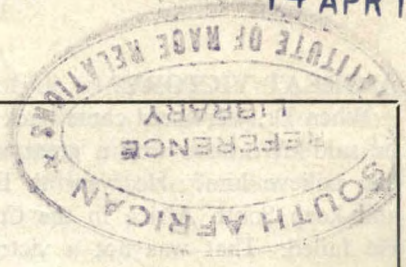


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# In Defence of South Africa



*"You cannot be truly free unless we are free too;  
for such is the nature of things that he who  
entrenches on the liberty of others is the first to  
lose his own and become a slave."*

JOHN MILTON.

Issued by THE CONGRESS ALLIANCE



## A GREAT VICTORY?

When Dr. Verwoerd came back from London he said "We have won a great victory." Who can believe him? He went to London to try and keep South Africa in the Commonwealth. He failed. That was not a victory. It was a defeat for him.

The S.A.B.C. described the welcome-back rallies as "great spontaneous demonstrations." But everyone knows they were not spontaneous. The Nationalist Party and the S.A.B.C. itself had been organising for days to get Nationalists to go to the airports.

These pretences don't deceive anyone.

The Nationalists are deliberately encouraging a cult of unreason; a refusal to face unpleasant facts. They hope to panic the White population into blind, unthinking support for Verwoerd, so that everyone will follow him the way the Germans followed Hitler.

Did you notice the slogan the Stellenbosch students paraded outside Parliament the other day?

"Verwoerd is our hero."

"Where Verwoerd goes we go."

## SOBER THOUGHT IS NEEDED

Yet if there ever was a time for calm, sober thinking in this country, that time is now. It is time for us to face the facts.

The main, central fact is that the whole world abhors South Africa's practices of apartheid and White domination. It is hardly surprising that the countries of Africa and Asia (and these comprise a majority of the human race) should resent a system where a dark skin is regarded as evidence of inferiority. But the countries of Europe, too, and of America, North and South, have sharply condemned apartheid and race discrimination.

Here is indeed something about which all peoples, East and West, find themselves in agreement.

Mr. MacMillan, who—his eyes no doubt on protecting big British investments in the Union—is one of Verwoerd's mildest critics, spoke

truly when he said that the Union's policy seemed "altogether remote from, and indeed abhorrent to, the ideals for which mankind is struggling in this country."

## DEFENDING SOUTH AFRICA?

The Government's answer is that South Africa's policy is her own internal business, and no one elsewhere has any right to interfere and criticise.

We shall go ahead with our policy, they say, no matter what others think, and no matter what it costs in terms of isolation and economic hardship. Only thus can we maintain and defend the country's independence.

Such an attitude would be justified—even admirable—if Dr. Verwoerd really spoke for "South Africa" in his determination to stick to White domination at all costs. But does he? Let us look at some hard facts.

We are fifteen million people in this country.

Ten million are Africans. None of them supports apartheid and White supremacy. They would be mad to do so, when all Africa is winning and consolidating freedom and self-government.

Two million are Coloured and Indian. Apartheid has brought them nothing but suffering and insults, and they know it only too well.

Even among the three million Europeans, nearly half are opposed to the Nationalist Party, which got the barest majority in last year's fraudulent "referendum" (Who ever heard of a referendum in which four-fifths of the public was debarred from voting!)

So when the Government calls on us to rally to defend **South Africa's** independent policy, they mean we must all suffer and sacrifice to maintain **Nationalist Party** policy—with which **nine-tenths of us disagree.**

## THE WAY OUT

Is there any alternative? You may ask. Is there anything we can do about it?

Yes, there is! And we can!



The Nationalists like to pose the fundamental choice before this country as though it were one between two kinds of domination and oppression: "White domination or Black domination." By putting the question in this way they try to perpetuate and intensify racial strife and to rally all the Whites behind them and their extremist policy.

