

BEW.

V9 PAR.38

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

SPEAKERS:

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

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.

ASSESSOR

CORRECTIONS :

I, ABIE ABRAM MAHLANGU, am a Senior Interpreter in the Department of Justice, and I am stationed at the Magistrates' Courts in Johannesburg.

I was requested by the Attorney-General for the Transvaal to check the transcript of this recording against the tape/cassette and bring about any corrections, if any.

I did this to the best of my ability and found this transcript to be just and correct.

A.A. MAHLANGU.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over the typed name 'A.A. MAHLANGU.'. The signature consists of several loops and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke that extends to the right.

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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TIC MEETING LENASIA 1984.02.08

Dr Jassat: (video interruption).... "of this country. This man (video interruption)..... platform and many others during the Anti-SAIC campaign. (Interruption)... who in the past have left this world. And I would like to request you to stand up and show our respect to these individuals by one minutes silence." (Audience stand).

"Thank you (video interruption) some of (inaudible) that the Anti-SAIC committee which was the forerunner of the, the ^{Transvaal Indian Congress} (inaudible). The anti-SAIC committee contributed towards bringing the polls down to 10% and in, and even lower. We (inaudible) are quite confident that our success, (inaudible) even greater in the coming days that lie ahead. But this can only take place if you 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 our people. We meet at a time when the position (inaudible).... to all the oppressed people of this land (video interruption) the people for twenty pieces of silver (inaudible) Is he not the same person who resigned from the Presidents Council, because Blacks were totally excluded from the new constitutional development (video interruption) to lobby for (video interruption) and accept (video interruption) how schizophrenic ^{Can one get the same revolution} (inaudible) they should find the 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's genuinely interested in saving the South African tax payer's 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 here is Pat POOVALINGAM 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 Hendrickses and the Coloured political parties, if they had asked for a referendum, (inaudible) POOVALINGHAM 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 (video interruption) Mr Pillay has not been very successful in his business 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. (Audience applause).

"There is another group, headed by Salaam Mayet and his cronies, (inaudible) Ahmed LIMBADH, Abu KHAN and Faiz KHAN (phonetical) who want to start an all-Muslim political party. I can assure them complete success. Success in getting this hair brained ritual off to a disastrous end. We in the TIC, have mapped out our course of action. As far as the election for the Indian House of Delegate is concerned, we will be asking our people to stay away from the polls, that is to boy, boycott the elections and we did the SAIC elections. (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 months ago, were infinite-simal, 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 (video interruption) referendum being held in our own area. We might have to consider 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, cannot work in a multi-racial 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 300 years ago, on our shores. The new system, (inaudible) purports to be (inaudible) ... and more applicable, is totally devoid of any fairness or legitimacy. For it excludes 80 percent of the people of this land from participating in state structures (inaudible) to this immense and monumental exercise and fraud and deceit. Our acceptance of the new constitution, would perforce 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 feign to be ... White man, to our fellow Africans, a fact the Solidarity only realised when they met Heunis three weeks ago. Finally the (inaudible) of apartheid, by allowing them to fight a war (inaudible) (video interruption) a non-racial and a just South Africa

for all. (inaudible) ... Fight for it?

Audience applause

(AMANDLA - A audience)

(AWETHU - A audience X1)

"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'm 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 twelve. We don't propose to do this, this evening. The first speaker tonight is Terror LEKOTA, who is the UDF publish, publicity secretary. He spent five years in jail on Robben Island and was released a little while ago. But in spite of that; he (inaudible)...

(Audience clap and shout UDF.)

Terror LEKOTA: AMANDLA
AWETHU - B AUD X1

"Uh, friends and comrades, fellow South Africans, we talk to you tonight, (inaudible) people, on behalf of the Nationalist party, making local claims, about how the new constitution would be (video and sound interruption) African people. Now I want to say to you, that even if the new constitution included African people, we would still reject it. (Audience applause.) 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 the 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 has not been drafted for us as the people of South Africa. We want a constitution that shall be drafted by the people of South

Africa, for themselves. We want a constitution (inaudible) in which the people shall govern. (audience applause)(interruption.)

those which are never allowed publication in this country, those which are either banned and suppressed (inaudible) decades of this century, have often said that 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 setback has provoked an increased amount of resurgence of organisation and resistance. The emergence of the Transvaal Indian Congress in the ages of our day. The emergence of the (inaudible) the emergence (inaudible) a myriad of community based student, workers, churchmen and various organisations of that nature, all of them committed to a struggle (inaudible) ... country (video interruption) (audience applause)

"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 (inaudible) a number of eh, complaints from various sectors of our communities. And I (inaudible) but more because, most of them are misplaced and because of that, caused a lot of confusion (inaudible) 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 in fact a serious accusations 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 it could have been the work of mischief makers. It is the sort of ignorance in the sense that, the Transvaal Indian Congress, is a direct outgrowth of the resistance tradition that was set up by Gandhi in Natal in the close of this century, or the beginning of this century. (Audience applause.)

