

1989

A SECUROCRATIC VICTORY ON SEPTEMBER 6

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As the Election Campaign of 1989 draws nearer to its end, the overwhelming impression is the almost complete lack of realism and a similar lack of a sense of history in the ranks of National Party and Conservative Party supporters.

Over the last 15 years South Africa has experienced a serious deterioration of its economy. All indications point towards a further escalation of the mounting international isolation. Internally a facade of stability can only be maintained with the extension of a very strict and comprehensive State of Emergency.

In spite of all these alarming trends, the supporters of the NP and the CP are seemingly still of the opinion that South Africa is a White country and that the Whites can still determine South Africa's future as well as the terms of negotiations with Blacks of their choice and without considering foreign pressures.

It is indeed frightening that so many Whites can bluff themselves into this kind of fool's paradise. It is appalling that the main policy approach of the new leadership of the NP is to bring about "fundamental reform" (sic) - not to create a non-racial society - but to guarantee that no other GROUP will ever dominate the White GROUP.

De Klerk expects all other leaders to negotiate unconditionally while he takes it for granted that the new(?) constitution will be based on his group concept. According to him the 82 per cent of the Whites who voted for the NP and CP in 1987 have given proof that the group concept is a legitimate one! This is the best justification for disguised apartheid put forward during this campaign.

Is there nobody in the top echelon of the NP with an elementary sense of history to read the writing on the wall? Evidently not!



Consequently F W de Klerk gets away with this transparent escapism to a neatly disguised apartheid fairyland.

Every White voter should know that we are living in a shrinking village. In the next century the world is definitely not going to tolerate an apartheid system and a perpetuation of White groups dominance in South Africa.

Nobody can in all honesty deny that South Africa is already in the inevitable and irreversable process towards the complete dismantling of apartheid and towards a non-racial democracy in an One Nation State. The question is no longer if, but only when and how the transition towards a non-racial South Africa is going to take place.

But the NP refuses absolutely to acknowledge these inevitabilities. Consequently we are deprived of the possibility to reach the transitional phase towards a non-racial South Africa in good time and under reasonably favourable conditions.

When the history is to be written, in say 2030, the eighties will not be regarded as the decade in which the apartheid system was abolished. But it will in all probability be regarded as the decade when a (although not the) decisive turning point was reached. [Before the eighties the extraparliamentary forces against the apartheid system were relatively weak, unorganised and definitely not well integrated. At the end of the seventies the protagonists of the apartheid system had ample reason to believe that the extra-parliamentary forces against apartheid could easily be defeated and the system - if necessary in a somewhat adapted form - could be perpetuated. If the protagonists of apartheid are still of the same opinion at the end of the eighties, they are clearly deluding themselves. [By the end of the 1980's the problems confronting the South African state had become truly formidable. On the one hand the Mass Democratic Movement challenged the economic stability



and the political legitimacy of the system (with overt and covert foreign sympathy and support) without being able to overthrow it. On the other hand the bureaucratic state can perpetuate the status quo (by the extension of the State of Emergency) but cannot resolve the stability and the legitimacy crisis to the extent necessary to again create conditions conducive for a high and sustained economic growth rate.

The real drama that is going to determine South Africa's destination has, to a large extent, already shifted to the extra-parliamentary scene and towards foreign capitals. In the meantime the NP is playing small and dirty electoral politics with the pretext that it is still fully in command.

In a desperate attempt to stop the rot on all fronts, the NP presents the growing confrontation in the extraparliamentary scene as a "subversive security crisis", but are at the same time unable to conceal or to resolve its own paradigm crisis in parliamentary politics.

In parliamentary politics the NP has ended up in an awkward "middle position" between "apartheid" and "democracy" - two things that cannot be reconciled. The NP finds it increasingly difficult to fight the (democratic and non-racially orientated) DP and the (blatantly racist) CP at the same time. Being trapped in this paradigm crisis, the NP has opted for an irresponsible election strategy to discredit the DP without any consideration of the devastating effects their strategy will have on the extraparliamentary groups.

As has happened again and again in previous elections, the NP is exploiting White fears by beating on the Black peril and Red peril drums. From a very short term and a purely White perspective, this may again prove to be a successful electioneering strategy. But at what price?

To succeed with this strategy the NP propaganda machine has no choice but to portray the extra-parliamentary groups as radical revolutionaries and as puppets of the Communist threat.



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All this may be effective smear politics in the election campaign, but what about Day one, and Day two ... and Day 100 after September 6? With which Black leaders are F W de Klerk going to negotiate after September 6? The majority of them has effectively been "convicted" propagandistically as revolutionary radicals and as puppets of the Communists. It surely cannot be expected of De Klerk to negotiate with these people.

Poor F W de Klerk! Like all his predecessors he has already become a victim of the NP's dirty and irresponsible propaganda gimmicks and of the NP's unquenchable thirst for White power. Out of this very unfortunate election drama only one winner can emerge: the Security Establishment! The logic is simple: With so many dangerous Black and White people around and with an hostile outside world, there is only one way to perpetuate White dominance and White privileges, and that is power consolidation with the Security Establishment firmly in place at the centre stage.

If the business community, for one, still believes the story that F W de Klerk wants to take on the Securocrats after this precarious "Black and Red Peril" election campaign, they are truly mistaken. Even if De Klerk wishes to take them on, he cannot dare after what happened during the Election Campaign.



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To conceal its own disintegration, the NP "re-invented" the Total Onslaught and is blowing it out of proportion. Those with a vested interest in the Total Strategy are laughing all the way to the bank .....