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SCANC

Newsletter
No 3
SEPT '83

Student Committee Against New Constitution

NO THANKS !

Over the next month, NUSAS will be urging students to say "NO!" to the government's Constitution Bill. In a massive nationally co-ordinated campaign, NUSAS aims to unite students on all the English campuses in a clear rejection of the "New Deal". During the build-up to the referendum on November 2, students will be asked to sign a petition rejecting the new constitution on the grounds that:

- it excludes the majority of South Africans;
- it entrenches apartheid;
- all South Africans must participate in deciding our common future.

In this way, NUSAS hopes to show that the vast majority of English-speaking students stand in clear opposition to the Constitution Bill - and all that it implies - for the correct reasons. Saying "no" to the Constitution is, in this context, not a negative action. It is not aligning ourselves with the HNP and the CP, who want to keep things as they are. It is not saying that we want the government to "go back to the drawing-board" - the drawing-board of white politics. Rather, it is a positive step : a clear and unequivocal

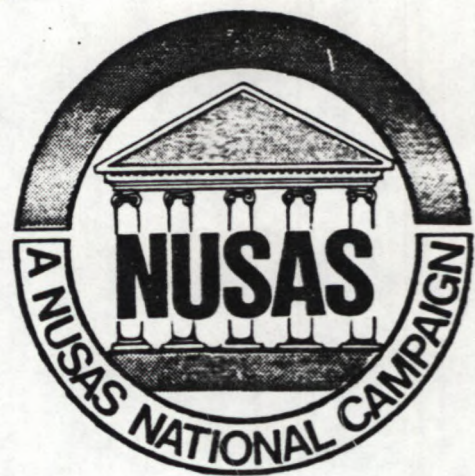
statement of our rejection of apartheid; and a statement of our commitment, as democratic students, to working towards a free South Africa in which the people shall govern.

It is a statement which says: How can the constitution be "A step in the right direction" when it is premised on the Bantustan policy? Is it going to prevent shootings and detention in the Ciskei? Is it going to stop shacks in Crossroads from being demolished? Is it going to end mass removals and starvation in resettlement camps? Is it going to mean an end to the war in Namibia where we are expected to fight?

So, in the forthcoming referendum, it is not enough to vote "no". After all, what right does a "whites only" referendum have to decide on the future of our country? While seeing that it is important to demonstrate that the government does not have the support of even its own power-base - the white electorate - we must see further than this. If we are committed to real democracy, and not a racially-exclusive parliamentary politics, we must actively lend our support to

the United Democratic Front.

NUSAS, as a member of the UDF, is offering an alternative that goes beyond "going back to the drawing-board". It is realistically acknowledging that if the bill is implemented, the already-limited role of parliamentary opposition will be completely destroyed. It is calling on students to get actively involved in organisations which represent the views and needs of the majority of South Africans. Through joining in the activities and campaigns of the UDF, we can take our place as participants in the building of a united, non-racial and truly democratic South Africa.



Campus feels SCANC

Everyone reading this newsletter, looking at SCANC information posters up on the noticeboards or attending the SCANC referendum discussions in the resses this week, must be aware that SCANC is expanding fast. Whereas originally SCANC consisted of reps from each of the constituent organisa-

tions, sub-committees have now been formed to involve students who actively reject the constitution.

Four sub-committees exist at the moment. The newsletter group are responsible for the publication you are reading. The seminars group

has also held workshops on the structure of the new constitution both within SCANC and in reses. The media group has been producing information posters with new ones appearing every week.

Slide Tape Show

A slide-tape show on the constitution is in the pipeline as well as media around the referendum. The notice-boardgroup collects press clippings and other media on the constitution and related issues and keeps the many SCANC notice-boards on campus up-to-date.

Petition

A fifth sub-committee is soon to be set up to co-ordinate the petition campaign (discussed in this publication).