The Transvaal Indian Congress grew directly out of the struggles of (inaudible) that Mahatma Gandhi was a racist. Why? I want to say therefore that (video interruption) (Audience: Applause)

Of the doctors, of the Doctors pact in 1947. When Doo, Dadoo XUMA, Naicker met and signed (video interruption) peoples uniting them, and committed them to a common struggle to defeat apartheid in this country. The Transvaal Indian Congress, subsequently became part and parcel (inaudible) (video interruption) established a program, the Freedom Charter, which makes it quite clear, that we want a government in which the people shall govern. (applause.)

(inaudible) is that we are waging our struggle in this country today in conditions which are racist. We are carrying on the struggle (inaudible) we are organising our people in Soweto, in (inaudible). We are not organised to consolidate racism. We are organised (inaudible) We want to say to them, those problems are (inaudible) which are racist policies (inaudible). The Transvaal Indian Congress I have no doubt in my mind is committed^{to} that ideal, more than any other of those organisations which have criticised it. And therefore again I want to say, those criticisms are absolutely (inaudible) United Democratic Front. A front of (inaudible) a front which accepts South Africans from all racial groupings in this

country, in one (video and sound interruption) but who themselves shall be fit enough to live in that type of society. The United Democratic Front, had to mobilise against the new, the new constitutions 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 eh 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 (inaudible) opposition to apartheid. I will submit that the amount of differences which exist between the different affiliates of the United Democratic Front. Indeed, if you like you could say that there is 90 percent difference, between the constituents of the United Democratic Front. Our interest is in the 10 percent agreement, that the new constitution and re, re, legislation, is unacceptable to the people of South Africa. That is what constitutes this front. The United Democratic Front therefore, is united, pulling together students, workers, peasants, pulling together every sector of the population of our country (sound intermittent) All of them, pulling them together. Building them into one (inaudible) force, that must in fact bring down apartheid. But the United Democratic Front is also democratic. It is democratic because, it does not tell the people of our country what they want. The United Democratic Front (inaudible)... it is therefore important that the, Transvaal Indian Congress enjoys the support of the specific community that it is organising today. Not because its commitment (sound intermittent) the Transvaal Indian Congress goes far (inaudible).... United Democratic Front is committed to

(inaudible).... of South Africa, black and white.
(Audience applause.)(Video and sound intermittent)

...appeal to you. I'd like to say you must strengthen the United, the Transvaal Indian Congress. In strengthening the Transvaal Indian Congress, you are strengthening (video interruption) ... capacity to make whatever sacrifices that are necessary to carry forward this (inaudible and intermittent).... who are in fact today misleading our country, who are committing it to a disastrous future. You can, are the only people in fact, who have (sound intermittent) ...(applause.)(video interruption)

DR E.E. JASSAT : (Sound inaudible)(video interrupted)

Firoz CACHALIA: (Sound quality and video very poor and intermittent)(dots denote interruptions).

.....? "..... of white supremacy when that time comes ... we believe that it is our duty and responsibility to help the community response to the new constitutional proposals. This we believe must be done Gandhi a national leader but there is no cause for despair(audience applause.)

DR E.E. JASSAT: "I'd recollect that Nanabhai Sita (phonetical) from his death bed, opposed the group areas, and fought against the group areas (inaudible) ... then also we have this evening Mrs(applause)..... Mahatma Gandhi quite a link with the Gandhi tradition. (audience applause.)

Singing - HLANGANANI BASEBENZI HLANGANANI (Unite workers unite) (Video interruption)

audience applause

(Performance by Lenasia Youth League of a skit on the new constitution.) (Video quality poor)

Unknown Indian male (LYL):Ek sê Blank is 'n boerdery. Dames en here, ladies and gentlemen, ek is baie gelukkig vanaand. Maar oe! omdat ek het 'n plan applause.... waar's my plan. A hiers dit. Hiers die plan. Ek het 'n plan for all who want a place in the South African sun, (audience applause.) Through a great and magical concoction, I'll bring to you the new constipation, uh Jammer ek bedoel constitution ..(audience applaud) Is nie constipation nê. Is constitution. (Audience applaud). Dames en Here regardless of the people's will, I give you the Presidents Council. Eh wat nog, I have here at my disposal, the new constipational disposal. Uh, iets het verkee, verkeerd geloop. The new constitutional (inaudible) Ja, ek is nie goed in Engels nie. (interruption,) (applause) take note you are getting the vote. Uh, Uh, before you think I'm balmy we'll shove them into the army... (applause). So once again they'll stand in line, and defend apartheids grand design. En toe, and so to parliament it shall be in chambers een, twee, drie. So why argue, join in the fun and consider the ratio. Non whites(laughter).... for the rest ...(applause.)

Indian female (LYL) No. 1: "Ladies and gentlemen, are we to accept this without even ... to accept a share ... constitution ... exclusion of the majority of our population.

Indian Female (LYL) No. 2: Is it not easy to forget our past. Is that reason at last. Is it so easy to by what the ruler has provided, is this to be and gentlemen I ask you. Is that new constitution to be our destination?

Indian Female (LYL) No. 3: The mission of our people is three-fold, accept it and you lose your soul. It is so easy we(applause)... interruption.