But it is a false antithesis. It is the product of minds too narrow to achieve the broad vision of a society of free and equal men and women, sharing alike in the rights and duties of citizenship, and united by a common love for our South Africa. A society in which, in the words of the immortal Milton,

"All citizens of all descriptions should enjoy equal rights and equal laws."

Indeed, only those who hold firmly to this vision can truly claim to be patriots, and truly to defend South Africa.

This is the true patriotism. Beside it the sectional allegiances and narrow racialism of the Nationalists can be seen for what it is—a shoddy, vote-catching substitute.

### **A NATIONAL CONVENTION**

The South African Constitution was decided upon at a National Convention in 1909. The Convention consisted of White representatives only. The Constitution it drew up was designed to create a Government for Whites and by Whites. The few liberal elements in the South Africa Act have been eliminated, one by one, down the years, especially since the Nationalist Party came to power.

It is that grave historical injustice which lies at the root of all our present evils and difficulties. The only way to remedy the desperate situation is the calling of a New National Convention to draw up a truly democratic Constitution.

But this time, the National Convention must not be sectional. It must represent and speak for all South Africa. The delegates must be freely-chosen representatives of all the fifteen-million strong population of this country, elected

by the votes of all, irrespective of race, colour, language, sex or creed. And they must have the sovereign power to determine the future state of South Africa in accordance with the will of the majority.

Far-fetched? A dream?

On the contrary, it is the only sane and reasonable way to bring about the inevitable, necessary and progressive transition of our country to a proud and free democracy without bitter strife, suffering, bitterness and bloodshed.

### **THE NATIONALIST ALTERNATIVE**

It is, indeed, the Nationalist alternative, which is far-fetched and like a dream—or, rather like a nightmare!

Consider what it means.

For the sake of trying, grimly, to hang on to unjustified privileges and ill-gotten gains for the White minority in this country, they are prepared to see South Africa, isolated and outcast not only by the Commonwealth but by the entire world family of nations. They are prepared to see this country become an armed camp—already Erasmus says openly they are preparing for civil war—where the political police become the real power in the state and freedom of speech, of the press, of thought become dim memories of the past. They are prepared to attempt to maintain White supremacy by continuous fear and terror, by spilling rivers of blood.

And all in vain. For they cannot succeed. Whatever road it may take, peaceful or non-peaceful, nothing is more certain in these times and in the modern world, than that the dark-skinned people of this country, like those of all Africa and Asia, will soon win their fundamental human rights to freedom.

### **TIME TO WAKE UP!**

It is time to wake up, to be up and doing! It has become the most urgent duty for every patriotic South African, of every national group



or colour, to come together to check the ultra-racialist group around Dr. Verwoerd in the reckless and ruinous path along which they are heading the country.

To the non-White people, we say: we are all rejoicing at the noble stand of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers in defence of human rights, at the increasingly firm opposition to apartheid by the United Nations and the Afro-Asian leaders. And these are indeed heart-warming evidences of the sympathy and encouragement of our hundreds of millions of friends and well-wishers abroad.

But no people was ever granted freedom by the sympathy and good wishes of others. To gain freedom we shall have to earn it, by our unity, discipline, courage and determination. Join our ranks!

Demand with one voice the removal of the bans on leaders and organisations, and the calling of a non-racial National Convention!

To the White people of this country, we say:

the non-White people of South Africa are not your enemies. No one seeks to oppress or to dominate you, but only to live side by side in this beautiful country, which belongs to all of us, in peace, equality and friendship. But only by repudiating and fighting against Verwoerdism now can you help to lay the foundations for the happy South Africa of the future, free from the hateful legacy of racial discrimination and strife, a proud, progressive and prosperous member of the community of free nations of the world.

To all, we say: Wake up! To be passive at this crucial time means to betray South Africa, to be a party to the grim and dark future now being plotted by the Broederbond, by Verwoerd and his accomplices.

Down with Verwoerd!

Forward to a new National Convention!

Forward to a free, democratic, non-racial South Africa!

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