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THE irony was that when Azapo president Lybon Mabaso and vice-president the Cooper went on the air for the first time in South Africa this week, no

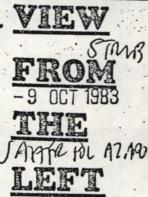
one raised a hair:

A short while ago the authorities considered them so dangerous that they had bannnd Mr Mabaso and imprisoned Mr Cooper on Robben Island. and 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 o 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-UDE issue; we will

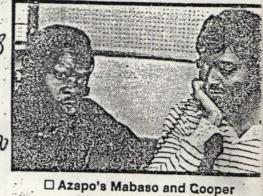


sort it out among ourselves."

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.



responsibly," said Mr Mabasa.

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reputation and militant that's nice," said th stance, their language was Azapo president. surprisingly bare of rhetoric and oratory.

Robben Island were evidently not wasted and where race does not man through his studies he has ter. And they believe th apparently become an astute observer of international politics. In his comments, he constantly puts pressed" black class. today's events in an his- The lasting impretorical 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 Glibness 5/10, Intelligi

Wherever I Lay My Hs That's My Home wafte Given Azapo's radical across the studio. "O

AAR

These young men ar dedicated to achieving th Mr Cooper's years on goal they have set then selves: A South Afric only meaningful chang towards this goal ca come from the "op

The lasting impressio of the two Azapo men is one of cool confidence question in itself when yo realise that their power base lies in the voteless powerless people of the na tion.

Azapo's rating: Cour tesy 9/10, Directness o answers to question: 6/10 "But to avoid future near the end when the soft, bility of argument 9/10 shock, whites should act slow tones of Paul Young's Charisma 6/10

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