

ASSESSOR

V.22

ANTI-SAIC COMMITTEE CONGRESS : 1983-01-23 SELBOURNE HALL (CITY HALL) JOHANNESBURG

REMARK: (1) AYCO MEETING PRECEDES ANTI-SAIC ON VIDEO
(2) ANTI-SAIC STARTS AS DR. BOESAK APPEARS ON PAGE 4

SPEAKERS AND/OR PEOPLE CONDUCTING INTERVIEWS:

1. ALAN BOESAK (UDF)
2. CASSIM SALOOJEE (UDF)
3. THOZAMILE GQWETA (SAAWU)
4. PAUL DAVID (NIC)
5. PROF. JERRY COOVADIA (NIC)
6. SAMSON NDOU (GAWU)
7. PROF. ISMAEL MOHAMMED (TIC)
8. DR. R.A.M. SALOOJEE (TIC)
9. DR. E.E. JASSAT (TIC)
10. RABBI BAGWANDEEN (NIC)
11. MRS AMMA NAIDOO
12. PRAKASSIM

IMPORTANT PEOPLE, EVENTS AND ORGANISATIONS MENTIONED:

1. UMKHONTO (WE SIZWE)
2. MANDELA
3. OLIVER TAMBO
4. CONGRESS ALLIANCE
5. FREEDOM CHARTER
6. UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

SOUND AND PICTURE QUALITY OF FILM IS OCCASIONALLY VERY POOR.

O P M E R K I N G S

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 oorleg met die beeld op die video opnames.

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 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 band 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 ingedien word nie.

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ANTI-SAIC COMMITTEE

1983-01-23

- A. Black youths males and females gather playing with a ball - speaking Zulu - thereafter they marched in military style singing songs:

Song 1

- (a) Sophinda sinqobe! Iyo haa!
 Sophinda sibuye! Iyo haa!
 Sophinde sibuye! Iyo haa!
 Uyacoka ... (inaudible)

"We will overcome again! We will come back again! He is telling lies...!

Song 2

- (b) "U-i-Soja! Hayi! Hayi! Hayi!
 (b) ... Soldier! No! No! No!

The youths enter a building and sing songs whilst doing a rhythmic dance.

Song 3

- (c) (Zulu and Sotho) (inaudible) ... "South Africa! ... Thula Sisi! Thula sisi thula sisi! thula sisi! ... Nawe K D sohlangana ... South Africa! Nawe Mphephu sohlangana ... thina ngomkhonto owe sizwe! Thula mama! sohlangana ... u-Mandela e-South Africa!

- (c) ... South Africa ... keep quiet, sister! Keep quiet! ..., And you K D! We will meet ...! South Africa! We'll meet ...! And you Mphephu, we'll meet ...! ...we, with the Spear of the Nation! Be quiet, mother we'll ... Mandela in South Africa!

Chant: Amandla Awethu x2
 Mayibuye I'Afrika x2
 I'Afrika Izwe Elethu
 Izwe Elethu I'Afrika
 An injury to one is an injury to all
 A dismissal to one is a dismissal to all
 (inaudible chant)

Song 4

(d) ...Sobuya nayo! Sobuya nayo! (other words inaudible) ...
 U-Mandela! Sobuya, naye! Oh-Sobuya naye! Inkululeko! Sobuya nayo!
 Inkululeko! Sobuya nayo! ... (other words not clear).

(d) "...We will come back with it!...Mandela! We'll come back with
 him! Freedom! we'll come back with it! (other words not clear)
 AMANDLA! NGAWETHU.

Observation: AYCO and June 16 posters were visible inside the building.
 Youths march out of building singing songs.

Song 5:

(e) ...Sikhala ...! Wena Botha! Wena Botha! ... (other words
 inaudible) Sikhala...!

(e) ...Crying ... You Botha! You Botha! (other words inaudible).

VIDEO INTERRUPTION whilst singing the following songs outside:

Song 6:

(f) (words inaudible) ...Lucy Mvubelo ... (other words inaudible).

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SONG 5(E) : Sikhala nje Sisemahlathini)
Wena Botha Sifuna izwe Lethu) X 3

TRANSLATION (E): As we are crying we are in the Bush)
You Botha, we want our Land) X 3

VIDEO INTERRUPTION WHILE SINGING THE FOLLOWING SONG
OUTSIDE THE HALL -

SONG 6 (F) : Udlala Ngathi uGatsha Buthelexi) X 4
Usutha Kakubi, Sesithi Mbambe Mbambe)
Udlala Ngathi u Lennox Sebe)
Usutha Kakubi, Sesithi Mbambe Mbambe) X 4
Udlala Ngathi u Lucy Mvubelo)
Usutha Kakubi, Sesithi Mbambe Mbambe) X 4

TRANSLATION: Gatsha Buthelezi is playing about with us,)
He is ungrateful, we say catch him, catch him) X 4
Lennox Sebe is playing about with us,)
He is ungrateful, we say catch him, catch him) X 4
Lucy Mvubelo is playing about with us,)
She is ungrateful, we say catch her, catch her) X 4

Chants:

AMANDLA! NGAWETHU! x2

Mayibuye I'afrika x2

Oliver Tambo x2

(VIDEO INTERRUPTIONS) (AND INAUDIBLE, whilst unknown Black man talks in English) (not transcribed)

Video interruption black man speaking. ~~Inaudible~~ SIEN DANHANGSEL ?

