters him and Botha and Company to sell our people for twenty pieces of silver or he did in gold Kruger coins. (laughter) He has now called for a referendum, that is not to test the will of the people but to buy time to manipulate and create a position for himself personally, and for other members of his party a in parliament, this is for the sake of his party, then we have the solidarity party with its leader Pat Poovalingam who said to us a few weeks ago from the compromise a politics, is he not the same person who resigned from the presidents council, because blacks were totally excluded from the now constitutional development, he now finds it quite comfortable to lobby for the Indian parliament and accept the new constatution, how schizophrenic can one get, the same Poovalingam now state that there is no need for a referendum amongst the Indian people since all the people have decided that they should go ahead with this constitution, he thinks that it is a waste of time money and energy, it is quite apparent that he is trying to save his white bosses some money, but if he is genuinly interested in saving the South African tax payers money then he must call for the scrapping of the tricameral parliament, which has been estimated to have cost us a thousand million rands every year. And yet Pat Poovalingham trying to save a few rands, for Pik Botha and the other Botha's. The real reason for him asking for an election and not a referendum, is that he fears that he may be confronted with a resounding No! from the people of this land. By implication the same fate would have awaited the Hendrikses and/...

and the Coloured political parties if they had asked for a referendum (inaudible). Poovalingam has a sidekick in the Transvaal who happens to be his Brother in the person of one Dinky Pillay. Now this individual has on three successive occasions been allowed to espouse the views of the department of constitutional development, in the Sunday Times. The story doing the rounds in Lenasia is that Dinky would have a problem, writting a paragraph, let alone a thousand word article. Even if he had to save his skin.

Mr. Pillay has not been very succesful in his bussiness and in many other things, and I refuse to entrust my and my peoples political future in the hands of this man or his friends (Applause).

There is another group, headed by Salaam Mayet and his Cronies Ahmed Lambad, Abu Khan and Sayed Khan who want to start an all Muslim political party. I can assure them complete success, success in getting this hairdrained ritual off to a dissastrous end. We in the T.I.C. have mapped our our course of action. As far as the election for the Indian house of delegates is concerned, we will be asking our people to stay away from the Polls, that is to boy, boycott the elections as we did the SAIC election. (Applause) In November 1981 the people heeded our call here in the Transvaal, and also the call of the Natal Indian Congress in Natal. In the community council elections in the African areas, the Polls a few monts ago, were infintisimal similarly in a Coloured local elections in the Cape, most people stayed away and did not vote. We are quite confident that they will do this again for the Indian and Coloured elections that have been proposed for us. As far as the referendum is concerned, we abide by the call of the United Democratic Front, the call is for a non-racial referendum, in the event a referendum being held in our own area, we might have to consider
the/...

the possibility of calling the, on our people to register a "no" vote.

(Audience Applause)

The government and its apologists state, that the Westminster System of one man one vote, can not work in a multiracial society.

Our answer is that the system was never, has never been implemented in South Africa law making and power sharing has been the sole prerogative of the white minority, since the date of Van Riebeeck who landed some three hundred years ago, on our shores. The new system, which purports to be fair and more equitable is totally devoid of any fairness and legitimacy for it excludes 80 % of the people of this land, from participating in the state structures. We just cannot be to this immense and monumental exercise and fraud and deceit. Our acceptance of the new constitution, would by force mean, that we accept all the discriminatory and racist laws, in on the statute books of the republic. Such as the group areas act, the pass laws, the population registration act, and the seperate education act, to mention only a few. It also means by participating in the tricameral parliament, we would become or feigh to be White men, to our fellow Africans, a fact the solidarity only realised when they met Heunis three weeks ago. Finally we refuse to sacrifice our young brothers, our young sons, our young friends on the alter of apartheid. By allowing them to fight a war in defence of an immoral and unjust system rejected by total mankind. We in the T.I.C. call for a trully democratic South Africa, where all the people shall participate equally (Applause)

(Interruption in recording)

A free non-racial and just South Africa for all, Mayibuye!

(Audience Applauds)

(Amandla/...

(Amandla - Awethu - Audience)

Friends this is a Wednesday evening and we are quite aware that people have to go to work tomorrow and therefore in your presence I am going to ask our various speakers, to be brief, the last anti-SAIC meeting, or the first one that was launched here, went on until twelf, we do not propose to do this, this evening, the first speaker tonight is Terror Lekota, who is the U.D.F. publish, publicity secretary, he spent five years in jail on Robben Island and was released and was released a little while ago, but in spite of that he is still committed to the new South Africa, having shown by his active administration in the affairs of our people immidiatly after his return from prison. He is a committed and dedicated South African, to address you, Cheers.

(Audience Applauds)

(N.B. While this is being said a banner on the wall appears with a U.D.F. emblem and the words "Make your mark against apartheid" (Audience claps hands and Chants U.D.F. U.D.F. ±17 times) Amandla! - Awethu! By Audience.

TERROR LEKOTA

Amandla! Awethu (Audience)

Uh, Friends and Comrades, fellow South Africans, We talk to you tonight, when you shall already have heard lot of people on behalf of the nationalist party, making lots of claims about how the new constitution would be acceptable to the African people.

Now I want to say to you, that even if the new constitution included African people, we would still reject it. (Applause)

We/...

*Put forward
rejection*
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We would still reject it, we would still reject it, because the new constitution is not the constitution of the people of South Africa, it is a constitution of the nationalist party. It was decided upon by the Afrikaners, they drafted it, and they voted around it and accepted it. What we want is a constitution which was not drafted for us as a people of South Africa, we want a constitution, that shall be drafted by the people of South Africa for themselves, we want a constitution in which the people shall govern. (Raises right arm) (Audience applauds)

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I want to talk to you tonight about the Transvaal Indian Congress, I want to talk to you tonight about the United Democratic Front, I want to talk to you tonight about the real aspirations of our people, those that are never allowed publication in this country, those that which are either banned or suppressed in various ways, the repeated bannings of our peoples organisations, over many decades of this century, have often set back periodically at least, the struggle for greater unity of our people and in that very same manner, has therefore set back the struggle of our people for freedom in this country. But our peoples resilience has never dried up, and every set back has provoked an increased amount of resurgence of organisational resistance, the emergence of the Transvaal Indian Congress, in the eighties of our day, the emergence of the United Democratic Front, the emergence of a Myriad of community based student workens churchmen and various organistion of that nature all of them committed to a struggle against apartheid is a reminder to the rulers of our country, that no amount of force, no amount of arms can ever put out the light, the flame of freedom that is burning in the hearts and minds of our people.
(Audience applauds)

But/...

But I want to talk to you about the united, about the Transvaal Indian Congress, first and foremost because the Transvaal Indian Congress is one of the foundation stones, stones of the United Democratic Front, I know and I think all of you will also recall that the revival of the Transvaal Indian Congress last year here, provoked a number of complaints from various sectors of our communities, and I'd like to reply to some of them, not because it is important, but more because most of them are misplaced and because of that cause a lot of confusion, it is important at this stage that perhaps we must set the record straight, and I'd like to set that straight, in one or two lines at least, but first and foremost there has been a challenge, there has been an objection and infact a serious accusation that the Transvaal Indian Congress is a racist organisation. But now I want to remind you comrades, that, such an allegation, could either have been a product of absolute ignorance about the struggle for freedom in this country, or could have been the work of mischief makers, it is the sort of ignorance in the sence that, the Transvaal Indian Congress, is a direct outgrowth of the resistance tradition that was set up by Ghandi in Natal in the close of this centruary or the beginning of this centuary.