Dr Jassat: "..... on the stage with us. Prema himself was jailed for one year in 1981. He has a brother who self came here from Robben Island. Prema comes from a (inaudible) family that has devoted it's total resources to the struggle of the people of this land. Those who are over and eh, who know the past history of the TIC, will remember Roy as that person who was the backbone of the congress in the 50's and uh, the sixties. He was the one who saw to the mechanics 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. It is a great pleasure for me to ask Prema to address you. (applause.)

Prema NAIDOO: Good evening brothers and sisters, comrades and fellow workers. The Government 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 deliberately separating questions around parliament from how it will affect 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 TIC believe that this deliberate attempt to obscure how the constitution will affect the daily lives of our people at the levels of housing, unemployment, rising costs of living and education is, is an 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 effects of these policies, will be to increase our difficulties and hardship, and will perpetrate 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 is this is going to make the 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 governments 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 extentions like extention 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 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 come 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 money 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 develop 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 GST showed that, that the Government is towards solving the rising cost in living. Daily basic items 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 R300 000 ^{Million} ~~000,00~~ on defence, than on food. The constitution has a built in absolute majority for the white nasionalist 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 agression against the independent states, independent sovereign states, and against our people with in the country. We cannot therefor accept this constitution. In education as well steps has being taken which has serious implication for the of our children. Unscrupulous discredited individualist like RASJEBANSJEE has been entrusted with the future of our children. In November 1981 our 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 Nomination. There might be some who see the constitution as something which takes the Indian people a step further a step toward having a equal opportunity as a white but we must not be fooled we must see the real implications 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 agitators and today the situation places a tremendous responsibility on us it demand a active interest and participation of each and everyone of us. It requires that we stand united an prevent the RAJBANSI's, SALAM-MAYETS, ^{Dancing Fellows} ~~parades~~ 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 on siding with the oppressor In critical time our people 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 quo er we will have to join up with KwaZulu. We know it is a statement of desperation. Botha is so clearly exposed and 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 terrorist and He tells us that what we want is unreasonable. But what is unreasonable of about the demand for a national convention what is unreasonable for 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 Xl

Audience NGAWETHU - B (Applause)

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 work-force to carry the message of the TIC to the length and breadth of Lenasia and the Transvaal. We need the work-force to take a message of the TIC 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 at 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. Its 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 NIC 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 UDF and incidentally he is married to Pela who is the grand daughter of Mahatma Ghandi. I would like to ask Mewa to say a few words to you. (Applause)(Video interruption).

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 of 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 (inaudible) the late Ahmed TIMOL and the late Neil AGGETT. That we have as the gifts of our our (inaudible) from the Transvaal. Comrade Chair, I'm sorry if I cannot go through 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 guaranteed, 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 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. They banished into the bantustans, detentions without recourse to the courts, bannings, disappearances, deaths and murders under unexplained circumstances, 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 black people 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 order of the day. The result of this effect of the

group areas Act, is 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 strate strategy called, oh sorry, its part of its total strategy.

The government in these circumstances has introduced the so-called new constitutional proposals, the reality of economic exploitation political domination and (inaudible) 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 aspects of every South African existence. The best way to explain this is to use the words of Magnus MALAN himself. 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 court those two group not only into a more privileged class but also eventually to conscript them into 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 power of that vote, what are they going to vote for. We believe that the tri-cameral system is designed 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 Gandhi, 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.

(Inaudible) who do not know, what solidarity means. Then let us stop the while and find out what does it mean.

Pick up any simple dictionary and you'll know that solidarity means, holding together. That it means mutual dependence 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 creator of Solidarity will have said in February 1981 (inaudible) 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, my 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 your boys. (Applause)

(Inaudible). There is still doubt in your minds about conscription for Indians, then why will Mr Poovalingam 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 Quran 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 drafted for compulsory military training in the same way 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 Misters 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 (bad pronunciation) 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 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 as 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.

In all government circles and amongst supporters of the apartheid system the constitutional proposals have been used to sell 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 that so-called power. This was expressed in substantiation of that point. Among the terms of the new dispensation 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 mounth 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 Rajban s; 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 Africa 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 (URDU). I leave you these thoughts about the (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 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 Union partners to hold a referendum in n 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 Africa for all (applause).

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).

(Inaudible) 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 in action is for us to demand that we must with the hands and minds of steel build our organisational strength that must ultimately shatter apartheid.

In unity we have to further unite, mobilise 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 create our womens organisations because we can never be free for as long as half the human race who happen to be women 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 world.

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 create 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 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, us 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 selfrespect 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 ^{who} also set foot on the soil of South Africa. (applause.)

"We may be Indian by 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 any other hue that may emerge from the ashes of a new South Africa in which the words 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. You have been given a number of facts tonight, when 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 (inaudible) ... 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 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 in (inaudible) of oppression. Let us not surrender the noble values which flow from the spiritual (inaudible) of our respective faiths and convictions. Let us no (inaudible) history of (inaudible) and leadership we have given to the freedom struggle of this country. Let us (inaudible) of leadership, pride end of tape.

0016Q/MC