Alan BOESAK starts appearing without sound.

Alan BOESAK: ... "who contaminates you. It wears down your defences. It makes easier those rationalisations for staying (^{IN} ~~inaudible~~). It makes you susceptible to the heathen and not so heathen persuasions that are at work within every system. It ~~whets~~ ^{WHETS} your appetite for power and the system may even allow you some petty victories, so ~~now~~ that you believe that you can actually beat it. And all the while it draws you closer, blunting your judgement and finally exposing your powerlessness, by joining the system to fight the system. And what you call, compromise for the sake of politics, is in actual fact selling out your principles, your ideals and the future of your children. And the labour party in doing this should have remembered Mrs Jansen. Who is Mrs Jansen? Where is Mrs Jansen today? And today we are saying to South Africa, we shall not do it. The dream of justice, and of a free nation, and of a humanised society did not die in Eshowe. The people who made those decisions in Eshowe never really understood this dream, have never really been part of this struggle. And our response to the crisis facing us today is a dialectical one. It is what I call the politics of refusal, which, has within it both the yes and the no! We must continue to struggle for liberation, for freedom and human dignity of all people in South Africa. And so while we say yes to the struggle we say no to

(Video-interruption)

Unknown Black man speaking :

..... hour can I join the UDF. Obviously you never go to the UDF as an individual, because that is a front what - what we must have chosen the UDF is what about and that is that (interruption). They won't be that scared because I have been from there onwards people say there is nothing else to do.

What as some of them kill themselves said that there is nothing else that they got to do actively. So this is the time when you as the students, you are given a challenge by the Koornhof Bills so that you can write now, and talk to people. This is already campaigned whereby our own will talk to people and maintain that close contact with people and get answers from people so you can, we can understand what, what are the problems that our own people are facing.

So by taking the trouble to where it belongs are, because we have been taking it to the people and showing whoever want to show Get the people who don't want all this constitution and the whole lot.

So local organisations and their struggles can be strengthened by, incorporated by, incorporating a local demand on the signature of all.

..... I don't have the signature. All. But th- th-, this also this always a place left for each and every area organisation that operates in any part of the country, whereby we can boost our own ah demands there.

Lets say we - we - we get forms for the Alexandra Youth Congress, then we feel that we maybe we don't linking hands with another organisation (video-interruption) that would be ah-ah-ah-ah our main demand. Like for instance those slogan, the future belongs to us, so we can put any-any demand u-u under the streets that haven't been left for any demands that any organisation want.

Some of us (just) then approaches them. The approach used by different organisations and different areas could help to deter to them to their different conditions. Theory merely provides broad guidelines.

So some of the suggestions that have been made was number one training, there is a need to train volunteers, who would be assisting in the corrections of this nature.

The training should cover the following aspects firstly: Analysis of the constitution act. What do the consitution, I mean if you are collecting signatures, then you are going to tell that this is it and you want them to sign and to tell him that ah if he asked what am I signing for, you say in support of the UDF, in support of the UDF in what of the UDF in charge of the Koornhof Bills, if you have to charge of the constitution act.

Now if you don't know that, being the corrector. I am going to explain to people that are going to chase people away.

And ah in the signature campaign what is the meaning of of the signature campaign. Personal conduct and (interruption)

You should speak to people directly. There are numerous ways in which people can be spoken to. However, speaking to people in their houses is the most effective way and would produce the better results.

Now this are not collecting signatures at churches, at soccer stadiums, shopping centres, public meetings, etc.

4(b)

Your of educating of education hightening our and organising should be upper most in our minds whenever we are meeting the people.

So comrades that, that is the so far.

But now I would like to go further on the million signature. Going it the campaign itself, the people, or the UDF which is you, decided on the campaign so that we are not going to give all those forms for any authority, or whatsoever, we are not going to (take them to Pretoria). This is but a petition but its just a matter of (work). We can now that at least we have spoken to one million people on the constitution act on the Koornhof Bills and so on.

So that by no means is going to be given to Pretoria, so that (video interruption)

So that it has to depend on you activists, the young ones because most of the time you have people say that ah we are tired of meetings, meetings, we want to participate actively or work harder, you know that we people

So this is the challenge, this is the type we are, you have the activities you will be talking to people, asking them what ah if they do understand the Koornhof Bills, the constitution and everything. Then you will also gain some experience in the activities of ... Now you got people who will also going to ask you some questions, any question whatsoever, so this is the time where we are going to get experience from the people, that we get the questions from (interruption).

..... what I am saying. As I have mentioned specific objectives ah the education the aim of of of the campaign so the other party, in telling lies on the activists because if by orders I think that is when the constitution now is well in practise, the elections for the tricameral parliament, if that time arrives and we have told ourselves that (inaudi=ble) corrective.(video interruption) These indicated clearly that the people that order people. So it was order people, you said rather reducing the rent that you have promised to do, the is now planning a casino in Soweto,

So that is some of the ways or some of the things that our other than the constitution.

