

DRUM



WALTER SISULU



NELSON MANDELA

WHAT THE LEADERS SAY

Nearly everyone is talking about May 31, Republic Day. What will happen then? Drum put the same three questions to a number of leaders and here are their various views . . .

1 First question Walter Sisulu and Nelson Mandela were asked was: "Do you advocate peaceful demonstrations for May 31?"

Answered Walter Sisulu: "The time has come for the South African people to demand a big change. We cannot allow the Nats. to continue to disregard call for a non-racial democracy."

Said Mr. Nelson Mandela: "My association with the present campaign is now public knowledge. Everyone knows that I advocate such demonstrations. My answer is simply — yes."

2 What form should the demonstrations around Republic Day take? — they were asked next

Said Mr. Sisulu: "This has been dealt with by the official spokesmen of the campaign. The withdrawal of labour would be most desirable and would seem to be what the people want."

"The programme includes a national stoppage of work for a number of days, the holding of meetings and processions. The details vary in different areas according to local issues."

3 What aim should the demonstrations — against a republic on which our people have not been consulted — aim at?

"We aim to rouse public opinion at home and in countries overseas against the callous attitude of the Nationalists. The people have a right to use the best methods to impel the Government to pay attention to their quite reasonable demands."

Answered Mr. Mandela: "The people will be called upon to continue their protests until their grievances are met. Alternatively, we want the Government to call an all-in national convention to discuss an entirely new constitution here."

PLEASE TURN OVER

**CHIEF LUTHULI**

1 Do you advocate peaceful demonstrations around May 31?

"We have no other way to express our feelings. That is only thing left to the voteless man. I welcome non-violent protests.

2 What form should demonstrations like this take?

There can be marches and meetings or stay-at-homes. As long as they are directed at objectives I share, I welcome them.

3 What should be the aim of the demonstrations?

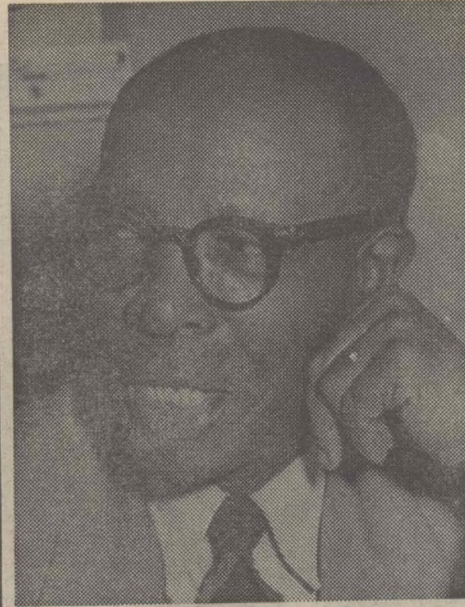
"We are protesting against the establishment of a republic with no reference to us. We feel that White South Africa should not go on making changes in our lives without consulting us."

**GEORGE PEAKE**

"Demonstrations are the only way the mass of people, who have had no say in the establishment of the republic, can show the Government and the world what they think of these plans.

"There should, first of all, be a stoppage of work. From that could grow demonstrations on lines planned by the Maritzburg Conference. There must be a big display against the republic, in which Coloureds must join.

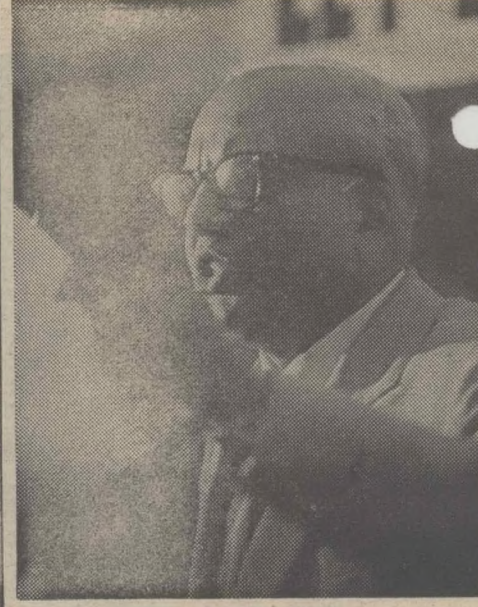
"Our aim should be to show the rest of the world our feelings on the republic. We must counter the hysterical pomp and nonsense with which the White republic is to be ushered in."

**W. B. NGAKANE**

"The demonstrations must go on as planned by the Action Committee. Failure to do so would be a major national tragedy. Nothing must stop our people from expressing themselves.

