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# "DECLARATION OF BELIEFS"

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**BROADCAST ADDRESS BY MR. V. H. ATKINSON ON THE 26/10/60**

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Publication of the "Declaration of Beliefs" as supported by some 69 South Africans from all walks of life, belonging to both language groups and different political parties, has evoked a widespread and spontaneous response from all parts of the Union.

Some hundreds of letters have been received by the Hon. Secretary as well as several hundreds of personal messages and enquiries by the individual subscribers.

The thinking which led to the publication of the Declaration had its origin in meetings of a discussion group established in Johannesburg about eighteen months ago. This group consisted of English-speaking and Afrikaans-speaking South Africans and had as its object the seeking of ways and means of bringing about a better mutual understanding between the two language groups as a necessary preliminary to handling our great national problems, including the colour question, rationally, justly and effectively. Similar discussion groups were established at the end of 1959 in Cape Town and other parts of the Union.

The Declaration which was published last week is a reflection of the thinking not only of members of this group but of other South Africans living in all parts of the Country. It is fundamental to the whole movement, that the political allegiances of the subscribers should not be interfered with or influenced in any way by reason of their agreeing to join hands with each other in this effort.

A first draft of the Declaration was made in Johannesburg in June 1960, and since then at least fifteen amended drafts have consecutively been examined and re-examined in the effort to find common ground acceptable to the cross-section of enlightened opinion whose support was sought. Soon after the first draft was completed, steps were taken to inform both the Prime Minister, the Hon. Dr. Verwoerd and the Leader of the Opposition, Sir De Villiers Graaff, as to what was being done, only as an act of courtesy, to ensure that there would be no suspicion on the part of these two leaders that any party political motives were to be attributed to this effort.

It is hoped that this work will powerfully influence thinking throughout South Africa in the direction of better race relations and the best possible development of our Country, in the interests of all its people.

In this connection any constructive suggestions from listeners addressed to P.O. Box 6010, Johannesburg, will be greatly appreciated.

# „CREDO“

**RADIO-REDE DEUR MNR. V. H. ATKINSON UITGESAAI OP DIE 26/10/60**

Die verklaring wat 69 Suid-Afrikaners, uit alle lewensterreine, uit albei taalgroepe en van verskillende politieke oortuigings gepubliseer het, het wydverspreide en spontane reaksie uit alle dele van die Unie uitgelok.

Honderde briewe is deur die ere-sekretaris ontvang terwyl individuele ondertekenaars van die verklaring 'n groot getal persoonlike boodskappe en navrae ontvang het.

Die oortuiginge wat gelei het tot die publikasie van hierdie verklaring het sy oorsprong in die vergaderings van 'n besprekingsgroep wat agtien maande gelede in Johannesburg gevorm is. Hierdie groep het bestaan uit Afrikaans- en Engelsprekendes en die doel daarvan was om doeltreffende middels te soek om 'n beter begrip en verstandhouding tussen die twee taalgroepe tot stand te bring as 'n noodsaaklike stap tot die kalme, regverdige en doeltreffende aanpak van ons groot landsvraagstukke, insluitende die kleurprobleem. Teen die einde van verlede jaar is soortgelyke besprekingsgroepe in Kaapstad en ander stede in die Unie in die lewe geroep.

Die verklaring wat verlede week die lig gesien het, weerspieël die denke, nie alleen van lede van hierdie groep nie, maar van ander Suid-Afrikaners in alle dele van die land.

Dis 'n basiese uitgangspunt van die hele beweging dat die samewerking van die ondertekenaars *geensins* inbreuk sal doen op hulle politieke aanhanklikhede of hulle partytrou sal raak nie.

Die eerste ontwerp van hierdie verklaring is in Junie vanjaar in Johannesburg geformuleer en sedertdien is minstens vyftien tekste herhaaldelik hersien ten einde 'n gemeenskaplike benadering te vind wat aanneemlik sou wees vir die breeds moontlike mening wie se steun gesoek is. Kort nadat die eerste ontwerp-verklaring geformuleer is, is stappe gedoen om sowel die Eerste Minister, Dr. Verwoerd, as die leier van die Opposisie, Sir De Villiers Graaff, op die hoogte te hou. Dit is gedoen bloot as 'n hoflikheidsgebaar ten einde te verseker dat daar geen agterdog aan die kant van hierdie twee leiers sal ontstaan dat die ondertekenaars enige partypolitieke bybedoelings in die mou voer nie.

Ons hoop dat hierdie werk die denke in Suid-Afrika sterk sal beïnvloed in die rigting van beter rasseverhoudings en die hoogs moontlike ontwikkeling van ons land, in belang van al sy mense.

Met die oog hierop sal enige opbouende wenke van luisteraars, gerig aan Posbus 6010, Johannesburg, hoog waardeer word.

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