How can the UDF while we campaign and also how all of you can be threatened by the campaign (interruption)

I would like us to discuss in the commission the role of some

apartheid, racial segregation and economic exploitation of the oppressed masses in South Africa. (Audience applause!)

"We must continue to work for a safe and secure future for our children and for a society where they will no longer be infected by the poison of racism. So while we say yes to a future built on genuine peace and justice, we say no to building that future on the participation in greed, exploitation and the narrow little nationalism that carry within themselves the seeds of their destruction.

We must refuse to let our children die in a war, which is being waged for the protection of apartheid and South Africa's new colonialist designs in Namibia and for frustrating the votes of the Namibian people for freedom and democracy and genuine peace.

(Audience applause.)

"This is the politics of refusal. And it is the only dignified response black people can give in this situation. And in order to do this Mr Chairman, brothers and sisters, we need a united front. Most of the Christian churches and all of the democratic-minded organisations in our communities have unequivocally rejected the proposals of the presidents council, and our participation in them. We are all committed to a struggle for a non-racial open democratic South Africa. A unitary state with one nation, in which all the people will have the rights accorded them, not by a government, but by ordination of Almighty God himself. And this we will fight for. And there is no reason, therefore, why Christians and civic associations, or trade unions, student organisations, sport bodies, should not unite on this issue. Pool our resources. (Audience applause) and inform the people of the fraud that is about to be perpetrated in their name, and on the day of the election expose these plans for what they are. I know we can do it. You have shown that we can do it, and we shall do it again. (applause)

Mayibuye -

I-Afrika - x 2

(inaudible)

AMANDLA! AWETHU!

Cassim SALOJEE? *

(Inaudible)...noted the satisfaction, that all the genuine leaders of the oppressed people of South Africa, have totally rejected the proposed constitutional plans. The so-called National People's Party, in the South African Indian Council, which is supposed to have supported them, is rejected by the Indian communities stop. Over 90% of the Indian people have boycotted ... the elections to the councils (INAUDIBLE) (AUDIENCE APPLAUSE)

(VIDEO INTERRUPTION)

Unknown Journalist: "(Inaudible)... Gqweta, president of the South African Allied Workers Union". Audience applause.

Thosamile GOWETA: "Uh, we have every reason to be racist, if we were to adhere to the wishes of the government, which has deployed us throughout the country, on the basis of race and colour. But we say, in essence and in principle, we are fighting for total non-racialism in South Africa. We are going to go back for instance, to the early 50's, when the Congress Alliance sat down in 1955 and adopted the Freedom Charter, as a basis on which we are going to fight for our liberation. It was never a dogma at any event. It is the most comprehensive document that has ever been formed in South Africa, which accommodates Blacks, Whites, Coloureds and Indians and I have never heard of any other document, which has been able to emerge and uh, lay down the principles which were laid by the Freedom Charter. Uh, we are presently calling upon all

South Africans, or we can say, it is these organisations which formed the Congress Alliance in 1955, that are not among our midst today. But we can never say we are going to stop there, and do nothing about it. It is our duty, it is our task as we, as we are doing now, to try and revive our political organisations, to try and form some new political organisations, in order to accommodate in and order to uh, rub shoulders with other struggles which are being waged by other organisations in the country. Comrades the progressive and freedom conscious commitment of the oppressed and exploited masses of our people, as epitomized by the memberships of our various organisations, is our invisible weapon, against uh, exploitation and oppression. Uh, we must remember that, it is this very same consciousness that has enabled many nations throughout the world and even here on the African continent, eh, to achieve their liberation and we must never have any doubt in our minds, that this very same consciousness, shall also enable us to withstand the South African government, oppressive (inaudible) laws (VIDEO INTERRUPTION) uh with those few words, I would love to say thank you to everybody who has so patiently listened to my short and inexperienced speech.

Amandla - A x 1

NGAWETHU - B

Paul DAVID interviewing Prof. Gerry COOVADIA:

"Uh Professor Gerry COOVADIA, you're the acting uh, President of the Natal Indian Congress and yesterday you delivered a very interesting paper on the Presidents Council's uh, proposals. Now, for the purpose of this interview could you just repeat why the Natal Indian Congress has rejected the P.C. - proposals?"

Jerry COOVADIA: "The Natal Indian Congress has very clear reasons for rejecting these fraudulent proposals. We reject them on three different levels. We believe there are certain fundamental criticisms directed against these, uh, proposals, which compel us, as democrats believing in

a democratic society, to reject these proposals. There are second level criticisms, which are of a major nature, and there are third level criticisms which are slightly less important, and are of a more structural nature.

I won't deal with the structural criticisms, except to say that they are devoid of any power for Coloured and Indian people within the tricameral arrangement of parliament. Coming to the fundamental reasons, which we believe are the most important. The first point is that, we understand democracy to mean that the will of the people must be expressed in terms of who should represent them, that how they should be governed and thirdly, what the allocation of the resources in the country should be, especially that it should be, for the development of all the people in this country. (SOUND INTERRUPTION) ... first foremost and principle. Second fundamental criticism for our rejecting the proposals, are then in fact recognise and make a fetish of racism and ethnicity and they not only entrench apartheid but they consolidate apartheid by bringing in Indians and Coloureds, and thereby expanding the base of oppression. The third reason, is that we believe that, uh, current dispensations make no serious effort at redressing uh, long range of social and economic disabilities, that people suffer and they suffer because of the policy of expropriation which have been perpetrated on black people throughout the ages."

