

STATEMENT ON PFP PARTY MEMBERSHIP IN  
THE LIGHT OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION  
ADOPTED IN THIS REGARD

DR. F. VAN ZYL SLABBERT MP

RESOLUTION

- (1) The Federal Council of the PFP mindful of the fact that
- (a) the Political Interference Act is an inheritance of Verwoerdian ideology of absolute racial segregation;
  - (b) the motivation for the Act no longer applies;
  - (c) that the Act is detrimental to our domestic race relations and South Africa's image abroad
- wishes to express its conviction that this Act should be repealed forthwith.
- (2) In the light of the PFP's rejection of compulsory race classification and, consequently, of the Race Classification Act, and in the light of the PFP's acceptance of voluntary association as necessary for political co-operation and stability in SA, the Federal Council of the PFP wants to state unequivocally that when a person applies for membership of the PFP, the PFP under no circumstances will inquire into, or take into account, what the colour, race or other ethnic origin of the person is.

1. A fundamental principle underlying all of PFP policy and philosophy is that of the voluntary association of the individual. A fundamental characteristic of the policy of Apartheid and Separate Development is that it rests on laws which prohibit the voluntary association of an individual in various spheres of his or her daily life. Thus :-

- (a) The Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act - forbids an individual from voluntarily marrying someone of a different racial group than his or her own;
- (b) Section 16 of the Immorality Act - forbids the individual from voluntarily having sexual intercourse with someone of a different racial group than his or her own;
- (c) The Group Areas Act - forbids the individual from voluntarily occupying any land set aside for someone of a different racial group of his or her own. And so on. All these laws that compel or force individuals to be separate depend on the Population Registration Act which classifies each South African at birth according to race or ethnicity.

2. The Political Interference Act forbids the individual from voluntarily belonging to a political party where the majority of the members are of a different racial group than his or her own. The PFP believes that the individual should be free to belong to any ~~legal~~ *Constitutional* political party of his or her choice.

3. Increasingly these laws have come under scrutiny and public pressure as the demands have increased that the South African Government should move away from racism and racial discrimination. The Government itself this year listened to evidence being given to a Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry on the need to amend the "Immorality and Mixed Marriages" laws. We in the PFP believe that there can never be lasting peace and racial co-operation as long as discriminatory laws of this kind are on our Statute books.
  
4. The same applies to the Political Interference Act. The PFP has always urged the repeal of this law. Since the conception and implementation of the new Constitution this act has come under the searchlight and been shown to be redundant and irrelevant.
  - (a) The UDF came into being in reaction to the new Constitution. It is a political movement with non-racial membership operating constitutionally and openly in South Africa. It does so outside the context of Parliamentary politics.
  
  - (b) Before this Constitution became law it was part of the Nationalist Party policy and was propogated to Coloureds and Indians by Cabinet Ministers on numerous occasions as worthy of support.
  
  - (c) During the Coloured and Indian elections, the Labour Party, for example, openly claimed non-racial membership, fielded an Indian member as a Parliamentary candidate who claimed to have a White candidate for the Hillbrow constituency in the next general election.

The leader of the Labour Party was not prosecuted for defying the law. Instead, the Minister of Internal Affairs held behind closed doors discussions with him promising to go into the possible change of the law, and since then the Leader of the Labour Party has been rewarded with a full Cabinet post.

5. We in the PFP do not accept that the above examples constitute incitement to break the law or openly defy all the laws of the country. Similarly by adopting the above resolution, it is not the PFP's intention to :-

(a) actively recruit membership from people who belong to different racial or ethnic groups than do the majority of present members of the PFP; nor

(b) incite anyone to deliberately break the law.

We simply affirm our deep conviction in the principle of voluntary association and that when someone applies for membership of our party we are not prepared to take the racial or ethnic membership of such a person into account as a condition for joining the party.

6. Obviously, technically, speaking the individual under certain conditions is liable to prosecution if he or she becomes a member and it is the duty of the PFP to point this out clearly to such individuals. But it is not the responsibility of the PFP to actively interfere with the voluntary association of the individual. On the contrary, by working for the voluntary association of all South Africans, the PFP believes it can contribute best for effective reform and peaceful change.