"The form to be taken by these demonstrations will be given in more detail, later. Part of the programme is certain to allow for a withdrawal of labour.

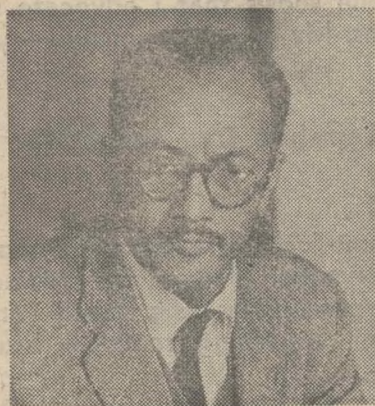
"It should be the aim of these demonstrations to show positively that we claim the right to be consulted about any proposed changes in the constitution of our country. We cannot be treated as minors any longer — we must show that."

**DR. NAICKER**

"The S.A. Indian Congress is in full support of all-in national talks, and if talks are not held we feel that demonstrations should take place on the eve of republic day, May 31.

"There are only a limited number of actions non-Whites in this country can take. Apart from mass meetings and processions, one means of making the Government and the White people see the way we feel would be a general strike.

"Our aim is to rally all our people in support of our big political objectives — the establishment of non-racial democracy based on the United Nations Freedom Charter."

**REG SEPTEMBER**

1 "If the Government does not agree to hold a truly representative national convention we must hold demonstrations. All people should help make new constitution.

2 "We must await the call of the National Action Council so that

the whole country can unite. The most effective weapon we have is, of course, withholding our labour and that is just what we intend to do, when the call comes to us.

3 "This is 1961. The people of Africa are on the move, and there is no longer a place for minority rule. We must end post-office apartheid, job reservation, limited education and colour barriers, wherever they exist. And we must have the vote. That is why we want a National Convention.

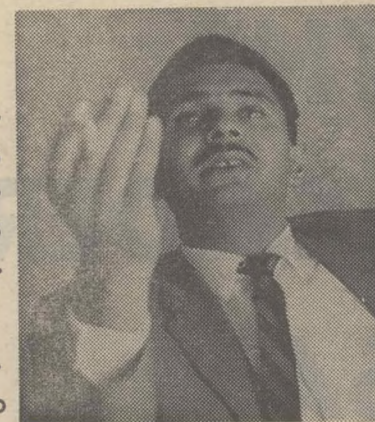
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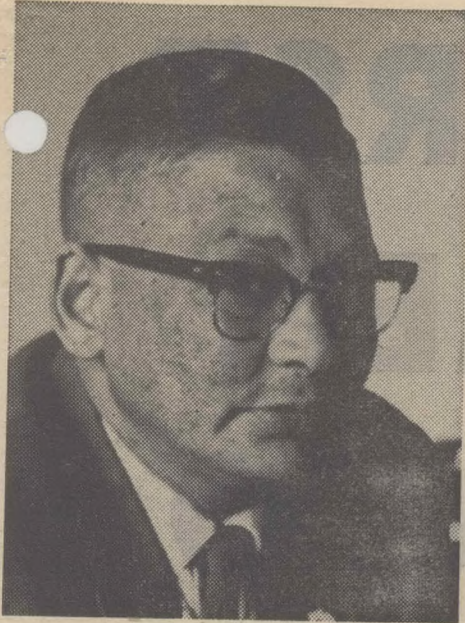
1 "In the absence of parliamentary means of getting redress for our problems, we must demonstrate. It is time Government is shown we oppose 'whites only' rule.

2 "There will be meetings, marches, postcards and telegrams to

the Prime Minister. There may be a call for strike action. There is an obligation on non-White leaders to demonstrate against this republic, no matter how great the sacrifice . . .

3 "The demonstrations against the republic should begin an almost constant campaign against White nationalism. We hope that, from time to time, the Coloured People's Congress will devise means of implementing this policy of non-collaboration. These demonstrations will give the people confidence."



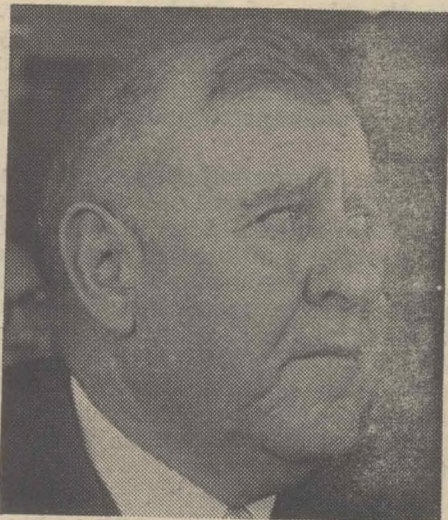


J. B. DANIELS

1 "South Africans in general are aware of the disastrous course being followed by Dr. Verwoerd and demonstrations will show it. It will be an opportunity for Coloured folk to show they dislike apartheid."

