

J4.14 EXHIBIT AAP

AAP

SUNDAY TRIBUNE 9/10/83

and the men from Azapo

THE irony was that when Azapo president Lybon Mabaso and vice-president Saths Cooper went on the air for the first time in South Africa this week, no one raised a hair. A short while ago the authorities considered them so dangerous that they had banned Mr Mabaso and imprisoned Mr Cooper on Robben Island.

At once these men were ready to answer questions on their ideology on Capital Radio's Great Referendum Debate, not a single right-winger was prepared to confront their political bogeymen.

Every caller during the hour-long open line session appeared to sympathise with Azapo, asking for advice on how to interpret the new constitution, or condemning opinion polls that purported to show coloureds and Indians to be in favour of the proposed "power-sharing."

The most vexing question came from a Yacob Aba of the University of Durban-Westville. He asked why Azapo had not joined the United Democratic Front to fight the constitutional proposals.

Mr Mabaso smiled, mentioned a letter from the UDF in his desk drawer and gave a Mona Lisa answer: "That is an Azapo-UDF issue; we will

**VIEW FROM THE LEFT**

STUBS  
-9 OCT 1983  
JAGGER BOL AZAPO

sort it out among ourselves."

Saths Cooper diplomatically added that the two organisations were still discussing the matter; that they followed democratic processes and had the right to choose not to work with certain people.

That sticky moment aside, it was all plain sailing for the Azapo men, and it was up to Capital news editor Mike Hanna to draw out their views on the constitutional proposals.

They're not telling whites who qualify to vote whether to put their cross in the Yes or No box. Whichever way the vote goes, they see it as having little relevance to blacks and bringing no real changes into their lives.

"But to avoid future shock, whites should act



□ Azapo's Mabaso and Cooper

responsibly," said Mr Mabasa.

Given Azapo's radical reputation and militant stance, their language was surprisingly bare of rhetoric and oratory.

Mr Cooper's years on Robben Island were evidently not wasted and through his studies he has apparently become an astute observer of international politics. In his comments, he constantly puts today's events in an historical context, using the backdrop of the past to drive home his point.

Mr Mabasa has a sharp sense of humour and wisecracked with the studio crew in the breaks on the cigarette commercials in a non-smoking studio.

But the only real moment of relaxation came near the end when the soft

Wherever I Lay My Head That's My Home wafts across the studio. "O that's nice," said the Azapo president.

These young men are dedicated to achieving the goal they have set themselves: A South Africa where race does not matter. And they believe the only meaningful change towards this goal can come from the "oppressed" black class.

The lasting impression of the two Azapo men is one of cool confidence - a question in itself when you realise that their power base lies in the voteless powerless people of the nation.

□ Azapo's rating: Courtesy 9/10, Directness of answers to question: 6/10, Glibness 5/10, Intelligence of argument 9/10, Charisma 6/10

slow tones of Paul Young's

**Collection Number: AK2117**

**DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985 - 1989**

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:* **Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand**

*Location:* **Johannesburg**

**©2012**

***LEGAL NOTICES:***

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of the collection records and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a private collection deposited with Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.