Paul DAVID: " (inaudible) ... there are some uh, people who accuse the Natal Indian Congress of adopting a boycottist attitude What is your answer to such accusations?"

Jerry COOVADIA: "Those accusations are absolutely false. They simply do not understand the history of our Movement. We have always been willing to negotiate. We are willing to negotiate now. We are not uh, boycotters on principle. We adopt the boycott tactic, when the State is

very repressive. When they practice violence and they deceit on us, when there is no other option left, we don't see our way around participating in the set of institutions, by participating in them which would subjugate our people further. So it is not a matter of principle, it is decided upon by the necessity of the occasion."

Paul DAVID: "Uhm, Mr Samson NDOU is the president of GAWU and he is an executive member of the Transvaal Anti-SAIC Committee. In this conference developed that the proposals affect Indians, Coloureds and Africans, and a point was made that increased power for Council's, is really the new deal, for the African sector of the uh, population. Do you think that the Urban African will oppose the new dispensation?"

Samson NDOU: "Uhm, I understand that question very well. The, the, the African people, let's say the people in this country are opposed to all types of uh oppressive legislation. And clearly they will continue doing so, they won't welcome back that type of legislation."

Paul DAVID: "Have you any thoughts about what form the opposition might take?"

Samson NDOU: "Uhm, well uh, that would be uh, a dicey question you know, uh, the people will decide, you know, what form, but uh, I think they will just continue as they were doing before"

Paul DAVID: "And uh, that will have to be worked out by them."

Paul DAVID: "Uh, I'm Paul DAVID and we have here this afternoon Dr BOESAK. It was a great pleasure listening to you speak. You're very well received Dr BOESAK, and because of your speech, uh, certain very crucial aspects come to light. I'd like to ask you uh, a few questions about some of the points that you raised. Firstly, what do you think of

the Labour Party's decision to participate in the government's constitutional proposals?"

DR BOESAK: "Well I think that the Labour Party's decision constitutes uh, a sell-out of, of, of the principles that, uh, they said they were standing for, uh. I am absolutely sure that in taking that decision, they do not represent, uh, the, the population at all, they, they will prove to have only a very insignificantly following, if, if I think they should take the opportunity to go around the country and, and, talk to people. I, I, I believe that, that the decision is politically wrong, and they are going into the system, where it will bolster apartheid instead of making, uh, dealing possibilities for, for undermining it. And I think the decision is, it is morally absolutely wrong. And, and on these reasons I, for, these reasons I think people ought to uh, reject them."

Paul DAVID: "Do you think in any way, the Labour Party's decision, uh, is a set back for the forces of the uh, opposition, to the uh, President Council's proposals?"

Alan BOESAK: "Oh, I think that the Labour Party's decision may have caused initial confusion in the minds of people, uh, because of the ploy that the Labour Party has been using. Using the, the, uh, I mean the words like the oppressed masses, working for one man one vote and unitary state, and people would think, maybe this is a way to get to those goals. But I don't believe that the confusion will reign for, for any long term in our communities. And therefore uh, I do not think it so much a set back for the opposition forces, because the Labour Party, has never really been seen as a genuine democratically motivated opposition force."

Paul DAVID: "In the so-called Coloured area, uhm, there are no

political organisations except, the Labour Party. Who then do you think should spearhead the Anti-President's Council proposals campaign in these areas?"

Alan BOESAK: "Oh, I think again, we do not have a political organisation in the community, simply because we believe that the formation of a political organisation right now, within this present context, would at some point or another mean uh collaborating with the system. We're not interested in that, and so what we have formed is community organisations, sports organisations and those are the organisations again, together with churches, and student bodies, or who would be spear-heading this campaign."

Paul DAVID: "In the Transvaal for example, uhm, Ad-Hoc Anti-PC Committee has already been formed, we heard Dr MOHAMMED this afternoon, talk about this. Do you think such committees should be formed in the Coloured community, communities nationwide?"

Alan BOESAK: "That is a possibility, this is a possibility. And Uh, again it is not for me to decide, but uh, similar meetings like this one, will certainly be held in Cape Town, and in this meetings, at meetings like that, whether people must these decisions."

PROF ISMAEL MOHAMMED: "We the Ad-hoc Anti-President Council Committee, salute the Anti-SAIC on its overwhelming success in exposing the SAIC, and other bureaucratic structures of the apartheid regime. The Transvaal Anti-SAIC Committee has played a magnificent role in deepening the consciousness of the oppressed people and increasing our commitment to work towards change. We wish you every success in the congress and we re-affirm our commitment to struggle towards achieving our common ideals for a truly free, non-racial and democratic South Africa. That is the message from the Ad-hoc Anti-President Council Committee."