2 "The demonstrations should be peaceful and orderly. People should show their contempt for the Republic by staying at home and there should be no intimidation."

3 "The main aim will be to show that the Coloured people are willing to make a stand to help achieve basic human rights for all the people of South Africa, and so ensure the death of racialism."



"NO COMMENT"

DRUM invited Mr. De Wet Nel, Minister for Bantu Affairs and Development, to contribute to the opinions that had been expressed. Mr. De Wet Nel's message was: "No comment."



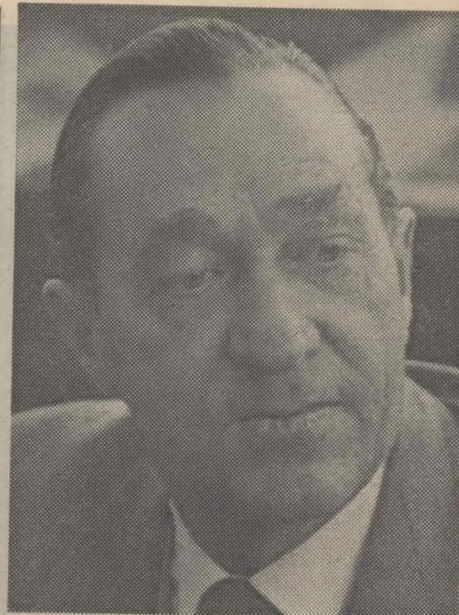
JAPIE BASSON

"I have no objections to any group or race expressing their political opinion at any time whatsoever in a proper manner. Everyone is entitled to express his political feelings. If the demonstrations fall within this category, then very well."



DR. G. MEIDLINGER

"It is obvious the Nationalist Party is unscrupulously using the threat of demonstrations on May 31 as a means of stampeding the whites into a white laager. I call upon all whites to realise that the expected demonstrations are the only form of expression left to two-thirds of the people. All whites who have the future of South Africa at heart, must give moral and material support to the aims of the non-whites. No one can remain aloof from the critical situation our country is facing. Even though large numbers oppose the Government, the whites seem to be subdued."



DR. STEYTLER

"I do not advocate the holding of demonstrations on May 31, other than the official events where the Republic is celebrated through the proper authorities, either government or municipal. I would advise, very strongly, against demonstrations. I don't think these would serve a useful purpose."



STEPHEN DHLAMINI

"I am for massive demonstrations against a Nationalist republic. Short of violence, every effort must be made to bring about the downfall of the Nationalists. In their place a democratic form of government must be elected at a big national convention representing all the people. The mass of our people has only one course open to them. That is to stay at home or to take a part in the mass demonstrations planned. The objective will be to unite the people and rouse world opinion. The real aim is to oppose minority rule . . ."

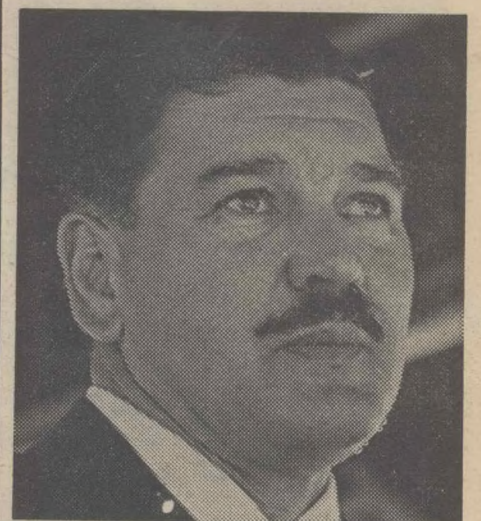


JULIUS MALIE

1 "The withdrawal of labour and peaceful demonstrations are the only means non-whites have for stating their opposition to the policies and practises they do not like. We have no say in our own country."

2 Mr. Malie would not comment on the form the demonstrations should take, explaining that Mr. Nelson Mandela was the spokesman.

3 "One of the campaign's aims is to cause Nationalists some embarrassment as an indication that we feel they're mismanaging the country's affairs. Where no internal peace exists inside a country, such embarrassment is really necessary and inevitable . . ."



"NO TIME"

A DRUM representative waited a whole day for Sir de Villiers Graaff's opinion and was told to come back next morning. He was then told that the U.P. leader had 'no time' to express an opinion on this issue.

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