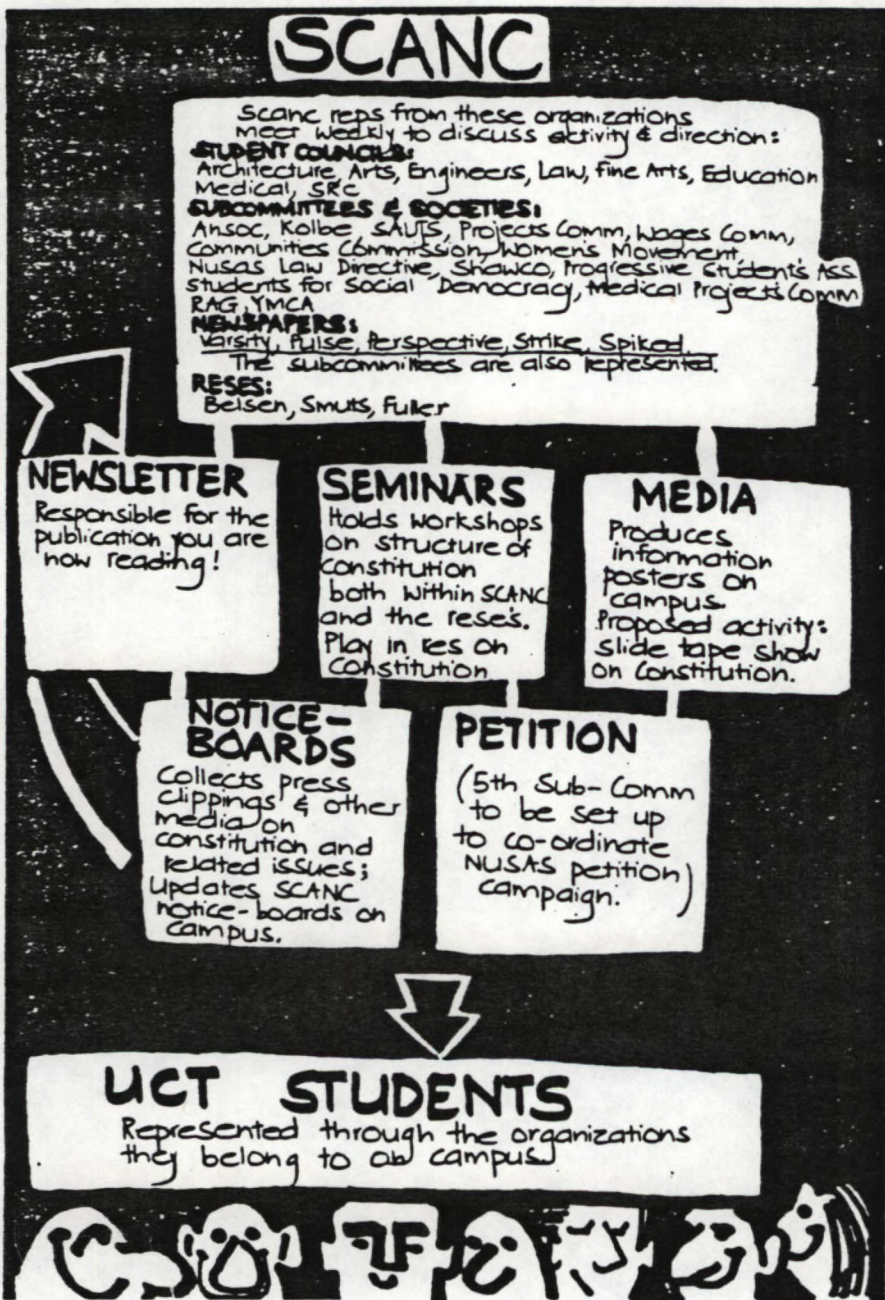
The sub-committees each have reps on SCANC and thereby contribute to the direction of the committee.

get involved

It's not enough to only reject the constitution. Actively oppose the constitution by getting involved in the sub-committees.

If you should wish to do so please phone Ilana Korber (47-9272) without delay.

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UDF Plans Nationwide Campaign

A PROGRAMME OF ACTION

"Every person in South Africa opposed to the new constitution and Koornhof Bills, should become involved in the United Democratic Front's nationwide campaign," said Mr Andrew Boraine. He was speaking at a Student Committee Against the New Constitution (SCANC) seminar last Wednesday.

Boraine, a past-NUSAS President and UCT SRC vice-president, outlined four major aims of the UDF.

- * 586 organisations participated in the UDF's national launch. These must be united on a national level in working for democratic change in South Africa. All groupings need to be strengthened both organisationally and numerically.

- * The UDF will provide educational input to its affiliates, linking grassroots problems to broader political issues.

- * Historically, democratic leaders have been detained or banned. For this reason, the UDF will systematically train new leadership.

- * National political issues such as the new Constitutional Bill, the Black Local Authorities Bill, conscription, etc. will be taken up by the UDF.

The UDF has formulated a broad programme of action for the campaign against the new



UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

constitution and "Koornhof Bills". A nationwide "peoples weekend" is planned for the eve of the November 2 referendum. This will consist of regional rallies, prayer services and vigils. The weekend is planned to reflect the vibrant opposition to the government's proposed legislation.