(Audience applauds)

The Transvaal Indian Congress grew directly out of the struggles of section of the populace of our country fighting against a racist government in this country, the Transvaal Indian Congress therefore, being an outgrowth of Mahatma Ghandi himself and who was Mahtma Ghandi? I dare challenge any South African I do not mind who it is, and he has read how many books, I want to challenge anybody to convince me that Mahatma Ghandi was a racist? One, I want to say therefore that in terms of its history, the Transvaal

Indian/...

Indian Congress has played a significant role in the struggle for non-racial democracy in this country

(Audience applause)

It was part and parcel of the docters pact in 1947, when Dadoo, Xuma, Naicker met and signed on behalf of our people uniting them, and committed them to a common struggle to defeat apartheid in this country. The Transvaal Indian Congress, subsequently became part and parcel of the Congress Alliance with an established programe the freedom charter, which makes it quite clear, that we want a government in which the people shall govern.

(Audience Applauds)

The Salient Point we make were, is that we are waging our struggle in this country today in conditions which are racist, we are carrying on a struggle in conditions that are created by a government that we are fighting, whose policies we don't accept, whose policies even the Transvaal Indian Congress does not accept, we are organising our people in Soweto, in Lenesia, in Chatsworth, in Mannenberg in Mitchelsplein we are organising them in their various settings, around problems that confront them, we are not organising them to consolidate racism, we are organising them around those problems, galvanising them and mobilizing them forward to non-racial democracy, we are organizing them precisely because we want to say to them those problems are outergrowths from the policies of this government which are racist policies which are unacceptable . The Transvaal Indian Congress, I have no doubt in my mind is committed to that ideal, more than any other of those organisations that have criticised it and therefore I want to say, those criticisms are absolutely mislaid and this is why at an ideal moment, when that moment presented itself, the Transvaal Indian Congress found no problem

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in terms of associating itself with the more than five hundred organisations, today that constitute the United Democratic Front, a front of organisation which are absolutely non-racial, a front that accept Africans from all racial groupings in this country and one which is today in fact in the process of building a new South Africa, grooming new men, men who therefore will not only imbue this country with a non-racial character, but who themselves will be fit enough to live in that sort of society.

The United Democratic Front, had to mobilise against the new, the new constitution for reasons which many of the speakers who have gone before are, and others will come after me, will in fact detail to you. But I want to make the crucial point, that the United Democratic Front is United, because it unites our people across racial boundaries and across provincial boundaries. The United Democratic Front pulls together our people, not only on the basis of their particular class or social structure interests, but it is pulling these people together today on the basis of primarily a commitment to oppose, opposition to apartheid.

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I will submit that the amount of differences which exist between the different affiliates like you could say that there is 90 % difference, between the constituents of the United Democratic Front. Our interest is in the 10 % agreement, that the new constitution and re, re, legislation, is unacceptable to the people of South Africa. That is what constitute this front. The United Democratic Front is therefore, is united, pulling together students, workers, peasants, pulling together every sector of the population of our country. Across religion, across social positions, whether they are rich or poor all of them, pulling them together building them into one forceful force, that must in fact bring down apartheid. But the United Democratic Front is also democratic. It is democratic because, it does/...

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does not tell the people of our country what they want. The democratic front is interested to hear what the people of our contry want, it wants to hear what the people of South Africa want and it acts from there, unlike Hendrikse, unlike Raibansi, unlike Pik Botha it does not tell them that they want a new constitution, it does not say to them, no they do not want a referendum, they want to have elections, it say to them what do you want, and we are committing ourselves at this front to carry foward those aspirations which you express. It is therefore improtant the Transvaal Indian Congress must enjoy the support of the specific community that it is organising today. Not because its committment is towards that community as such, for the commitment of the Transvaal Indian Congress goes far beyond the commitment of that particular community. For the Transvaal Indian Congress, by virtue of its association with the United democratic Front is committed to the welfare, to the future of the people of South Africa. Black and White.

(Audience Applause)

I now want to make an appeal to you, I want to say you must strenghten the united, the Transvaal Indian Congress, in strenghtning the Transvaal Indian Congress you are strenghtning the United Democratic Front, and in strengthening the United Democratic Front you are taking your place side by side with democracy from other racial groupings, many whom you have never seen before, many of whom are in various parts of the country, you've never seen before, you might never even see. But in fact you are becoming part and parcel of the process of thebuilding of a new South Africa, I want to say to you support the Transvaal Indian Congress, make sure that the million signature campaign that you are getting today succeeds, in doing so, you are actually giving us the last of your own few possetions, your confidence in our capacity to make whatever sacrifices/...

sacrifices are necessary to carry forward this battle, to stop Rajbansi, to stop Pik Botha, to stop Hendrikste to stop the homeland leaders, to stop those men who are in fact today misleading our country, who are committing it to a disastrous future. You can, you are the only people in fact, who have to make and, give the final judgement. If you give us our, that support, if you make it possible for us to achieve and win in terms of this campaign. You will have done the last thing that we expect from you.

Amandla - Audience - Awethu

(Audience Applauds)

DR. JASSAT

Having brought this message of hope to our people through our speaker it is my pleasure to inform you that we have on the stage with us two very prominent individuals in the United Democratic Front, first we have, behind me Popo Molefe who is the national secretary of U.D.F.

(Audience Applauds)

We have also on the stage another important person, and that is Moss Chikane who is the Transvaal secretary of the U.D.F.

(Audience Applauds)

Though we are small in numbers in Lenasia, tonight we have joined hands with millions throughout the land and our strenght increases by the day.

Friends, our next speaker is a young man who comes from Actonville, Benoni; you might have read of him in the newspapers, on a number of acassions Firoz Cachalia has made headlines, so Firoz is an active member of the Transvaal Indian Congress, he has been detained on three ocassions, and he was banned for two years. He is one of the up an coming young people who will see that liberty is won. Firoz!

(Audience/...

(Audience Applauds)

FIROZ CACHALIA

..... a crucial point in our history and we are faced with urgent questions and clearly to unite Hindu and Muslim and Christian, worker and trader, students and professional people and must join together so that we can face this challenge from a position of strength and confidence

(Disruption in recording)

In fast profits, well known pro-nationalist politicians inflashing the Pan-political organisations, plainly vehicles for nursing personal fortunes will claim leadership of our people, more important still, today the white minority nationalist government stick in a history and tradition of colour prejudice and racial superiority is seeking through its propaganda to convince us that it wishes genuinly to share power and to end White domination.

