

2. The Liberal Democratic Association of S.A.

During March the Liberal Democratic Association of South Africa was launched, the culmination of nearly two years of discussion in several non-racial groups around the country. Its founders comprised independent Liberals as well as others involved in a variety of anti-apartheid and anti-tri-cameral Parliament opposition organisations.

The Association is committed to the defence and propagation of Liberal principles and to working out suggestions for policies for a post-apartheid society based on non-racial majority rule, regular free elections, protection of individual rights, the rule of law, a mixed economy, and a comprehensive system of social security.

The Association has said that it will try to devise mechanisms which will mean that minority views are heard and others to encourage cooperation and collaboration between the many different social and cultural interests in our new society. It will try to persuade South Africans in general that Liberal ideas provide a better basis for a conflict-free future than do the rigid ideological plans of the Left or the Right.

REALITY welcomes this development. It is high time that the Liberal option was cleared of the misrepresentations which have been attached to it by its opponents and brought back into the main current of political debate in our country.□

by V.P. Khanyile

SPEECH TO ASP CONFERENCE IN PIETERMARITZBURG

December, 1986

It is a great pleasure for me to deliver this keynote address to this conference today, because the people gathered here, representing the Academic Support Programmes at different universities, could play a crucially important role, not only in the future of their institutions but also in shaping the future of tertiary education in South Africa.

It is also extremely important – and entirely appropriate – that Academic Support Programmes should be showing such an interest in People's Education and attempting to define a relevant responsive role for universities in helping to give content to this concept.

I am told that Academic Support Programmes had humble beginnings, starting life as minor appendages to the university's major academic programmes. Their job definition was to prepare so-called disadvantaged students to

adapt to the university's course structures and 'cope' with their academic demands.

This brought the ASP staff into direct contact with many students who had been shaped by the struggles at schools and in their communities. This exposure was the vital factor in moving many ASP staff from a mere intellectual appraisal of the problems facing black students to an experiential understanding of their struggles, not only at an academic level, but on the political terrain as well.

Many of you have developed an insight into the way the struggle against academically inferior 'Bantu Education' has evolved away from the original demands for 'equal' education in a single system to demands for the development of an entirely new education system, with appropriate content to prepare students for participation in a transformed democratic society, informed by different values and social objectives.