Other areas of possible action include:

- * the establishment of a UDF national newspaper;
- * the staging of a national solidarity day with the people of the Ciskei, to protest the banning of the South African Allied Workers Union (SAAWU);
- * a boycott of "vote yes" newspapers;
- * a house-to-house educative campaign in the hope of

reaching every person in South Africa;

- * problems of housing, forced removals and education will receive ongoing attention.

At a press conference, leaders of the UDF called on the people of South Africa "to join and strengthen the UDF and join the implementation of the programme of action".

SCANC Newsletter staff:
mark patrick, charles kent (eds), jose grindrod, melanie willsher, richard goode, linda scott, chris giffard, pete juds, ilana korber.

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EXECUTIVE STATE PRESIDENT

Amongst his powers are:

- Appoints Cabinet & its chairman
- Appoints 25 members to The President's Council
- Determines sessions of Parliament & can dissolve Parliament
- Appoints & can remove civil servants
- Decides which matters are of common concern & which are of own concern
- Approves or vetoes all legislation - final say over all legislation rests with President

ELECTORAL COLLEGE

- 50 MPs elected from White Parliament
- 25 MPs elected from Coloured Parliament.
- 13 MPs elected from Indian Parliament

Will elect State President
Members will be elected from majority parties and hence the State President will come from the ranks of the Nationalist party.

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

- 25 Nominated by President
 - 20 Elected by White Parliament
 - 10 Elected by Coloured Parliament
 - 5 Elected by Indian Parliament
- Members do not have to be MPs and will be elected by the majority parties.
- Advises President on matters of national interest
 - Arbitrates when there is a deadlock in Parliament.

CABINET

- Appointed by State President, do not have to be members of Parliament.
 - formulates Government policy & initiates all legislation regarding matters of common concern
 - Responsible for day to day government
- MINISTERS COUNCILS to deal with matters of 'own concern'

PARLIAMENT

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

● These committees, likely to be loaded with members of majority parties, will attempt to reach consensus on matters of 'common concern' BEFORE the measures are presented to Parliament. They are designed to become the powerhouse of the Parliamentary system.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY - WHITE

4

Separate voter's roll

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - COLOURED

2

Separate voter's roll

HOUSE OF DEPUTIES - INDIAN

1

Separate voter's roll

BLACKS

0



PFP-Youth Interviewed

SCANC interviewed Andrew Miller, a student from the PFP Youth on their stand on the Constitutional proposals.

Andrew is chairperson of the Constantia branch of the PFP youth.

SCANC: Is the PFP Youth going to take up the campaign on campus in any way?

ANDREW: Yes, we are showing a video of a talk by Dr Van Zyl Slabbert. This will be taken down to the reses as well, however, we don't want to clash with the SCANC programme.

SCANC: What do you feel about the fact that the Sunday Times, Financial Mail and big business are calling for a "Yes" vote?

ANDREW: We are very bitter that our traditional friends have turned their backs on us, but we feel that they have been misguided. Everybody wants reform, and they are just latching onto anything that is labelled "reform". They are also naive enough to think that blacks will be included at a later stage.

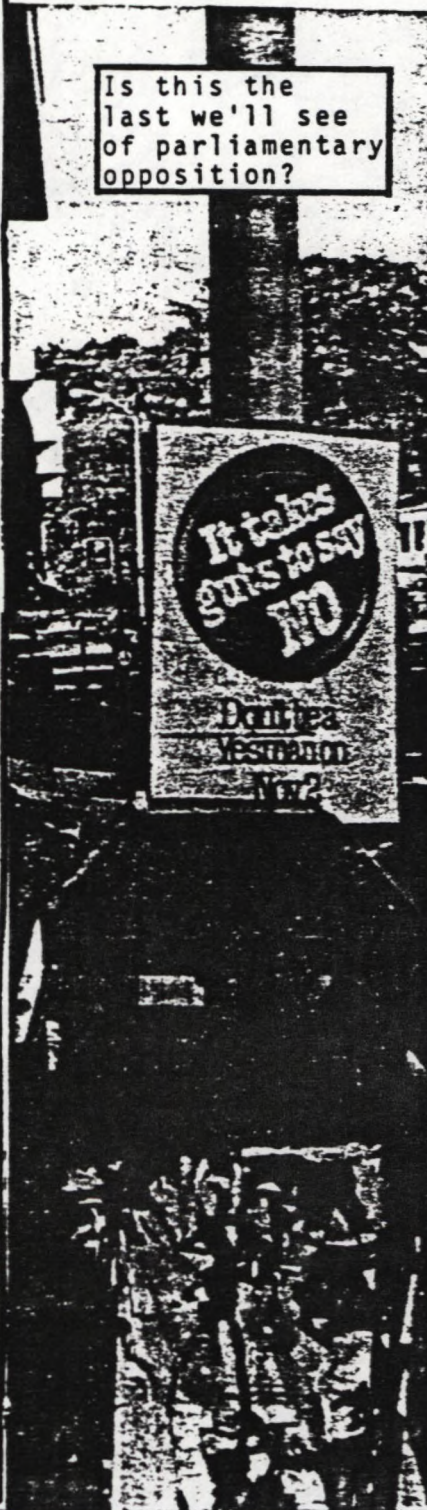
SCANC: What do you feel about the current newspaper campaign and the fact that the Afrikaans press won't publish PFP advertisements?

