

EXTRACT OF SPEECH TO AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE23 MAY 1985DR. F. VAN ZYL SLABBERT MP

The Government has declared that it wishes to engage in the politics of negotiation to bring about effective constitutional change for Blacks and it is prepared to re-examine influx control in order to bring about orderly urbanization.

These are important changes of strategy and policy on the part of the Government but they will be of no significance or have no impact whatsoever if the Government equivocates or has any hidden agendas on either negotiated constitutional change or influx control.

As far as successful negotiated constitutional change for Blacks are concerned, the Government must declare itself willing to accept that what is to be the minimum basis for negotiation must be : One Constitution for all South Africans based on the same rights of citizenship irrespective of race or ethnicity. Only then can constitutional models be looked at which could prevent racial or group domination or protect minorities. If this is not the point of departure for constitutional negotiation the whole process of negotiation will be reduced to futile tinkering between irrelevant parties.

Similarly, as far as influx control is concerned, a re-examination of it cannot mean a sophistication or streamlining of the system. If the Government has any understanding of the depth of resentment and bitterness Blacks feel towards influx control, it will unequivocally declare that it intends to scrap influx control completely and replace it with a policy of orderly urbanization. In particular Government must accept that it is pointless and futile to create a privileged class of urban Black insiders and a deprived class of rural Black outsiders. In the final analysis the administrative machinery required to determine who is privileged to remain in the cities is as obnoxious and racist as that which was deemed necessary in the past to determine which Blacks had to stay out of the cities. Curfews, pass raids and search parties will be the order of the day or else intolerable demands concerning housing and employment are going to be placed on jobseekers and employers. In either event, South Africa will lose out both internationally and domestically.