In the not too distant past, the nationalist party openly and truthfully proclaimed that its policy is unjust and racist, in 1948 prime minister D.F. Malan stated, the party holds the view that the Indians are foreign and outlandish elements which are unassimilable. They can never become a part of this country, and therefore must be treated as immigrant community, White politicians frankly insulted the Indian community, I do not know what, about bird life admitted Mr. Stratton, but I understand the koo-koo raises its young in the nests of other birds, and when the young becomes self, suffiently strong they oust the original owners and ultimately kill them, the Indian is the koo-koo of South Africa, he has got into the wrong nest, slowly but surely he is killing the original owners/...

owners of that nest. But the government has now apparently entered into a prolonged courtship of the Indian South Africans. The policy of apartheid and in particular the new constitutional proposals are presented not as instruments for maintaining White domination but as a recipe for a common good and we are praised for having a rich culture and tradition. The government is however naive to imagine that we who have been relegated for centuries to the position of second class citizens in the land of our birth and we who have fought so vehemently all this time for a new South Africa based on the equality of all citizens will now be so easily pulled into accepting a plan so plainly aimed at dividing us from the African people. The responsibility for any upheaval that lies ahead rests squarely with the nationalist government which for decades has stubbornly and dogmatically pursued the goal of White supremacy. When that time comes they will stand alone for it will not be said that its policies ever enjoyed Indian support, our challenge now is to develop a suitable response to the manoeuvres of the state which in the best interest, which is in the best interests of all South Africans, the response which will ensure harmonious relations with the African community.

(Interruption in recording)

.....about the Transvaal Indian congress, since the creation by Mahatma Gandhi, has led the Indian community through various crisis, in the resistance to discriminatory government policies in the early 1900's, through the passive resistance campaign in 1946 against the inequities Asiatic land tenure act representation act, and supported the various community struggles of the late 1970's and early 1980's. In 1981 the N.I.C. and the task with the principal forces in the anti-SAIC campaign, today the N.I.C. and the T.I.C. is willing and able to lead the Indian community through the current crisis, we believe that it is our duty and responsibility to help the community formulate
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its response to the new constitutional proposals. This we believe must on the basis of a clear understanding of our non-negotiable principles, a commitment to build a stronger unity with the African and the Coloured people and appreciation of the perils of being drawn into the short sighted politics of expediency.

Before I examine the details and implications of the P.C. proposals, I want to look briefly at the history of political representation, to show that while the tactics, the strategy of political domination pursued by various White governments have been modified over time, the goals have remained essentially unchanged, they have always regarded the franchise, the right to vote as the key, that will guarantee themselves and their children a social, economic and political status superior to that of people of colour, control of the government councils of parliament in particular and sure for them the opportunities to live in the best areas in the cities and towns, to get a sound education that will lead to the best opportunities in the professions or overwhelming jobs in commerce or industry, on the other hand the demand for full political rights within a common, national framework and an end to racial separation, to the group areas act, to the bantustans would abolish for ever the exclusive rights, privileges and power.

The indigenous African population were for these reasons from the beginning forcibly removed from their land and denied political rights, Indians as well, from the time of our arrival here in 1860 have been faced with restrictions of employment prohibited, controls and land and trading and political disability, in 1896 a law was passed in Natal, which effectively removed the Indians from the voters role, in 1885, the volkraad in the Transvaal similarly barred Indians in that province from obtaining citizenship. In the cape property and income qualification effectively the vote to Whites, by the time the union was formed
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in 1910, parliament was exclusively there for White people in 1930 a law was passed which effectively restricted the African people to 13 % of the land.

(Interruption in recording)

African people in the Cape were removed from the common voters roll, our people did not passively accept this attacks on our political status, but with the exception of the passive resistance campaign launched by Ghandi in 1907. Our leaders relied mainly on efforts to persuade White parliamentarians in the error of their ways. But in the 1940's all this changed the passive politics of accomodation gave way to the mass day politics of refusal, in 1946 Smuts attempted to co-opt Indians by offering them a communal franchise, total represantation in parliament while at the same time enforcing land restrictions, the Indian congress now under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Dadoo now launched the passive resistance campaign, two thousand Indian factory workers, traders and hawkers voluntarily submitted themselves to prison authorities, Ghandi now a national leader in the party, demanded an end to British colonialism in India, supported this trouble of South Africa in the following terms. To quote "They have at their dispossal the matchless weapon of 'Sacha Graha' which was succesfully tried for the first time in South Africa, there is no cause therefore for despair, they must not vindi - they must vindicate the honour of the nation, they must not selfishly submit to the contemplated segragation, nor accept the racial franchise, clear today, today this Whites primarily, they service a subconscience Lets take 1947, Dr. Dadoo of the T.I.C., Dr. Naicker of the N.I.C. and Dr. Xuma of the A.N.C. signed the joint declaration of co-operation which committed us and for over and a day, to fight side by side with the African people for fullé democratic rights, it is our task to remind ourself today that our security does/...

does not lie in ethnic expediency but in genuine commitment to the cause of Black unity and national liberation.

(Audience applauds)

1 In 1948 the present nationalist party came into power determined to perfect the instruments of racial oppression and economic exploitation, all existing forms of Indian political representation were abolished, and in 1956 the Coloured people were removed from the common voters roll, we responded to this nationalist dream of a White South Africa with a power demonstration of non-racial unity and a mass campaign of defiance, and the state reacted to this peaceful challenge by unleashing a massive and vicious repressive campaign, the peoples organisations were banned, many activists were detained, banned and forced into exile. With resistance crushed and our people demoralised, the nationalist government persisted in its efforts to consolidate and exclusively White parliamentary system and to segment the unity of the oppressed forced over a period of two decades under the banner of the congress alliance by establishing ethnic, separate and token forms of representation as an alternatives to total representation in parliament.

(Disruption in recording)

Homelands governments, the South African Indian council, the C.R.C. together with a large scale forced removals of people under the group areas act, was now justified not on the basis of inferiority of Non-Whites but on the basis that South Africa is made up of separate cultural distinct nations.

It must be admitted that the nationalist have only got away with words, that they remain committed to the goal of White supremacy just as they do today. And because we rejected ethnic and separate representation

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the regime has seen fit to come up with new proposals aimed at sectioning Black unity.

Let us now briefly examine why we reject the P.C. proposals, firstly the proposals are being imposed from the arrogant heights of apartheid on to an unwilling population, no such proposals can be accepted in the absence of genuine consultations and participation by all the people of this country and the and people in of such consultations should be to dismantle apartheid and restrictive legislation, the release of our political prisoners, the unbanning of the main spokesmen of the people and creation of secure conditions in this country which will allow for the return of all exiles in the regime. (Audience applauds)

Secondly White domination is entrenched in the constitution, the proposals states that there will be four Whites, there will be two coloureds and one Indian in parliament. This means they will not be able to remove legislation which we consider unjust but will be essential to the maintenance of White domination. The group areas act will remain on the statute books and is non-negotiable.

Indian and Coloured parliaments will be able to deal only with matters of concern the crucial decisions on the apartheid and foreign policy, defence E.T.C. eh, that is matters of common concern will be dealt with by joint sittings of all the parliaments in which the Whites will have a numerical majority and therefore absolute power. (Interruption in recording)

As doctor Du Toit a member of the P.F.P. a parliamentary party, why did he the Black community as conservative, that to quote him for those politicians who are thinking of participating in the new system, in order to oppose it or even wreck it, the P.C. reports have little chance, their/...

their choice has become even more either go in the or reject the whole scheme out right.

