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THE ROOTS OF ANC AFRICANISM.

Although it has never accepted the Africanist version, African Nationalism is no new thing in the Congress movement, having been directly endorsed by the national conference of 1949.

This conference, which decided on a boycott of all Government bodies for Africans, also adopted "the creed of African Nationalism as a basis for the fight for national liberation". This nationalism had its roots in the Congress Youth League, which was founded in 1944.

In its declaration of basic policy, which is today a rare document, the Youth League differentiated between two kinds of nationalism: the extreme kind which would drive the white man into the sea and leave Africa for the Africans, and the moderate kind which believes that only Africans can win freedom for themselves but acknowledges that the Union's other racial groups are here to stay.

This latter kind, under which the Africans would dominate by force of numbers, was the kind espoused by the Youth League.

Many of the present leaders of Congress, committed now to a responsible multi-racial line, were leading members of the league and vehemently espoused its ideology.

Walter Sisulu, Oliver Tambo - as well as Potlaka Laballo, the present Africanists chief theoretician - were foundation members of the League.

Its leading founder, Dr. Peter Tsela, remained an Africanist to his death.

The original theme has now been embroidered, and was expressed recently by a leading Africanist:

"Even if we grant the sincerity of the whites, Indians and Coloureds, who want to collaborate with us, the fact remains that the only way in which white domination will ever be broken is by black force.

When that day comes, if we have to stop and ask ourselves whether a particular white man was a friend of ours or not in the past, then we will never be able to act. After it is all over we will grant all those who accept African hegemony their full rights as private citizens of an African state."

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