

What I want for South Africa

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WHITES accuse us of not wanting to negotiate. In fact we do want to negotiate, and we are entirely prepared to negotiate.

But only when there is a basis for negotiation. Let them make the commitment, that is all we ask.

Let them say: "Okay, we've realised that we have to make our way towards majority rule."

When we can negotiate the methods and the pace of actual implementation.

do not think it is helpful for Government to keep on preaching things they can contain the pressures they don't like by themselves.

It is not helpful for them to tend to their own supporters if they can create a satisfactory society without pain.

When I am preparing to give a speech, but I'll, four-year-old patient an injection I never bluff by telling him — as my experiences always do — that it will be painful.

emphasise that it will be painful, but that it will soon be over.

The Government should be doing the same thing — telling people openly that real change to assure real health will be painful.

Don't prolong the agony, make it short, sharp, and painful for the racists.

and let it soon be over. In fact, it will not be nearly as painful as whites imagine.

Blacks are not waiting in line to jump into bed with the white women, take over white suburbs, and throw whites into the sea, as so many whites fear. But we do want our fundamental human rights, which include a full and equal share — not for man — in the way our country is governed.

This article in which the chairman of the Soweto Committee of Ten spells out for the first time his vision of a South Africa under majority rule, has been excerpted from Frontline, a lively new magazine concentrating on South African issues and aimed at both black and white readers.

THAT means, in short, majority rule.

What does this really do to whites? Whites automatically point to the Amins and the Bokassas, and tell horror stories about starvation in Tanzania and corruption in Zambia.

And they assume that majority rule must necessarily involve communist control.

They think that because they have suppressed us for all these centuries we must want to suppress them in turn. They are wrong.

We recognise that whites are citizens of South Africa. We do not want to try to invent "homelands" for them, or send them back to Europe. We also recognise that the skills that keep society going are largely in the hands of whites.

Many blacks are committed to socialism. In particular, many of the adherents of Black Consciousness are.

In some cases, this is through study and conviction. In many others, it is because of the general belief that has grown — not only here but all over the world — that there are only two forms of society, capitalist and socialist.

And since our rulers keep proclaiming that we have a capitalist one, and blacks can see that it is benefiting whites and suppressing blacks, then naturally they opt for the alternative.

I PERSONALLY am not a Marxist. I am a socialist. It seems to me that people are essentially selfish, and work best when they are working for themselves. I would not like to see a situation where everyone is part of a massive state machine.

But our society has been entirely geared to the interests of whites, and to providing what whites need. It will need massive State intervention to right the wrongs, and there will have

to be a period of reverse discrimination in terms of such things as access to jobs.

There will also have to be a very major redistribution of wealth.

The purpose of the kind of mixed economy which I advocate is not to make everybody poor, as socialism is sometimes accused of doing.

I do not see the ordinary white man in an ordinary job having to give up his possessions.

But anyone with eyes to see must admit that in South Africa we have ridiculous extremes of both wealth and poverty. If we are going to create any form of just society both of those will have to go.

The State must own land. That is one point where African tradition must come into its own. Land is not susceptible to private ownership. It is held in trust by whoever is working it for the coming generations.

Private houses and small plots should be privately owned. But agricultural land, no.

I do not see any reason why farmers to whom the State has leased land should not make private profit out of the effort they put into that land. But we cannot go on with a system where a few people can own huge areas of land which they leave fallow, while others have to eke a living from handkerchief-sized plots.

Commerce and industry are more difficult. I have no doubt that the mines should be nationalised, and perhaps some of the other big corporations. But I do not see any need or any benefit in discouraging the small and medium-sized businessman from