Important to note is, well, is our weak position in parliament will enable the government to cut back state spending on housing, education and social security, while at the same time raising taxes and monetary spending, already the government has announced it will no longer built houses for the Indian people, G.S.T. has gone up to 7 % and this years budget, in this years budget we can expect quite a tax increases and increases in military spending. Only the local government structures are in place we can almost certainly expect massive land increases, further more rising prices the chief of which is military spending is seriously eroding the living standards of our people, this is why we call on the homeless and the jobless to oppose the proposals, to demand a state sponsored national housing policy and allembacing pension system and quality in education and an end to military spending and high taxes.

Other critisisms of the P.C. proposals include the virtually dictatorial powers of the state president who will be elected by the dominant White party. The fact that the composition of the presidents council will be determined by the White parliament, the fact that the constitution is being used by the government as an excuse to conscript Indians and Coloureds, and finally but most important African people are being excluded. The bantustans are being entrenched and the migrant labour system is being retained. We cannot become a party to the administration of injustice, to the forced removal of the African people, to the forced de-nationalisation of the African majority.

So/...

So nothing has really changed, African people are still subject to forced removal in Crossroads and in Katlehong, the neill aggetts still die in detention, Saul Mkhize's are still shot when they dare to publicise the fact that their people are uprooted from their traditional homes and hundreds and thousands of people are dumped in Pseudo-concentration camps in the Wastelands of allegedly independent states.

Beyers Naude and Winnie Mandela's are still silenced the place of one's abode is still determined by one's pigmentation, if Black trade unions are now legal, the leadership is still harrassed, if the new dispensation allows Coloureds and Indians to vote, on separate voters rolls at first, we still will remain second class citizens, we can be sure that despite our opposition the government will press ahead to impliment the new constitution, puppet leaders will be found to make the system work, during the current sitting of parliament partial and symbolic concersions, like the abolishing of the immorality act will be made to create a kind of an expectation without however touching what is fundamental.

Bogus pamphlets might well be distributed, but there is no cause for despair congress is determinde to unite the Indian people, your can trust in its leadership, in recent years the N.I.C. has actively supported the people of Phoenix in their struggle against the Durban city council over the question of autonomy, it has worked with the Chatsworth housing action committee on lowering the cost price of sub-economic, houses, initiated the formation of the Durban housing action committee and participated int he campaign against high rentals, in Durban's housing schemes.

Today/...

Today T.I.C. activists are active in the F.R.A. in the Actonville action committee in the Benoni students movement, in the Benoni youth league in the Lenasia your league in countless welfare and cultural organisations and most important is affilliated to the U.D.F.

(Interruption in recording)

..... a new face of struggle, and most important this resurgence is rooted in a deep and much revered tradition of struggle, today we struggle in the name of Nelson Mandela we are guided by the principles of the freedom charter, rediscovering the trail, re-establishing the continuity of our struggle.

(Interruption in recording)

The warrior once lay dead on the Sharpville turf now he runs again, quick and strong on the horizon he is a matyr, he is (Babla) Saloojee. He is Jerry Masolodi, (Apla) Timol, Neil Aggett. We will never forget. He is in prison on an Island

(Audience applauds)

He is Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and Ahmed Kathrada. She is the mother of the nation. She is Albertina Sisulu, He is held mercilessly under the yoke of oppression. He is exploited-worker. Who is from the factory. Simultaneously with of his oppression and a source of his livelyhood. The warrior is known for his uncompromising resistance. And his unimous religion of a society free of its exploitation. Hy is Oscar Mpetha. So we people are victims of oppresion, we are warriors also, we resist the and the Although just our people the resistance has not been broken. The spirit has not been Under Harsh conditions we find cheerful courage to rise above our and to new of our history. the eyes of the warrior, there is a smile despite our/...

our collected enemy we form our fist in defiance. We defend liberty with our lives. We look oppression in the face but we do not fear. All fear is expelled from the heart, all doubt is squeezed from the mind. We call the people of South Africa on all the people of South Africa, let us speak together for freedom (passing train blowing its hooter) We call those who live in back yards and all those who battle to live. Let us speak of suffering and hardship. Let us speak of freedom. We call the miners of Coal, Gold and Diamonds let us speak of swafts and compounds far from our families.

Let us speak of heavy labour and long hours and of men sent home to die. Let us speak of rich masters and poor wages. Let us speak of freedom, we call workers of factories and shops, let us speak of the good things we make and the bad conditions of our work. Let us speak of many persons and the few jobs. Let us speak of poorman and of transport and of trade unions, and of holidays and of houses.

We call students and teachers and preachers. Let us speak of the light that comes with learning and the ways we are kept from darkness.

Let us speak of great services we render and the narrow ways that are left open to us, and government and rights, let us speak of freedom. We call the house wives and the mothers. Let us speak of the fine children that we bear and of their lives, let us speak of the many illnesses and deaths, of the few clinics and schools, let us speak of high prices and of group areas. Let us speak of freedom.

(Audience applauds)

We call on all good men and true and there are men. To speak now for freedom and we call those who love liberty to pledge their lives from here to win those freedoms set out in the freedom charter. I thank you.

Amandla/...

Amandla - Audience: Awethu

DR. JASSAT

Thank your Firoz for bring those words to thank
your for that
This group will be presenting their short skit and eh
while their coming up Since the few more
members of the for the people of Lenasia. And to
..... I wish to introduce two young, two ladies
..... Sita, the daughter of Nanabhai Sita,
(Audience Applauds)

Your might recollect that Nanabhai Sita from his death
bed opposed the group areas and fought against the group
areas in Hercules in Pretoria, and also this evening we
have with us Mrs. Ama Naidoo who is on the council.
(Audience Applauds)

To those who do not know, Ama is the wife of the late
Roy Naidoo who was the adopted son of Mahatma Gandhi,
so this shows that we have eh quite a link with the Gandhi
tradition.
(Audience applauds)

(Interruption in the recording)

While a song is sung, the words that are audible are "Hlanganani
Basebenzi" translated: "Unite Workers"
Performance of a skit by youth
(Lenasia youth league)

Ladies and gentlemen before the ruler makes his entry
allow us the masses a brief history of this farce called
the P.C.

Now/...

Now the rulers of this fair land have a massive problem with which to contend. For their wonderous plan called total strategy, aimed at the hearts and minds of one and many lay sadly in a heap of bull manure with a grimly label reading total failure. (Applause)

For the people have hearts and minds of their own, and rejected the nationalist part of the bone, the people demanded their own organisations, from little civic associations to giant trade unions, the oppressor was quite aghast when the people said shove it up you ass. (Laughter and applause) now he finds the situation more than a little disconcerted infact he finds it to be quite difficult. (Audience applauds)

(Interruption in recording)

Dis a krisis, is n hell se krisis, mense is n moerse krisis, dames en here, ladies and gentlemen, waars die mense nou (laughter) Ons land, die land, my land (Laughter) is in n krisis, hene, mense the reds, die rooies they are on the border man, and the Blacks, die Afrikatos die terroriste they are planing man, they are in the ballroom, man I'm telling julle he, hulle is planning for the systimatic, the premeditated and concertrated distruction of apartheid (Laughter) and (Applause)

Nou, dis wat ek noem n krisis (Laughter) n hell se krisis (Laughter) n duiwel se krisis (Laughter) hene, ons, we gave them management committees (Laughter) we even gave them S.A.I.C.'S (Laughter) so dat hulle They could participate in their own government, their own elections of leaders I've chosen (Laughter and applause)

In order for them to stand in line, and upholds apartheids grand design, this all they rejected, democratically adopted.