(POSTER OF MOLVI SALOJEE, PAST PRESIDENT OF THE TIC APPEARS ON SCHREEN)

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Dr R A M SALOJEE (TIC): "May I ask all of you to stand in silence, for the late Molvi SALOJEE.

Dr E E JASSAT: Mr Chairman, Helen JOSEPH, Dr BOESAK, Mr Thomazile GQWETA, delegates from the Transvaal and our fraternal delegates from Cape Town, the Cape Province and Natal, I would like to welcome you to this, the first congress of the Transvaal Anti-SAIC Committee. The news you heard a little while ago has upset many of us, it has stunned me. Molvi SALOJEE, was my mentor, my guide and has inspired me. On Wednesday after he had come out of the intensive care unit, I went to see him, and he was not concerned about his own health. He wanted to know how the plans for the conference were progressing. He asked me to convey his best wishes to this meeting. He said laughingly that uh, forces greater than him, have confined him to a bed, and that he would not be able to attend this meeting in Selbourne hall. He joked about it. He looked well and we thought, and I thought he was well on the way to progress. Unfortunately he has been taken away from us. The tragedy of the situation is that many gallant men, like Molvi SALOJEE and others, have been taken away from us. Some by God, others by forces that dominate and run this country. It is a tragedy that they have not seen the liberation of our people."

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Unknown female: "Mr M J PATEL, the executive member of the Transvaal Anti-SAIC Committee, felt that the new political situation, required an organisation which is mass-based and which would actively incorporate the mass of the people, as opposed to a committee which does not incorporate the mass of the community in decision making. Therefore he called for the revival of the Transvaal Indian Congress. These were some of the responses, following his paper."

Unknown Indian male - (POOR SOUND) "(inaudible) ... and in order to make the struggle a success. It is quite important that our organisation (inaudible) ... that will put forward our viewpoint (inaudible) ... to protect the (inaudible) ... The transvaal Indian Congress (inaudible) *."

(APPLAUSE)

Rabbi BAGWANDEEN- stands up and addresses the delegation: "(inaudible) ... is unanimous about the formation of the TIC, fourthly, and that we did call upon your (inaudible) to call a meeting within the next (inaudible) ... I would, I would suggest to the chairman, that the Transvaal should table a motion in order to give this meeting direction and to get moving, to get moving with the matter."

Unknown Indian Male: "(inaudible) that this conference of the Transvaal Anti-SAIC requests the Transvaal Anti-SAIC Committee to contact previous officials of the Transvaal Indian Congress with a view to call a public meeting to resuscitate the Transvaal Indian Congress within the next two months. I hope I find the support (inaudible)."

Delegates vote.

Cassim SALOJEE: "(inaudible) ... the former members of the Transvaal Indian Congress. (Audience applause). I take it that (inaudible) unanimous decision, (inaudible) ..."

Indian male: "(inaudible) ... a separate body, I object to Indian, I object to Coloured, I object to White, I object to Black (inaudible) ... to create a new body, uh, which is united, then I would opt (inaudible)..."

Samson NDOU: "(inaudible) ... everybody here in the conference prove beyond no reasonable doubt, that they want the revival of the TIC, and uh, one man decided to come up against it. (inaudible) ... eh most of (inaudible) we revived the Transvaal Indian Congress (inaudible) ... but I want to remind everybody here, this afternoon that TIC eh, is not a tribal organisation. (Applause) (Inaudible) ... which was a part of the Congress Alliance. (Applause) (Inaudible) ... Revival of TIC is a revival of the people's organisation. (Applause) (inaudible)"

Paul DAVID: "(inaudible) ... there was a far-reaching decision to resuscitate the Transvaal Indian Congress. What is your attitude to uh, this, what we can call a one-time sister organisation of the Natal Indian Congress?"

COOVADIA: "We think this is an important occasion in the development of democracy in this country, and we recognise that there are certain political needs and aspirations of Indian South Africans, and we believe that the Transvaal Indian Congress, in its resuscitated form, will be able to satisfy those needs. We also believe that in the general movement towards democracy, not only for Indian South Africans, for all South Africans, that the re-formation of the TIC is extremely crucial. We remember that the TIC was an important constituent of the Congress Alliance, which was made up of democrats of all kinds. And therefore we see this as heralding a new approach to the development of unity of all race groups in this country.

Paul DAVID: "... NAIDOO, what a great pleasure to see you at this congress. You were here from the time it started yesterday. What do you think of this congress?"

Mrs NAIDOO: "There has never been a better time to revive the ..."

Paul DAVID: "Congress, which congress are you talking about. The Transvaal Indian Congress?"

Mrs NAIDOO: "Ja",

Paul DAVID: "That suggestion was made here? You support that suggestion?"

Mrs NAIDOO: "Ja, Ja. Yes I support it."

Paul DAVID: "And what did you think of this conference?"

Mrs NAIDOO: "Very good. You think of the olden days."

Paul DAVID: (inaudible) "...the old days, that atmosphere is still there. And it must have been nice for you to see all the old faces here?"

Mrs NAIDOO: "Ah, yes, I saw a lot of old faces. I was so glad."

Paul DAVID: "Is there a message for all the youngsters who are here?"

Mrs NAIDOO: "Yes. They must carry on the work that we all do."

