

EDITORIAL

Coloured Labour Party Sells Out

A "near-riot" — that was how a February meeting of the Coloured Labour Party was described in the papers. Chairs were thrown, bottles were flying, windows smashed, and bricks and stones came crashing on to the platform, during a free-for-all. There were about 600 people. The stampede that resulted can only be left to the imagination.

What actually happened? David Curry, chairman of the Labour Party, said the decision of his party was not a sell-out. Different battlefield situations need different strategies, he said. He is of the opinion that, as some must fight outside, some must do battle inside.

Dr Allan Boesak, President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, disagrees. It is debatable, in fact doubtful, whether the Coloured Labour Party can do any fighting within the President's Council. The very fact that the unions have clashed over this issue, and scuffles have been reported, proves that the matter has become a national issue.

It was with this in mind that the ANC issued the following statement:

It was with deep regret that we heard the news that the South African Labour Party Congress, meeting at Eshowe in Natal, had mandated the Labour Party to participate in

the constitutional arrangements proposed by the so-called President's Council and approved by the ruling National Party.

Despite the assurances that this participation merely pursues tactical objectives, we are convinced that such involvement would be wrong and ill-advised.

The Eshowe declaration of the Labour Party means that a certain group within this party has elected to join hands with the Botha regime. No sweet-sounding words like 'the politics of consultation' can hide this ugly reality.

In this case, to elect to join hands with the Botha regime means to choose to become part of the schemes of this regime to entice the so-called Coloured and Indian people out of the camp of democracy and liberation. It signifies a decision to become a junior partner, but a partner nonetheless, among the forces that are committing murder and genocide to perpetuate the system of white minority domination in South Africa.

We are happy to note that even as this shameful act of betrayal of the very interests of the so-called Coloured people were being hatched there were patriots such as Norman Middleton, Sam Solomon, Louise Boesak and others who stood against the tide of compromise with oppression.

It is these patriots who represent the bulk of 'Coloured' opinion, and not those who pretend that the cause of the Black people is best served by their occupying soft cushioned seats in Botha's three-tier, separate development parliament.

The challenge facing all genuine patriots of our country, both black and white, is to ensure that those who preach collaboration with racist tyranny do not succeed in their intentions. Together we must work for the

authentic voice of the people to emerge victorious.

We cannot advance through Botha's President's Council schemes. The only way forward, painful as it is, is through united struggle to a genuinely democratic and non-racial South Africa, governed by all the people.

Whatever illusions were created at Eshowe, we are convinced that the 'Coloured' people belong among the forces that are committed to fight for such a South Africa.

O.R. TAMBO

«WE MUST ORGANISE OURSELVES INTO A CONQUERING FORCE»

Below we publish the speech given by Comrade President O.R. Tambo on behalf of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress, on the occasion of January 8, 1983, the 71st anniversary of the African National Congress.

Today, January 8th, we mark the 71st anniversary of our organisation, the African National Congress. We are beginning a new political year. We must therefore set ourselves new tasks which we should strive to achieve in the coming year.

We are marking this important occasion in the history of our protracted struggle at a time when the revolutionary ferment amongst all sections of the black oppressed majority has reached unprecedented heights and has plunged the ruling racist clique into deeper and deeper levels of political and economic crisis. A distinctive feature of this all-round crisis facing the oppressor class is that the initiative is shifting into the hands of the people and continues so to

shift. We are on the offensive to put an end to the cruel system of national oppression and economic exploitation. It is a process that the Pretoria rulers can neither defuse nor halt. Within the confines of the apartheid system there is no way out of this crisis situation. The real solution lies in the victory of the revolutionary forces, the dismantling of the apartheid machinery and the transfer of political and economic power to the democratic majority. Each year, as our forces advance on the enemy, this, our cherished goal, becomes clearer and nearer.

This time, last year, we proclaimed the year of the 70th anniversary of the ANC as the "Year of Unity in Action." Drawing on the historic lessons contained in seven