Dames/...

Dames en here they said this we shall not batter, they said, long live freedom charter. Is n krisis (Laughter) and (Appluase).

Nee, ons volk, ons nasie moet saamstaan, ons moet n plan beraam, n boer maak n plan (Laughter) Dis jou reg ja ons stuur jou na die army (Laughter and applause). Nou waar was ek (Laughter) ons nasie moet saamstaan, ons moet n plan beraam, sowaar is ek n boer, so sê ek, demokrasie se moer. (Laughter)

Ladies and gentlemen

(NB. the recording is interrupted and here is a lot of laughter and applause)

(Not transcribed up to where he strats:)

Soos ons vriend daar gesê, n boer maak n plan, ja n boer maak n plan, hy raap en hy skraap en sy plan is n boerdery.

(An Indian young man wearing a hat appears on the screen)

Dames en Here, ladies and gentlemen, ek is baie gelukkig vanaand. Maar o, omdat ek het n plan (Applause) Waar's my plan, o hiers dit, hiers die plan, ek het n plan for all who wants a place in the South African sun. (Laughter) Through a great and magical concoction, I bring to you the constipation, eh jammer, is nie constipation nie is constitution (Laughter). Dames en here regardless of the peoples will I give you the presidents council, en wat nog, I have here at my disposal, the new constipational disposal (Laughter). Uh, iets het verkeerd, verkeerd geloop. The new constitutional propo ja ek is nie goed in engels nie, (Laughter).

(Interruption in recording)

The constituion is a carrot in three parts for Hendrikse and Rajbansi and the otherparts (Laughter) and (Applause).

Coloured/...

Coloured and Indians, Kleurlinge en Indiers take note, you are getting the vote, uh uh. Before you think I am balmy we'll shut you into the army. (Laughter) Mooi né? So once again they will stand in line, and defend apartheids grand design, en toe, and so to parliament it shall be in chambers, een twee en drie (Laughter) and so join in the fun and consider the ratio, for the Whites is to two is to one (Laughter). So indeed, they will stand in line, and apartheids grand design. Secondly, tweedens, for the rest of our problems, we shall merely dump them, with the movement of the hand to some god forsaken homeland. (Laughter) Soos Papatswana (Laughter) ons sal julle weer sien, gentlemen, believe me if you will, I do not care if you do, but this is the only cure to keep ^{KEEP} South Africa pure. Thank you. (Audience applauds)

INDIAN FEMALE I

Ladies and gentlemen, are we to accept this without even our concensus, are we to accept a sham constitution aimed at the exclusion of the majority of our population.

INDIAN FEMALE II

Is it so easy to forget our past, is it so easy to be devided, by what the ruler has provided, is this to be our destination, ladies and gentlemen I ask you. Is that new constitution to be our destination.

INDIAN FEMALE III

Division of our people is three fold, accept it and you loose your soul, it is so easy to seek this blatant and unholy trickery, a message to those develish We will resist with every fibre of our beings, and to those fools whose confusion serve only for those who rule, to them and to all we say, this we shall not batter, long
live/...

live the freedom charter.

(Audience applauds)

DR. JASSAT

Is on the stage with us, Prema, himself was was jailed for one year in 1981, he was n brother who served ten years on Robben Island, Prema comes from a family that has devoted its total resourses to the struggle of the people of this land. Those who are over and eh, who knows the past history of the T.I.C. will remember Roy as that person who was the backbone of the congress in the 50's en uh, the 60's. He was the one who saw to the machanics of meetings, who saw to things being done and that tradition comes from the, from Roy's father was a confidant of the late Mahatma Ghandi. It is a great pleasure for me to ask Prema to adress you.

PREMA NAIDOO

Good evening brothers and sisters, comrades and fellow workers, the goverment today talks of reform and a new deal for Indians and Coloureds, but they have restricted the area of change for formal constitutional matters. They have delibarately separating questions ground parliament from how it will effect us daily in our communities, schools, factories. This is to prevent us from making concrete connections between the new deal and our daily problems. And how in fact they will get, get worse. We the T.I.C. believe that constitution will affect the daily lives of our people at the levels of housing, unemployment, attempt to coerce our people into siding with apartheid. The government has developed politics around important issues, like housing, and education which are part and parcel of the constitution.

The/...

The effects of these policies, will be to increase our difficulties and hardship, and will perpetuate our position as an oppressed community. Today I am going to focus precisely, these kind of issues and what the new constitution has to say about them. The single issue has been the cause of tremendous problems for our people. Like housing shortages, overcrowding and high rentals.

Up until 1982, it was the responsibility of the Government to provide housing for our people. When the new constitution was introduced, a new housing policy came in, came about. The housing policy states, that housing will no longer be the responsibility of the Government. This means that thousands of people who are today living in backrooms, wendy-houses and who are on the never ending waiting list will have to provide for their own housing through loans. Clearly this is going to make housing shortage an uncontrollable problem for our people. The Group Areas Act which the Government is determined to preserve is responsible for the acute land shortage. Many of our people are working people, and to acquire loans at high interest rates, is out of the question. Those, those who manage to get loans to build houses will be faced with the problems of finding plots in an over populated group areas. In short, the government's housing policy holds no relief for the housing problems of the community. The other aspect of the new housing policy is done directed at those who already have houses. Our people are now being forced to buy their homes at enormously high prices. In some extensions like extension 11 sub-economic houses are being sold for R15 000,00. These prices are, are way beyond the reach of the working people. It is clear from this, that our people will face greater hardship and Botha's constitution is designed to ensure that this policy get implemented (inaudible) ... to the problems of our people in the community is the Government determination to force autonomy into areas like Lenasia.
We/...

We know that Lenasia lacks the facilities of fina ... and financial resources to become self-sufficient. Money for the erection of a hospital, fire-station, day care centre, a postal service and the provision for and a the maintenance of sports facilities, will have to be provided by the community. Money to pay for all these things will have to vcome from our own pockets and we will be forced to pay higher rates, rentals, water, electricity bills. All these years we have worked in town, spent our mone there and payed taxes, now the new deal of the government plans to cut us from the Johannesburg City Council. They tell us to make our own means and find our own money to developpe our townships. This matter is very serious an urgent one, because already the Dennis PILLAY and the Lenasia Management Committee, are moving toward accepting autonomy for Lenasia. They must be stopped. Acceptance of the new constitution and allowing of the sellouts of our community to make deals with their bosses in Pretoria, is serious. This will place tremendous hardship and difficulty on the shoulders of our people. (Video interruption) (sound intermittent). The way the South African economy operates unemployed locally jobs, job discrimination are prepared to the problem. South Africa has no benefits for the unemployed, the unemployed find only pay for 13 weeks there is no safeguard for the worker. When he or she is unemployed there is nothing in the constitution that guarentees the right of the worker. Instead there is going to be greater pressure on the lives of our people. The recent increase in the G.S.T. showed that, that the Government is taking no steps towards solving the rising cost in living. Daily basic terms like bread, sugar and milk are going up in price. Even the meager subsidies for these basic items are withdrawn by the government. For the government its now more important to spend R3000 000 000,00 on defence, than on food. The constitution has/...