Paul DAVID: "Yes, that is lovely. And anything else for them? And, uh, you will be very happy if you see the TIC built up to strength it was in the old days. Yes."

Mrs NAIDOO: "Yes, yes."

Paul DAVID: "Well, thank you very much (inaudible) and I hope you're

enjoying yourself at this conference."

Paul DAVID: "Samson there are some people who argue that the Transvaal Indian Congress will be an ethnic body and that the period of uh, ethnic parties is over. Do you agree that TIC could be an ethnic body?"

Samson NDOU: "Uh, I don't agree to that. People are saying, you know uh, that because they are just concentrating in the name, Indian, uh. They don't understand that uh, the, the Transvaal Indian Congress used to be a part of the Congress Alliance, which eh, looking into the whole thing there's nothing like tribal you know eh, eh connotations in the whole thing because ... all these organisations, they came up with the Freedom Charter."

PRAKASSIM, Indian male:

"(inaudible) ... resolution with overwhelming support calling for the revival of the Transvaal Indian Congress was passed at the Anti-SAIC Congress. Doctor JASSAT, why do you feel there's a need to revive the Transvaal Indian Congress?"

Dr JASSAT: "The need to revive the Transvaal Indian Congress, because for a period of something like 20 years there has been a political vacuum in the lives of the people of the Transvaal. With the repression of the 60's, most of the leaders of the Indian people in the Transvaal, were either banned, detained or had to leave the country. And for a period there was no political guidance for the Indian people. In June '81 with the announcement of the South African Indian Council election, the Anti-SAIC Committee was formed and its mandate was to campaign throughout the province to see that people would abstain from voting. This they have successfully carried out. Now with the creation of a tricameral parliament, it is felt that a political body must be hu, established in the Transvaal, which will act as a vehicle for the hopes,

the desires, the aspirations of the people of this province. And since the Transvaal Indian Congress had such a honourable and a dignified past, its actions in the past have, something to proud of. It was felt that if any political organisation was to be established for the Indian people in this province, then the correct thing would be to resuscitate the Transvaal Indian Congress, because it is, it has been known both here and internationally as the organ, for the, the, to, which has represented the people in this country. But also that it has been the political organisation under whose leadership, the greatest amount of joint political action took place, with all the other groups in this land."

Song: Singing of song. (inaudible)

(VIDEO INTERRUPTION)

Cassim SALOJEE: "(inaudible)... promote the struggle for freedom. The South African government (inaudible) however persisted in the attempts to undermine the efforts of peace-loving sportsmen, by organising (inaudible) ... which show some disregard (inaudible) ... we hereby call on all democratic and freedom-loving people to fight that is just and to (inaudible) right all those in favour. ... (people voting) Audience applause.

CASSIM SALOJEE: "(inaudible) ... to participate in the proposal (inaudible) ... constitution. (Inaudible) ... those in favour of (inaudible) ... (vote again) (inaudible)..."

People vote. Music follows while delegates appear to have a meal.

Paul DAVID interviews BOESAK.

the desires, the aspirations of the people of this province. And since the Transvaal Indian Congress had such a honourable and a dignified past, its actions in the past have, something to be proud of. I was felt that if any political organisation was to be established for the Indian people in this province, then the correct thing would be to resuscitate the Transvaal Indian Congress, because it is, it has been known both here and internationally as the organ, for the, the to, which has represented the people in this country. But also that it has been the political organisation under whose leadership, the greatest amount of joint political action took place, with all the other groups in this land."

Song: Singing of song. (Inaudible).

CASSIM SALOJEE (very incoherent) -

..... by the Transvaal Anti-SAIC Committee (motion on cultural and sport isolation) of South Africa. This Congress, noting the complete isolation of South African sporting and cultural field promote the struggle for freedom. That the South African Government and its racist allies are ever persistent in the attempts to undermine the efforts of freedom loving sportsmen by organising sell-out tours and (squandering) millions of rands on through the toil of the oppressed. Strongly condemned: 1) the racist who organise these tours; and 2) the mercenary sports person in particular the West Indies presently touring South Africa who show some selfish disregard for the concern of our people. We hereby call on all democratic and freedom loving people to voice their disgust and boycott these tours.

Right

All those in favour of this resolution.

Those, those against.

This resolution is also unanimously carried. (Applause).

(Very incoherent).

..... the support by the USA and its Western lackeys of the minority Government in South Africa, as evidence not as evidenced more particularly in its recent support for the Labour Party's decision to participate in the proposed new constitution condemns this collaboration with the racist regime and imperialist powers, that this treachery can serve only to obstruct the struggle of democracy in South Africa, but will not deter us from our goal.

Those in favour of this resolution? Those against?

Unopposed carried due unanimously.

People vote. Music follows while delegates appear to have a meal.

PAUL DAVID interviews BOESAK.

Paul DAVID: "What (inaudible) ... effective opposition can be mobilised against the presidents council's proposals?"

Dr BOESAK: "All of the organisations in the communities. The Anti-SAIC Committee, the uh, uh, community organisations, sports bodies, uh, church groups, student organisations and so on. All of these organisations can be pulled together and they can pool their resources and, and together they can form an Ad-hoc, uh, uh, platform on which to fight uh, the Labour Party's decision. And I am sure that uh, with a little hard work, we will be able to convince uh, the vast majority of the people, uh, not to participate."

