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PRESS BULLETIN

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INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

DANGER OF IMPOSED RACIAL POLICIES

The following statement was issued to-day by the South African Institute of Race Relations.

As the National Party Government enters upon its third successive term of office, the South African Institute of Race Relations underlines the necessity for a reassessment of the events of the past ten years. There is the utmost need to view the internal South African situation both within the perspective of world developments and conflicts and in relation to the political and economic changes which are rapidly taking place throughout Africa.

For ten years the Government has pursued its policy of "apartheid": a policy which the electorate has once again endorsed. But this electorate, except for a handful of Coloured men, consists of only one section of the South African people; over ten million Non-Whites had no voice whatsoever in this general election.

Having no vote, Africans sought to draw attention to their disabilities by calling a three-day stay-at-home period. It failed, but its failure must not be interpreted as meaning that Non-Europeans acquiesce in the policy of "apartheid". The European people of our country delude themselves if they ignore the urgent and real causes which lay behind the decision to call the demonstration. These root causes have not been eliminated by its failure nor by the return of the Government to power.

Basic to Non-European discontent are the grossly inadequate wages which the majority receive, the pass laws and particularly their extension to African women, the mass of restrictions and disabilities under which Non-Whites labour, the suffering occasioned by the Group Areas Act and by racial classification.

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The Institute believes that as long as there exists no adequate machinery by which Non-Europeans can express their wishes and participate in government, they will increasingly be driven to adopt extra-parliamentary action - public demonstration, passive resistance and strikes - in an attempt to secure redress of their grievances.

Armed force and constant threat cannot be used permanently to enforce an unacceptable policy. This method of government not only generates growing tension and hostility but carries within it the danger of provoking violence. It must finally fail. No people can for ever be kept in a state of subjection.

The Institute holds to its belief that no reasonable adjustments of race relations in South Africa will be obtained until all its citizens have fair economic opportunity and enjoy the rights of a common citizenship with a common loyalty to South Africa. With its rich resources, its long period of inter-racial contact, the acceptance by the recognized Non-European leadership of the need for inter-racial co-operation, the Union is in a singularly favourable position to work out new patterns of racial harmony.

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