has a built in absolute majority for the white nationalist party, it is impossible for us to change the budget in favour of the need of the people. So if we accept the new constitution we will be guilty of passing through a budget that will attack the living conditions of our people. We will be guilty of passing a budget that gives priority to racist army and police, that is money that will be used in acts of aggression against the independent states, independent sovereign states, and against our people within the country. We cannot therefore accept this constitution. In education as well steps have been taken which have serious implications for the future of our children. Unscrupulous discredited individualists like RASJEBANSJEE has been entrusted with the future of our children. In November 1981 over 90 % of the people showed their rejection of the sellouts in the South African Indian Council by boycotting the elections. The Government has arrogantly chosen to ignore this and placed the education of our children who we cherished in the hands of the Rasjebansjees and In conclusion I want to say that this constitution is not a blue print for progress and the advancement of our people. It is a sophisticated attempt to the chains of our present Nominations. There might be some who see the constitution as something which takes the Indian people a step further a step toward having an equal opportunity as a white but we must not be fooled we must see the real of this so called new deal and what it will mean for us and the unity of the oppressed in general. Not only does the constitution, not only does this constitution not come anywhere near solving our problems it also aims to send us to the borders to fight the unjust wars against sons and daughters of this country. This constitution aims to make us partners in oppression with our African people and today the situation places a tremendous responsibility on us it demands an active interest and participation from each and everyone of us.

It/...

It requires that we stand united and prevent the RAJBANSI's, SALAM-MAYETS, DINKY PILLAYS from plunging our community into confusion and further hardship. Together we must stop the new constitution from being implemented. Our duty and our task is to unite on a political basis and to take a political action, the political tradition of our community is well known it is one of active interest and participation. Never in the history of our people in this country have we ever taken step which sided with the oppressor or work in their interest. In critical time our people have always made the correct choice under the leadership of Indian Congress it was Indian Congress who lead us lead our people ever for over a 100 years. Our people have a implacable record under congress, and today when Botha says if we reject this constitution we will remain with the status quie er we will have to join up with KwaZulu. We know it is a statement of desperation. Botha is so clearly exposed as wanting to bolster his undemocratic rule. He de, deliberately tries to create fear, suspicion and mistrust among the different communities. He tells us that if we don't chose his path then we are chosing the path of chaos and anachy. He tells us that what we want is unreasonable about our wanting a society in which all shall live as equals in peace and harmony. It is Botha's path which will lead to anarchy and chaos. It is his path which will lead to greater suffering and hardship. Only the Freedom Charter guarantees peace security and progress for all in this country. Brothers and sisters it is in our long term interest at this point not to take a decision that will put us alongside the oppressor. Today again, we must unite rally under the banner of the Indian Congress and the Freedom Charter. Say, no to Botha's apartheid constitution and align ourselves with our African brothers and sisters because that is where our future lies. Amandla X1
(Audience Ngawethu - B (Applause))

DR. JASSAT/...

DR. JASSAT

Thank you Prema. It is heartening to note that that great Naidoo tradition going through Tambi Naidoo, Roy Naidoo, Ama Naidoo, Indris, Shanti and now Prema continues. This is the spirit and the great duty of our people. These are a truly committed group of people to a just cause. Friends in the coming days that lie ahead we require a word-force to carry the message of the T.I.C. to the length and breadth of Lenasia and the Transvaal. We need the word-force to take a message of the T.I.C. to each and every home and therefore we need volunteers who will assist us distributing newsletters, assist us in telling the people about the new constitutional proposal, in telling the people about the difficulties that lie ahead if they participate in the constitution. And if there are any young or old people interested in assisting us, please would they come and see us the ..., at the stage after the meeting and eh you know you could give in your names and we will contact you to help us in whatever way you can.

Now we come to the final speaker for this evening. It's a person you have been looking forward to. We have with us Mewa Ramgobin who has come all the way from Verulam to address us. Mewa is an Executive member of the Natal Indian Congress. He was a founder of the revived N.I.C. in 1971 and the price he paid for this was that for 17 years he has been banned and silenced. He has never seen Lenasia, its birth. He has only come here after a long period. This is the first time he'll be addressing a meeting in the Transvaal except for a brief address to the Wits students in 1971. Mewa is also the joint treasurer of the U.D.F. and incidentally he is married to Pela who is the grand daughter of Makatma Gandhi. I would like to ask Mewa to say a few words to you. (Applause)(Video interruption)

Mewa/...

MEWA RAMGOBIN

Comrade chair and comrades. Firstly let the Rajbansis of the world, the Pat Poovalingam's of this world and the Salam Mayets of this world come out here tonight and see for themselves as to what the people of Lenasia say. The people of Lenasia are saying No.! Let them come out here, in humility and say with us; that we are grateful to God the creator of all things and all peoples, that we from the Transvaal have had the gifts to the human race in the lives of our Nelson Mandela's, Walter Sisulu's, the late Valiama the late Ahmed Timol and the late Neil Aggett. That we have as the gifts of our our (inaudible) from the Transval. Comrade Chaird, I'm sorry if I cannot go throught the long list, in saying thank you on your behalf to the creator, for having given these gifts to the human race.

Having said that, comrades, the Natal Indian Congress and the Transvaal Indian Congress have for decades now, stated and demanded, for all South Africans, a non-racial democratic society based on the principles of the Freedom Charter, wherein it is enshrined that the people shall govern. The institutions of government will ensure the full and unhindered participation of all South Africans in the decision making and governing processes. Among the other principles enshrined in the Charter are these few, the wealth of the country shall be shared, the land shall be shared among us who work it, the people shall be equal before the law, work and security will be gauranteed, workers will have the right to form trade unions; where child labour and migrant labour shall be abolished.

Whilst the Transvaal Indian Congress and the Natal Indian congress, struggled for such a society which will have the Freedom Charter as the basis for a new constitution for South Africa, the present regime has already chosen
as/...

as part of a grand design to impose the tri-cameral system onto the Indian and Coloured communities. No objective observer can challenge, the successive governments have maintained apartheid through repression, repression which I call political violence. They have imposed plans after plans, laws after laws on us, the voteless people. The banished into the bantustans, detentions without recourse to the courts, bannings, disappearances, as those of the late Mr. Mxenge, Ahmed Timol and Neil Aggett of the opponents of apartheid ensure the subversion of resistance. The economic exploitation of blackpeople continues unchecked. There is unemployment, starvation and socio-economic diseases are rife. The collapse of human relationships appears to be part of a design. Communities have been and are being forcibly removed from one settled place to barren areas. A racist and undemocratic educational system which is designed for social and political control and racial domination has been imposed on us.

The migrant labour system and the break-up of family life is the order of the day. The result of this effect of the group areas Act, in uprooting people and destroying community life, is still felt amongst us. These constitute just some aspects of the total violent scenario in South Africa.

The scenario retributes with violence in order to perpetuate itself, with the skilled management of a racial regime and its allies in (inaudible).

And in order to perpetuate such a scenario, the government of the land, has had and continues on its path of brutalisation, to protect the status quo as part of its total strategy called, oh sorry, its part of its total strategy.