Paul DAVID: "And form do you think this opposition should take?"

Alan BOESAK: "A simple form of uh, uh, giving information, uh, calling people together, having meetings and specially making sure that uh, if there is going to be an election campaign, that, that would fail."

Paul DAVID: "I see. You have suggested in the course of your speech, the necessity for a united front in opposing the government's constitutional proposals. Who do you think should constitute this united front?"

Dr BOESAK: "I have just mentioned, uh, uh, all the democratic bodies that already exist. And I think, uh, maybe this congress and and other meetings throughout South Africa. People ought to get together and lay down certain very clear conditions, uh, on which individuals and uh, organisations, ought to be invited to come and join this campaign. We should not just simply take everybody. Uh, we should be very clear as to where we are going, what kind of organisation we want, and whether the organisation that wants to join this campaign, has in fact been part of our democratic tradition in our struggle."

Paul DAVID: "And what role do you think uhm, the churches in South Africa, will play in this united front?"

Dr BOESAK: "Oh, I think, uh, basically one thing, but maybe, uh an emphasis on, on two things that the church could do. The one basic thing that the churches ought to do, is simply to join the people, uh, in their struggle. There is no such thing as a separate Christian struggle, or a separate church struggle. Uh, in in this regard. We ought to simply say, the people who are also our constituency, uh, these are the people who are part and who are forming, this, this, movement. We ought to be part of that as well. Our emphasis could simply be, one of information and one of making sure, that those people who belong to the Christian churches, ought to understand, the basic Christian moral values that lie also, uh, underneath our decision, for, for boycotting the Presidents Council and for, not participating. And that would be our, our uh, role, I think."

Paul DAVID: "Yes, and you, you then don't see the church as playing a role outside this united front?"

Dr BOESAK: "Oh no, not at all. If the churches, uh, have any role to play, it would be within a common united front."

Paul DAVID: "(inaudible) ... on a political role."

Dr BOESAK: "Ja, except that, that, that politics is never a devoid of morality, and morality is the concern of the churches and secondly politics has to do with, with people making laws for people. Creating conditions for people. And people, from the point of view of the church, are, are the image-bearers of God, and we have a special responsibility for them, and where politics, uh, are involved with

PEOPLE THERE THE CHURCH IS INVOLVED WITH POLITICS IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT.

that."

(VARIOUS PRESS CUTTINGS PHOTOGRAPHED)

(VIDEO INTERRUPTION)

Paul DAVID: "(inaudible) ... again firstly uhm, that a united democratic front be formed from (inaudible) or organisations (inaudible) commission asked a couple of people out here to draw up a declaration, which, uh, encompasses the (inaudible) ... of the united front against the constitutional reform proposals (inaudible) ... for the benefit of all (inaudible) ... are cherished by the whole of the civilised world, and are those (inaudible) both women and men have given up their lives (inaudible) ... and whereas the constitutional reform proposals, devised by the minority white government of South Africa (inaudible) and active participation by the people of this country (inaudible) and now therefore, we democrats, assembled on this, the 23rd day of January 1983, at the Selbourne Hall in Johannesburg, South Africa, (inaudible) reject Indian totality and without (inaudible) the constitutional and reform proposals. Form ourselves into the United Democratic Front (inaudible) the UDF to (inaudible) in the creation of a non-racial unitary state in South Africa, (inaudible) by racial or ethnic considerations, consolidated with Bantustan policies (inaudible)..."

Voice of Unknown female (dubbed onto the film soundtrack whilst there is a stoppage of the picture): "Do you (inaudible) some of the outlines as determined by the commission for the basis of a united democratic front?"

Paul DAVID: "(inaudible) ... the continued escalating rent, transport costs and food prices. Four, a clear understanding of (inaudible) ... Five, a true appreciation of the utility of the reformed proposals to restructure and (inaudible) ... education in this country (inaudible) ... and now therefore we pledge to fight together side by side, against

Paul DAVID:

"So if we can just go through those recommendations again.

Firstly uh that an United Democratic Front be formed, comprising organisations or individuals. There must be some debate about whether we should confine ourselves to uh organisations solely or individuals solely, or to both. Then a steering committee comprising these three regions with the functions to co-ordinate opposition of the United Democratic Front to the P.C. proposals and other reform proposals.