ANDREW: We're obviously very bitter, as the English press is playing it's traditional liberal role by publishing all sides, whereas the Afrikaans press only publishes "Yes" adverts. This proves to us that the Afrikaans press is controlled by the Nationalist Party, and places severe limitations on our ability to get through to people who need to hear us.

SCANC: Do you feel just calling for a "No" vote is going far enough?

ANDREW: No, but Dr Slabbert has called for a coloured, Indian and Black referendum as well.

Is this the last we'll see of parliamentary opposition?



SCANC: What do you feel about SCANC?

ANDREW: I think SCANC plays a vital role on campus, but we would obviously like SCANC to take a definite "vote No" stand.

SCANC: And UDF?

ANDREW: We see UDF as playing a very positive role and the coverage it has received should aid our campaign.

SCANC: What do you think the result of the referendum will be?

ANDREW: Well...the Nats are playing on the PFP/CP alliance, but with the dissident NRP/Nat vote, I think we could optimistically get a "No" majority.

SCANC: What do you see as the PFP's and parliamentary opposition's role in the new constitution?

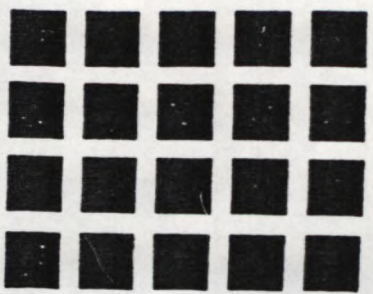
ANDREW: We can't decide that till after the referendum, but it will be discussed at the Federal Congress in November.

SCANC thanks Andrew.

What do you feel about the constitutional proposals?

Do you think that the PFP's stand is going far enough or missing the point?

Why not write us a letter. Hand it in to the SRC Desk or give it to one of the SCANC members in res. We would like to hear from you.



Now that you have the vote

At last week's Transvaal Nationalist Party Congress, a resolution was passed calling on the government to conscript Coloured and Indian men, in the wake of the new constitution's extension of the franchise. Afterwards, in a separate statement, the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, announced that legislation to that effect, had been drawn up, and would be posed at the next parliamentary session. This is no departure from the Defence force, and government-stated intention, that once constitutional matters had been suitably adjusted, conscription would logically follow. Last year, the Tvl. NP leader, F.W. de Kerk, stated: 'You can't ask a man to fight for his country, if he can't vote. Among the terms of the new dispensation, is the provision that Coloureds and Indians will get full voting rights. It follows, that their responsibilities will increase accordingly, which means they will hold obligations to defend these rights'.

The new constitution and conscription, go hand in hand in developing the type of response the state has regarded as necessary, to cope with the deep crisis confronting it. Call-ups for Coloured and Indian men are, for practical reasons, likely to be some time in coming, but expose a key link in the chain of forces, behind the 'new look' constitution.

Such direct links to the military, and the needs of this branch of the state, are clearly displayed. Political restructuring in the face of these attacks, leads logically to the extension of conscription for newly elevated Coloureds and Indians. There are other critical reasons why the Defence force is seeking to extend conscription into the ranks of the politically subordinate groupings, and that is in pursuit of maintaining its image of a legitimate Defence force to protect ALL South Africans from an external aggressor. This essential role is crucial for 'reform'.

A policy of increasing black participation in the SADF has been pursued for some time. In Namibia, the military has tried to 'Namibianise' the war, by using black troops, and South African ethnic battalions as a form of 'cannon fodder'.

Conscription will be an explosive issue for politically oppressed people. It has already drawn strong responses from the youth, as one

of the prime reasons for rejecting the new constitution, with its sinister price tag of being called up to defend minority privileges. Resistance to conscription, presently emanating from a small but significant section of the white democratic community, would sky-rocket. It is mostly against this prospect, that the government increased the prison sentence for objection from 2 to 6 years, earlier this year. Anticipating conscription, and increased militarisation as part of the new deal package, the United Democratic Front passed a resolution at its founding conference, pledging support for objectors and demanding the end to compulsory conscription.