The/...

The government in these circumstances has introduced the so-called new constitutional proposals, the reality of economic exploitation domination and social control has not and will not change. Nor will it change with the implementation of the tri-cameral system. Yet it must be our duty to find out and ask the question, what will be the effects and what are the motivations behind the implementation of the tri-cameral system?

Let us tonight emphasise and investigate the aspect of militarisation and that so-called constitutional proposal.

Militarisation in keeping with the governments total strategy enables the government to control all aspekts of every South African existence. The best way to explain this is to use the words of Magnus Malan himslef. Magnus Malan the Defence Minister of this racist regime said: "Total strate, strategy should encompass the State the private sector, diplomacy, commerce, industry and organisations like Armscor the CSIR and (ex. SAIC.) the constitutional proposals for Indians and Coloureds opened the doors to co-opt those two group not only into a more privileged class but also eventually to conscript them inthe the South African Defence Force. Now in the words of Mr. de Klerk let us see what he has to say.

You cant ask a man to fight for his country if he cant vote. Among the terms of the new dispensation is a guarantee that coloureds and Indians will get full voting rights. It follows that the responsibilities will accordingly increase, which means, they will hold obligations to defend these rights.

Congress tonight, demands to know, what is the nature of the votes that Indians and Coloureds will get. What is the ower of that vote, what are they going to vote for. We believe that the tri-cameral system is designed to/...

to entrench apartheid and create a totalitarian system of state with white rule, guaranteed for all time. We believe that Indians will be the tools, to do the governments dirty work in oppressing Indians.

We believe that the government seeks the shifting of the centres of oppression and we believe that the government seeks to destroy the unity between Indians, Africans, Coloureds and democracy loving whites. In these beliefs we, the Indian community; that gave rise to a Mahatma Ghandi, a Yusuf Dadoo and a Monty Naicker, will never allow ourselves to accept fake votes to that we receive real bullets to kill our own people. (Applause)

That we will not insult the dignity of the freedom-loving peoples of our land and we will not tarnish the memory of Kliptown and the Freedom Charter which was born out of the guts of the people in struggle (Applause).

Whilst we will not do these, let us declare here tonight that the SAIC with the Rajbansis and Solidarity with the J.N. Reddy's and the Pat Poovalingam's, will not only insult our dignities, and our heritage, but will also by their own ambitions and urgings lead our boys into the South African Army.

It is a known fact, that Mr. Rajbansi has has no qualms about the consequences of the implementation of the tri-cameral system. Being discredited as he is and apparently unacceptable by his bosses, let us examine the roles of some of the Solidarity chaps and solidarity itself.

Those of us who do not know, what solidarity means. Then let u stop a while and find out what does it mean.

Pick up any simple dictionary and you'll note that solidarity means, holding together. That it means mutual dependence
and/...

and that it means a community of interests. That it also means a community of feelings and action. With this meaning in mind we now must make bold to say Yes! there is solidarity between the South African government and apartheid on the one side and those with vested interests and political opportunism on the other. There is solidarity; between Solidarity and the South African Defence Force (Applause).

Why else, Mr. Pat Poovalingam, the mentor of Solidarity will have said in Februarie 1981 and this are his words open quotes "In case I am misunderstood" I had the opportunity last week of going to the border, as it is called, and at the end of a (inaudible) and a fascinating visit, I was moved to tell General Lloyd at Katima Mulilo that, by the time we had ended our tour, I was proud to claim the generals soldiers as, by boys. (Laughter) unquote.

These, ladies and gentlemen, are the words of Pat Poovalingam who, if he can call these soldiers his boys, what is he going to do, after he gets into the tri-cameral system, to you boys. (Applause)

(Inaudible). There is still doubt in your minds about conscription for Indians, then why will Mr. Poovalingams senior partner, Mr. De Klerk state; you can't ask a man to fight for his country if he can't vote. Why will Brigadier Naude of the South African Defence Force consult with people who have expert knowledge of the Qurand and on the Hindu scriptures, in relation to possible conscientious objectors in the Indian community. In any case, what does Mr. J.N. Reddy, a member of the Prime Ministers economic advisory committee say, about Indians fighting in the border in the defence of apartheid. And I'll quote from your own pamphlets, what Mr. J.N. Reddy said as early as 1975 "Said yesterday, " you dont mind me starting there "Said yesterday, that he would like to see Indians being drafted for compulsory military training in the same way
as/...

as whites. Mr. Reddy who is regarded as Prime Minister of South Africa's 750 000 Indians (laughter) said this when asked, what role the Indian community could play, "with guns I suppose, "now that the country was being threatened by communist imperialism on its borders. The Indian community has taken part, he said, in the world wars and before that in some form or the other we have served the country. I think when the occasion arises again for us to serve the nation we will be willing to do so."

Ladies and gentlemen, this man has the temerity to commit, to commit a whole community to defend apartheid, this man has the temerity to commit you and me and to commit our children to go on to the borders and defend apartheid.

Whilst Mr. Reddy and Poovalingam through Solidarity will urge the community to work the new constitution; Let us see what a South African Defence Force magazine which was handed out to Indian and Coloured schools have to say.

The magazine called "Contact" was edited by a Lieutenant P.P. Boshoff and the July 1983 issue of the magazine urged people to accept the new constitution, the principles on which the rule of the country is based has been proposed. A constitution that will guide us to greater, (to greater) prosperity. There is no doubt of the solidarity that is clear between the State and the new group called Solidarity; in the Indian community. If there's still doubt the truth on conscription, then be aware, that even Solidarity's foreign minister, Pik Botha, admitted in Bryanston on the 21st day of September 1983, and these are his words "I take it that if the constitution is accepted, the same provisions in regard to military service will apply to coloureds and Indians as it does to white, unquote. And then/...

then listen to the boss of Solidarity mister P.W. Botha himself, as stated in The Star of the fourth of November 1983. Open quotes "As with whites, when military conscription was introduced gradually, with first a ballot system and then complete conscription so it would be with the other communities." Again, as early in 1977 P.W. himself stated at the Cape National Party congress that the conscription of Indians and Coloureds had already been accepted in principle. It must be deduced that the government is waiting for the right political moment to take this step. To substantiate the belief that the present constitutional proposal were the initiatives of the South African Defence Force, this is what the "Evening Post reported "All South African Defence Force generals were in favour of extending the call-up to Coloureds and Indians. And for this reason they are believed to have put considerable pressure on the National Party leadership to extend the franchise" unquote.

Steenkamp is on record for having said that the current constitutional proposals came from the South African Defence Force planning over five years ago.

Ladies and gentlemen, those, those of us who have observed the manipulations and machinations of the government, will recall that the issue of coloured and Indian conscription was used to sell the constitutional package to sections of the white voters, for example at a National Party meeting P.W. Botha asked his audience of over a thousand whites from the platteland; do you want coloureds fighting on the border or not? When the crowd shouted Yes! Botha replied, we must then treat them decently, they must not go behind the backs of our sons to fight for the enemy.

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In all government circles and amongst supporters of the apartheid system the constitutional proposals have been used to seal the idea, that the government is committed to so-called power sharing and if so-called power is to be genuinely shared, then it is important for coloureds and Indians to be seen to be defending their so-called, share of the so-called power. This was expressed in substantiation is the guarantee that Indians and Coloureds will get, will get full voting rights, it follows that their responsibilities will increase accordingly, which means they will have obligations to defend these rights. This, these words came from the mouth of F.W. De Klerk himself.