Secondly, the second function to streamline, uh to structure the Front and streamline it and secondly to rally support against the proposals. Then we suggest those names and we suggest that the steering committee has the power to add to its own numbers ah Ladies and Gentlemen, the commission asked a couple of people last night to draw a declaration which, uh encompasses the feelings of that commission and to an extent the discussions that took place at that commission. And we printed it in a document ah and we just called it Statement, if you'll excuse me. Statement by the commission of the feasibility of an United Democratic Front against the Constitutional Reform Proposals. Now a preamble reads as follows :-

Where as democracy is the means by which the free will of the people is expressed in electing their chosen representatives to govern in the processes through which they rule and in the allocation of resources of the benefit of all the people. And whereas these truths are cherished by the whole of the civilized world and are goals for which women and men have given up their lives and are willing to die. And whereas the Constitutional Reform proposals devised by the minority White Government for South Africa avoid recognition of these fundamental needs of democracy. In that there has been imposed without genuine consultation with and active participation by the people of this country, that they make race and ethnicity the only criteria for the right to take part in government. They do not begin to redress the intrinsic economic and social inequalities which has been the deliberate result of centuries of White domination. They in fact perpetuate and consolidate economic and racial exploitation and entrench the apartheid State. And now, therefore we democrats assembled on this the 23rd day of January 1983 at the Selbourne Hall in Johannesburg. South Africa, do hereby unanimously reject in their totality and without qualification the constitutional and reform proposals. From ourselves into an United Democratic Front, in short the UDF, to oppose the implementation of this devious scheme disguised to divide the people. We declare that the broad principles on which this UDF is constituted are: a belief in the tenets of democracy referred to in the preamble above. An unshakeable conviction in the creation of a non-racial unitary state in South Africa undiluted by racial or ethnic considerations as formulated in the BANTUSTAN policy. An adherence to the need for unity and struggle through which all democrats, regardless of race, religion or colour shall take part together. A recognition of the necessity to work in consultation with, and reflect accurately the demands of the democratic people wherever they need be in progressive worker community and student organisations."

Voice of Unknown female (dubbed onto the film soundtrack whilst there is a stoppage of the picture): "Do you (inaudible) some of the outlines as determined by the commission for the basis of a united democratic front?"

the government's constitutional and reform proposals."
(Applause).

Paul DAVID: "Well, how does the Natal Indian Congress as you see it, intend opposing the uh, president's coun, council's proposals?"

Prof. Jerry COOVADIA: "We believe that uh, the best way to oppose the proposals is in fact to make people aware of the serious dangers that these proposals entail for both Indian South Africans and Coloured South Africans to participate in this particular form of uh, constitutional dispensation. We think that the Natal Indian Congress should also somehow be involved, in mobilising opinion, right across the board. We think that these proposals effect not only Indian South Africans but also Coloured South Africans obviously, but are also, of importance to all democratic South Africans, Africans and Whites included. So therefore we believe that there should be a united front of all democratic South Africans, struggling against the implementations of these proposals."

Paul DAVID: "Okay, we heard some talks this afternoon about uh, united front. Now as a trade unionist, what role do you think, the trade unions must play in the united front?"

Samson NDOU: "Uhm, eh, the trade unions have a very important role to play in the united front."

PRAKASSIM: "(inaudible) ... the Transvaal Anti-SAIC Committee, playing in the united front."

Dr JASSAT: "(inaudible) ... Transvaal Anti-SAIC Committee, was the initiator, with the other organisations of the Ad-hoc Committee to establish a united democratic front. We see our role as a vital one.

Paul DAVID: "An acknowledgement of the threat to the attainment of decent living standards by the African majority by these proposals which would facilitate forced removals, aggravating impoverishment in the Bantustans and allow the continued escalation in rents, transport costs and food prices.

(4) A clear understanding of the utter failure of these proposals to address the problems of rising unemployment, low wages, poor working conditions and weakened collective bargaining powers.

(5) A clear appreciation of the inability of the reform proposals to restructure and redirect education in this country, to conform to the demands of democracy. In fact they maintain and consolidate racially separated and unequal education. And now therefore we pledge to fight together side by side against the Government's Constitutional and Reform Proposals." (Applause).

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As the organisation that, that has been responsible for initiating this eh, move. We, think that our role is to, uh, to, uh, propagate the idea of a united democratic front, firstly in the Transvaal and then through the interim committee throughout the province. Where we hope to mobilise all the democratic forces in this land, who are opposed to the creation of a, of to the creation of the uh, the President's Council, but also to oppose all those elements, who hope to fragment this country."

Paul DAVID: "(inaudible) to try our best to make it as relevant as possible to this conference. So what we have to propose, are a few minor alterations, particularly to the preamble, and I would like this to be a contribution of all those forces that came together, at that historic conference at the height of the Anti-SAIC campaign, (inaudible) in Durban, and this is what we propose. We South African democrats, (inaudible) on the 10th and 11th of October 1981, and recognising that the South African government has had the temerity and insensitivity to introduce new constitutional schemes, (inaudible) we hereby declare for all South Africans, and the world to know, that the struggle for the past 27 years, has convinced us that the only viable alternative to the present exploitative and repressive system is one based on the principles of the Freedom Charter."

Audience applause.

Mayibuye - xl

I'Afrika -

Paul DAVID: "Accordingly this national conference, firmly believes that one, the people shall govern (inaudible) ... all fellow South Africans shall participate in the political process (inaudible). The present government, bantustans, presidents councils, South African Indian

Councils (inaudible) and exclude the possibility of establishing the people's democracy. The people shall govern."

People sing Nkosi Sikelele Afrika with fists clenched raised in salute.

(PRESS CUTTINGS APPEAR)

Amandla - x1

NGAWETHU -

FREEDOM CHARTER 26 JUNE 27th Anniversary and Molvi SALOJEE
POSTERS APPEAR ON SCREEN.

End of tape.