

Anti-Whiteism—It's a Product of Apartheid

A.N.C. SUNDAY TIMES

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WHO are the "Africanists"? To put it bluntly—they are Africans who are anti-White.

They don't believe in co-operation between Africans and Whites. They regard the White man as a foreigner in Africa.

"Europeans," they say, "can never be in the struggle for freedom." The African must wage the struggle alone, and when he triumphs, he must rule alone.

About 50 of these Africanists attended the Transvaal conference of the African National Congress in a hall in Orlando, Johannesburg, last week-end.

When an A.N.C. woman speaker declared: "Africa is for all," they booed her loudly.

What they lacked in numbers, they made up for in vociferousness. Many of their remarks were confusing and contradictory, but none of us in the hall was left in any doubt about their feelings towards the Whites in South Africa.

Their slogan, "Africa for the Africans," is a warning to the Whites that an Africanist victory will mean the Whites' exclusion from the Government of South Africa.

Africanists do not distinguish between "oppressors" and "sympathisers." No Whites have suffered, they declare, and therefore they cannot sympathise.

'Russians'

THE 50 Africanists at the A.N.C. conference—out of 600 delegates and observers—were an assortment of types. Standing at the back of the hall, too, was a

gang of blanketed, stick-carrying Basutos, or "Russians," whose familiar "strong-arm" services are available for all kinds of occasions, political and otherwise.

Several of the Africanists are talented men who have turned sour, and reject co-operation in any form with Whites, Indians or other racial groups.

But of the 266 delegates, representing 86 branches, at the conference, only 12, drawn from three branches, were Africanists, according to an official A.N.C. statement after the conference.

The statement added that the A.N.C. was not perturbed by the decision of the Africanists to break away and form a separate group dedicated to overthrow "White political domination."

It was certainly not a "big-scale" split, said the statement.

"The A.N.C. regards it as good riddance to a clique who have consistently opposed the policy and decisions of the majority . . . which is opposition to racialism and support for a multi-racial society."

Whether the Africanists have finally quit the A.N.C., however, remains to be seen. Some of the

Africanist leaders are being criticised (by the people who support them behind the scenes) for displaying their anti-Whiteism so openly and they are being publicly disavowed. Apparently, there is a move to abandon the word "Africanist," substitute "African nationalist," and resume the agitation within the A.N.C. against the leadership.

Risky Game

THE unofficial mouth-piece of the Africanists is a leading weekly newspaper for Africans in Johannesburg. It blithely plays with fire.

Some White politicians, too, play with the same fire. They see in the Africanists an opportunity to overthrow the present A.N.C. leadership.

It is time this risky game was stopped. Supporting the Africanists, for whatever motive, is plainly White suicide. The emergence of the Africanist group is an inevitable development in South Africa, where normal political activity is being smothered on all sides. Anti-Whiteism is the inescapable outcome of apartheid.

But for Whites to toy with Africanism in the belief that they will be able to use it for their own ends and then stifle it at will is appalling folly.

Once the African people turn to Africanism—and it has several deceptive forms—there will never be any hope of a peaceful settlement of the racial question.

A.N.C.'s Policy

WHAT is the Africanists' quarrel with the African National Congress?

The A.N.C.'s policy has always been multi-racialism.

It demands equal political rights for all racial groups. On this issue it is implacable.

It is prepared, however, to co-operate with Whites, Indians, Coloureds, anyone who supports this basic principle.

In a letter to the late Prime Minister, Mr. J. G. Strijdom, in May last year, the President-General of the A.N.C., ex-Chief Albert Lutshuij, wrote:

"Congress believes in a common society and holds that citizens of a country, regardless of their race or colour, have the right to full participation in the Government and in the control of their future."

At the conference last week-end Chief Lutshuij attacked "narrow African nationalism" as preached by the Africanists. He said that the A.N.C. was totally opposed to this form of nationalism.

In a recent article another A.N.C. spokesman contrasted the

Danger

THIS article was written because of the widespread interest that has been shown in the activities of the "Africanist" group at the conference of the African National Congress in Johannesburg last week-end.

The forces behind the group are analysed and a warning is given of the danger which the "Africanist" viewpoint carries for White South Africa.

Africanists' slogan of "Africa for the Africans" with the A.N.C. slogan, "South Africa for the South Africans."

Africanism, to put it simply is racialism. It proposes to substitute Black baasskap for White baasskap.

'Anti-C.O.D.'

SOME Africanists say they are not anti-White, that they are only "anti" the particular Whites who belong to the Congress alliance. These Whites are the S.A. Congress of Democrats.

The Congress of Democrats does not have a White monopoly in the Congress alliance. All Whites are free to join the alliance provided they subscribe to the policy of equal rights for all races.

No Whites belong to the A.N.C. or sit on any of its internal committees.

Clearly it is wishful thinking (by Africanists and Whites alike) to imagine that if the Congress of Democrats can be prised out of the Congress alliance, the A.N.C. could be steered into more violent forms of struggle (the Africanists' aim) or safer forms of struggle (the aim of certain Whites).

These Africanists and Whites are misleading themselves if they believe that the A.N.C. is incapable of thinking for itself, and that it would follow any course prescribed for it by the group of Whites who happened to be "controlling" it at the particular moment.

What hope is there of solving our racial problems if we refuse to recognise the elementary fact that, at this stage at least, the A.N.C. is the only important political organisation among the Africans, and that it has a mind of its own?

WHETHER THE POLICIES OF THE A.N.C. ARE RIGHT OR WRONG IS IRRELEVANT TO THIS ARTICLE. WHAT IS RELEVANT IS THAT THESE POLICIES ARE BEING THOUGHT OUT BY THE A.N.C. LEADERS FOR THEMSELVES.

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