When legislation does go through, it is likely to fire renewed opposition from the broad range of organisations opposed to compulsory conscription. By so doing they will expose what young South Africans are called on to defend: oppression and injustice in a new guise.



Don't throw our future away

WHOSE FUTURE?

"We're here to stay. Don't throw our future away" is a line familiar to most of us by now. The government's campaign for a "Yes" vote in the November 2 referendum has been advertised extensively in all major newspapers.

The government is spending millions in its advertising effort which is being run by Compton. This company is closely linked to Saachi & Saachi who ran Maggie Thatcher's election in Britain. This was one of the most successful campaigns

in British history.

The strategy being followed uses striking adverts, posing questions and answering them in government terms. "The government is setting itself up as the great liberal institute" said Mike Loewe, co-editor of VARSITY. "The right-wing is shown to be narrow-minded and the left-wing as militant and extremist. The left ideal is propagated to be chaos and anarchy."

Beyond the advertising campaign, certain newspapers are


openly advocating a "Yes" vote in their editorials. Recently the Sunday Times adopted this approach. With its massive readership, the Sunday Times is a major factor in the determination of public opinion. Financial Mail, The Daily Dispatch, Natal Mercury and Bloemfontein Friend are examples of other publications supporting the "Yes" vote.

As the referendum draws nearer, newspapers and other organisations are beginning to show their true colours as they choose which side of the fence to sit on.

Everything you ever wanted to know about the new constitution but were afraid to ask.

- Q What is a constitution?
 - A It is the framework in which a country is governed and which defines the powers of the state.
- Q What does the new constitution entail?
 - A It will transfer the country's 2.5 million Coloureds and 871 000 Asians to participate with the Whites in the process of democratic government.
- Q What's going to happen in Parliament?
 - A In addition to the existing House of Assembly for Whites, it will get 2 white Houses, one for the Coloureds and the other for the Asians.
- Q How many representatives will there be in each House?
 - A There will be 170 Whites in the White House, 80 Coloureds in the Coloured House and 40 Asians in the Asian House.
- Q Does the new constitution promise to give land away?
 - A No, the Black Nations will offer their historical reserves, while the Whites, Coloureds and Asians will continue to live where they always live.
- Q Will they need to get education, for racial classes?
 - A No, the Whites, Coloureds and Asians will each continue to maintain their own schools and universities.
- Q Will Coloureds and Asians have the same votes as Whites?
 - A No, each group will have its own votes.
- Q Are Whites racist?
 - A No, the Whites are interested in the constitutional process and their development continues to progress along a different path.
- Q Some people believe that the new constitution will lead to a dictatorship, is that true?
 - A No, the State President's powers will be no more than those of the present Prime Minister, in addition to those he will be given the ceremonial functions of the present State President.
- Q People on both sides of the political spectrum disagree with the constitution, why?
 - A Some believe it will strengthen White domination. Others believe it will set the White race down the road. Obviously, they cannot both be right. The fact is, it is a sensible, practical step towards that an advanced step to the left or right.
- Q What is an Open Alliance, what is a General Alliance?
 - A Open Alliance refers to those matters which each group considers to be important to the maintenance of its identity and cultural interests by remaining within the General Alliance while to matters of common interest, such as financial matters.
- Q How will Open Alliance and General Alliance be formed?
 - A There will be independent decision-making by each group as to Open Alliance and joint responsibility for General Alliance which allow of 3 committees.
- Q How will Whites, Coloureds and Asians take decisions on matters of general interest?
 - A They will decide by a process of negotiation and agreement.
- Q Why not stick to our present form of government?
 - A Because it has become impractical for South Africa to progress on its own terms and not be restricted by events.
- Q How will the constitution address itself?
 - A By including Coloureds and Asians in the process of democratic government, it will break the traditional and authoritarian that will otherwise inevitably arise.

We're here to stay. Don't throw our future away.

Vote Yes. 
For South Africa First.

WE'RE HERE TO STAY

"Rhodesia is our only home. We married here . . . and our parents are here . . .

we're buying our own home . . . and we're bringing up a young family.

Why should we have to give all this up?

"We're here to stay — that's why we're going to vote for the only party that can safeguard our future."

SAFEGUARD YOUR FUTURE
Vote Rhodesian Front



Who's fooling who?

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