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9/8/60

DECLARATION OF BELIEFS.

1. We, English-speaking and Afrikaans-speaking South Africans declare our belief and conviction that the great opportunities which await our Country can only successfully be realised on the basis of what is right and just for all sections of our population; that no group is superior or inferior to another merely on the grounds of race or colour; that every South African regardless of race, colour or religion, has an inalienable right to respect of his personal dignity as a human being; and that everything possible should be done to improve relationships between different sections of our population, within the framework of a civilised, stable, well-run and prosperous society.
2. We are conscious of the need to relate many aspects of present racial relationships to the important changes which have taken place in the last two decades within South Africa and also throughout the whole world.
3. We believe that the white population of our Country earnestly desires to do what is in the best interests of all our people, white and non-white, but that deep divisions between Afrikaans-speaking and English-speaking white South Africans are, at the present time, making it difficult or even impossible to give effective attention to the many problems which face us. It, therefore, appears to us that the most urgent need at the present time is to bring about a far greater degree of unity and co-operation between the two white language groups, so that the welfare of the whole population may receive undivided thought and attention.
4. Being aware of the deep-seated desire of a great number of South Africans for a republican form of constitution, and of the need to recognise that any long drawn-out constitutional conflict can only perpetuate the deep and destructive divisions which our Country can no longer afford, we believe that the people of South Africa should willingly accept a republican form of constitution, democratic in character, desiring to maintain the present Commonwealth relationship, and brought about on the basis of the broad will of the people.

5. We believe that the constitutional issue should be settled as quickly as possible so that no time be lost in giving effective and undivided attention to colour and racial issues.
6. We believe that White South Africans have an urgent responsibility to meet the spiritual needs, and to provide for the material and political aspirations of all racial groups, and that this responsibility must be accepted in a spirit of humility and understanding and must be carried out in such a way as to maintain the basic Western character of our society, the stability of our civilized state and the orderly and peaceful social constitutional and economic progress of our country.
7. Within the framework of these principles, and as means of achieving rapid and effective progress;
 - (a) we advocate and support the rapid and dynamic social, political and economic development of the Bantu areas, including the provision of gainful employment for the people living therein;
 - (b) we accept the factual situation that a large number of the Bantu are domiciled in the established urban areas and that a realistic and just approach on the part of all sections to the position of these Bantu is imperative; and we believe that the measures taken to remove unnecessary causes of friction and hardship should be speeded up and supplemented;
 - (c) while recognising the substantial progress in many fields which has already been made, we urge that continuous effort be applied to the task of further uplifting the Bantu socially, economically, and politically, through religious, educational, financial and all other available organisations and channels.
8. We subscribe to the principle that the Coloured people, by virtue of their background, history, culture and way of life, are an integral part of our population structure and Western culture, and that active steps should be taken to strengthen the bonds between the White and Coloured groups.

9. We urge that consideration be given to the position of the Indian community as soon as possible.
10. We believe that all attempts should be made to establish a friendly and constructive relationship with the other countries on the African continent; that South Africa has a major contribution to make in the orderly and progressive social, economic, and political development of these countries; and that our human and material resources should be harnessed to the task, together with other African countries, of serving the best interests of the continent.
11. We believe in the firm alignment of South Africa with the Western world, and with the principles of Western democracy as opposed to Communism, while promoting good relations with all friendly countries; and that the implementation of the beliefs, aims and programmes outlined above is essential if South Africa is to play its destined rôle in world affairs.

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Collection Number: A1132

Collection Name: Patrick LEWIS Papers, 1949-1987

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Location: Johannesburg

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