

change: "I am an Afrikaner and I have changed. One of the reasons why I have changed is because I started to find out what the experiences of black people are in South Africa."

He acknowledges that apartheid has destroyed the humanity of many white people, and there are whites you will not "turn into people again". This was the only time in the interview Willem despaired. "I don't know what can be done to change them. It is unlikely that the ANC will be able to "convert" many right-wingers. But what about the growing number of Afrikaners who no longer feel at home in the National Party, but are also hesitant to join the ANC? Why are they so reluctant, and what can the ANC do to reach out to them?"

LIBERAL APPROACH

Willem feels that many of these people still tend to think that the liberal approach of evolutionary development can save our country, "but what we desperately need is liberation". Thus one must join a liberation movement. That is why he joined the ANC.

But he feels that there are a number of reasons why other Afrikaners who basically share his views have not yet joined the ANC. One of these is the alliance with the SACP.

"We have to remember that for 40 years the white community has been indoctrinated that communism is anti-christ. The relationship must be explained."

Another concern is that the ANC has not constituted itself into a political party. Many Afrikaners see this as a back door that the ANC is keeping open to return to the armed struggle.

A third concern is the issue of the land. As far as possible we must explain that we not planning to simply nationalise farm land that is being utilised productively. ♦

"Alternative" Afrikaans Music

For years popular Afrikaans music tended to be rather bland, consisting mainly of French and German love songs translated into Afrikaans.

During the mid-1980s, young Afrikaans musicians started to make new sounds. Rock music and songs with a critical anti-apartheid message were heard in the Afrikaans music world. Musicians such as Johannes Kerkorrel, Joos Tonteldoos and Koos challenged the establishment. They are angry young people – deeply disillusioned with their religious and educational upbringing.

Their lifestyle and their sometimes cynical songs testify to an alienation from traditional Afrikanerdom. They give expression to the experiences of a growing number of young Afrikaners. The strength of this trend became clear when the Houtstok (Woodstock) rock festival was held just outside Pretoria, on "Republiekdag" last year. Twenty thousand people, mainly young Afrikaners, came

to dance to the music.

They sang with Anton Goosen in Afrikaans "We are the kaffirs of Africa ... Break apartheid down, break all of it down ... You who distinguish between the colour of people's skins, go to your separate heaven or hell..."

The Afrikaner establishment was outraged. But they had to face the fact that the traditional Republic Day festival held at the Voortrekker Monument attracted less than half that crowd.

The so-called alternative Afrikaans music expresses the anger and confusion many young Afrikaners experience.

Long before these feelings crystallise into a coherent political position, the music provides them with a deeply needed opportunity to feel an emotional solidarity with the struggle for liberation.

At Houtstok they sang with Theunis Engelbrecht "Kwela vir Mandela" – a song he wrote after having watched Mandela's release from prison.

*Hoeveel harte is vermink
deur die witskrif van apartheid
watter mense is bestand
teen die felheid van soveel wreedheid
mag die wereld sonder bloed wees
mag ons vir mekaar reen wees
om die droogtes tussen mense
in 'n somer te omskep*

*How many hearts have been mutilated
by the white paper of apartheid
what humanity can survive
against the intensity of so much cruelty
may the world be without blood
may we be rain to each other
the droughts between people
to be transformed into a summer*

Theunis Engelbrecht "KWELA VIR MANDELA"