

# STRAIGHT TALK...

## Old Bait New Hook ...

The Presidential Council constitutional hocus-pocus is no mere political fantasy of Nationalist Party minds but is now a real show that has been attracting curious audiences even from quarters once listed amongst the not-easy-to-hoodwink. There is some reluctance due to fears of possible political repercussions to the interest they now show in the new apartheid production by some elements, yet willy-nilly, like reluctant fish they have been nibbling at the old bait fixed on the newly sharpened hook. But the recent Eshowe Congress of the Coloured Labour Party that has voted in favour of enlisting with the Presidential Council forces takes the cake as regards the fervour with which they are now biting with intent to swallow the old bait of apartheid constitutional juggling advertly called 'reform'.

No doubt the Nationalist Party anglers are rubbing their hands in glee over the announced resolutions of the Eshowe Congress which to them constitutes a great catch. The apartheid propaganda machine is still whinning crazy over the event while R a d i o R S A t o n e expresses an u n c o n t r o l l a b l e desire even to knight some leaders of the Labour Party.

What might be surprising is why this once applauded organisation of Rev. Alan Hendrickse could bow so low as to embrace the same political structure and processes it had declared war and waged at times successful battles - the destruction of the Coloured Representative Council (CRC) for example - against; why is it that some victims of boer-fascism are suddenly kissing its feet whilst screaming "We are not selling principles, we are negotiating". At this stage we do not want to conclude - it is t o o

early - that the experience of the CRC days were but a gilded facade destined to expose the true interior later. We do not want to think that way because whatever energy the Coloured Labour Party (CLP) was able to siphon into its crusades was tapped from the masses and remains the masses'. So that the spineless elements within its leadership, past masters at political verbiage meant to mobilise support from the oppressed on the one hand whilst invoking cheers from the oppressor on the other hand, may not pat their backs over battles waged and won by the people at whose helm they once stood for some time.

It is regrettable yet it must be admitted that the present line of the CLP leadership gives organisational expression to a tendency that has been obscured by pretentious political sloganeering by some who have sought to use the liberatory struggle for ends alien to the aspirations of our down-trodden people. Such elements have not stood up to champion the genuine cause of the people but instead, with false faces, have come forward to drag the oppressed into acquiescence in a political system designed for the national strangulation of the black masses - Africans, Coloureds and Indians. Let them be warned that they do so at the risk of condemnation and rejection by the masses of the people.

What do they have to say in reply to this: "... I would like to reply to a few questions in relation to the Government's guidelines for constitutional development... Do these constitutional proposals affect the right to self-determination of the White man?" The answer is no. It is implicit in the guidelines that the right to self-determination and identity of the White man is maintained while the Indians and Coloureds are granted a say in their community affairs and matters of common concern (our emphasis).

"... The Nationalist Party rejects a system of one man, one vote for South Africa. It also rejects so-called Black majority government, but the Nationalist Party and the Government are in favour of a system whereby the various population groups will be able to manage their own affairs and consult on matters of mutual concern".

All sane and fair-minded South Africans will be quick

to notice that the above citation which by all means sums up the central purpose of the so-called 'new constitutional dispensation' is an ably presented official defence of apartheid as the alfa and omega of government policy in South Africa. Keen perusal of the same will reveal that:

- (a) official South African policy through successive governments has been and is still bent on preserving and perpetuating the system of white privilege;
- (b) the phrase "self-determination and identity of the White man" refers to and can only mean White domination, supremacy and baaskap;
- (c) "community affairs and matters of mutual concern" in the citation above refers to advisory board elections and harangues and the SADF, the Police Force and Separate Development;
- (d) the system of one man one vote, universally recognised as a fair basis for democracy, justice and right is categorically rejected - a striking revelation of Nationalist Party ultimate intentions in Namibia and South Africa.

Let those who flirt with the regime's 'constitutional dispensation', who cry "we are not selling principles..." even before being accused of selling out be warned: "The theory that we can sit with folded arms and wait for a future parliament to legislate for the 'essential dignity of every human being irrespective of race, colour or creed' is crass perversion of elementary principles of political struggle. No organisation whose interests are identical with those of the toiling masses will advocate conciliation to win its demands". We have quoted these ever-instructive words from an article written in 1953 by Comrade Nelson Mandela exposing the constitution of the Liberal Party precisely because the incredible new line of the CLP is anathema to the unity in struggle and aspirations of the deprived black masses and at the same time reveals fervent haste to nurture the seed of impotent liberalism and conformism. In the interests of united

action of all ranks and formations of the oppressed this tendency must be fought and defeated. The people must refuse to be misled!

To us the incredible political versatility of some from the ranks of the down-trodden and deprived emphasises the crying urgency of the lot that remains to be done in the direction of uniting all our people behind the demands enshrined in the Freedom Charter for a principled offensive against the obnoxious system of apartheid. At this hour of our fight for freedom the fulfilment of the task is as extremely urgent as the task itself is titanic. But we are satisfied that we of the African National Congress and its allies are equal to the task.

We furthermore appeal to those of the leadership of the CLP with a conscience to desist from pursuing the disastrous course charted by the lamentable Eshowe Congress. It is never too late. There is still time before the line and sinker of the racist hordes can be swallowed wholly. We implore them to assume position with the victims of the regime's policies.

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## **NAKED AMONG WOLVES**

**by Bruno Apitz**

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### **Chapter 18**

The morning was well advanced before the camp had finally lined up. In the giant square there was no sign of the Jewish prisoners' blocks; they had lost themselves in the mass and had disappeared into it. And scarcely was the line-up completed when the block and commando fuhrers burst into this mass, punching and pulling out of the ranks all those whose appearance indicated that they might be Jews. The blocks did not budge, but they swayed like fields of corn. The Jewish prisoners flitted between the ranks, hid themselves behind backs, and were thrashed pitilessly when an SS man caught them.