It becomes clear to all of us now that both government and military leaders have made it very clear that the extension of conscription will follow the implementation of the constitutional proposals.

And who so ever or whatsoever grouping, whether it be the SAIC, the Labour Party or Solidarity thinks or believes otherwise, are either political hypocrites or people and/or organisations bent on misleading our peoples for their own opportunism and vested interest in the system.

Can it be reasonably be deduced, that since Mr. Rajbanasi and the SAIC are totally discredited, that Solidarity which is yearning to work the tri-cameral system is a government initiative. Are we not justified in thinking so, since Mr. J.N. Reddy is a member of the prime minister economic advisory committee and that Mr. Pat Poovalingams association with the South African Foundation in selling apartheid all round is well known.

Comrades for those of you, for those of us, who understand URDU-language can it be said that ...(URDU)... and I shall repeat that "noker maliki te izip ka namula ukai. I leave you/...

you these thoughts about the noker (URDU). Can it be reasonably deduced that this is the reason why Solidarity is fighting shy of the referendum to test the opinions of the Indian people. Can it be reasonable deduced that this is the reason why Solidarity is fighting shy of the referendum to test the opinions of the Indian people. Can it be reasonably deduced that that is why Solidarity wants an election, whereby even if 10 % of the Indian voters so-called, voted in them the government with its arrogance will implement the proposals. It is not because we in the Transvaal Indian Congress and the Natal Indian Congress make claims to any superior virtue, but because we have a reverence for facts that we tonight proclaim that the constitutional proposals are a hoax. We challenge the government and its Junior partners to hold a referendum in the Indian sector (Applause).

We challenge them to do this because we are sure that there will be a resounding No! in that referendum (Applause).

Whilst we demand a referendum to declare our will, Solidarity and its senior partner in apartheid, the South African Government seek to implement the new act, which will add to the white mans laager by co-opting Indians and thereby deepening the State created divisions between Indians and Africans. Be mindful of the government decision to entrench apartheid.

We in the Transvaal Indian Congress and the Natal Indian Congress oppose the implementation of the constitutional proposals, we refuse to be party to fragment our country, we refuse to accept anything short of a united democratic non-racial South African for all (Applause).

Some/...

Some, like the Transkei and Ciskei, (inaudible) might be here already. Not only as symbols of our oppression and our division but also as the manifestations of the destabilisation of our unity.

But we declare now (inaudible) in the past, that we with our African brothers and sisters, have a historical duty to undo these homelands and these puppet institutions. We must in the name of all the peoples of this land of ours, create a single country for us all, no matter how long it takes us and no matter how difficult the way. And that we must govern this single country of ours on the basis of a constitution that will be underlined with the principles of the Freedom Charter (Applause).

Thinks and believes that it is going to succeed in dividing Indians and Coloureds from Africans and Africans from Africans for all times, then, comrades it is chasing a rainbow.

If we do not succeed today or tomorrow, then our youth will assume their historical task to unscramble apartheid and for sure, they will succeed because not only time but history too, is on their side. And let our common vision for our land is the realisation of the ideals of the Freedom Charter.

A vision for a new social order to which both the Transvaal and Natal Indian Congresses are committed. If this is a vision for our new social order, then what are we going to do, to realise these ideals.

What are our duties tonight, tomorrow and everyday thereafter, until we have reached our goal. The Transvaal Indian Congress and the Natal Indian Congress in alliance with other democratic organisations, are committed with the people, for all the people to unite in action. This unity
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in action is for us to demand that we must with the hands and minds of steel build our organisational strenght that must ultimately shatter apartheid.

In unity we have not further unite, mobulise and organise all the democracy loving people of the land. Let us reinforce our community organisations, let us reinforce our trade union movement, let us reinforce our student and youth organisations, let us reinforce our religious organisations on the foundations of social justice, let us reinforce and when need be dreate our womans organisations because we can never be free for as long as half the human race who happen to be woman remains in bondage (Applause). With the hands and minds of steel, let us tonight vow that we will not only reject the new constitutional proposals, but also dig the foundations for a free and just South Africa. The foundations on which future generations will build and recreate a kind of country that will make us the pride of this word.

And comrades, if we have to be conscripted, into an army then let us tonight conscript ourselves with the hands and minds of steel into an army, with the Freedom Charter in one hand, with a pick in the other and a burning passion in our eyes and march to crate a just and non-racial society for all South Africans. Thank you (Applause).

(Video interruption)

DR. RAM SALOOJEE

"..... of the United Democratic Front which has given the liberation movement the strength and the vigour to overcome. I have before me a number of resolutions, but I wish to spend approximately five to seven minutes in motivation of the same. We are about to come to the end

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of the proceedings of this evening, but it marks the beginning of a strenuous and determined campaign to declare to the world at large, and all the peoples of a strife torn and polarised land that the majority of those whom that must government has forcibly designated as the Indian Component of the tri-cameral chamber of oppression, unreservedly and vigorously reject the attempt to co-opt us, as the accessories to the crimes of apartheid. The commitment of our people and the resounding success of this launching against the bulldozers that have in the past, and continue in the present to undermine our self-respect and intelligence in offering us offcuts from that decaying carcass of racism, will be resisted, yes resisted with the spirit and fearlessness that has characterised our loyalty and patriotism from the time of our forefathers and fathers also set foot on the soil of South Africa. (Applause).

"We may by Indian be descent, but our roots are proudly (buried?) in the deep recesses of this land, which we share, and will sacrifice to share with all the peoples, black, brown, white and, and, and other hue that may emerge from the ashes of a new South Africa in which the words of the of the individual and the protection of the handicapped will outlay and outweigh the ethnic origin and the colour of a person. On this score, there can be no compromise, and we say with intense resolve, that all those who cross the Rubicon and join hands with those who wield the baton of discrimination and tightened the chains of injustices, can no longer be part of a people's struggle. We are at the most critical period, in the history of our country, and the choice we make, will determine the future destiny of our place in a non-discriminatory and a just South Africa. The hour of decision demands that we make our stand absolutely clear, that we stand firmly on the side of right and justice and decency. Any other choice, is a betrayal of our ethical and spiritual heritage. Your
have/...

have been given a number of facts tonight, why the constitution has to be rejected. Now armed with these facts, equipped with the experiences of our past and present struggle, and knowing the dangers and darity of participating in the unstable foundation of a tottering philosophy, based on race, ethnicity and discrimination. We need to mobilise our people, into (inaudible) to the (inaudible) of opportunists, flirting with a system that harbours the potential of blowing up into the faces of all South Africans. (Video interruption) Let the future generation not point a finger at us. "Let us not give the system a (inaudible) mechanism, to endure much longer (interruption)(inaudible) survive. Let us not be found at this late stage, on the wrong side of the tracks and become ein (inaudible) of oppression. Let us not surrender the noble values which flow from the spiritual (inaudible) of our respective faiths and convictions. Let us not soil the history of resistance and leadership we have given to the freedom struggle of this country. Let us (inaudible) of leadership, pride end of tape.