

Telefoon (0132722) 330.

Witpoort
Posbus 45
Laersdrif 1065
21 Desember 1991.

Die persoon in beheer,
KODESA,
Posbus 307
Isando 1600.

Geagte Heer/Dame.

Ek moet u meedeel dat mense in my vriendekring met groot belangstelling kennis neem van die gebeure by KODESA. Dit is klaarblyklik die belangrikste aksie wat Suid-Afrikaners gaan raak sedert Uniewording.

Die tragedie is dat ons hier 'n Hamlet sonder die prins van Denemarke gaan sien, want die persepsie wat ek en seker honderde ander waarnemers het is dat die ANC en die NP reeds in breë trekke ooreengekom het oor hoe die drama gaan eindig: 'n eenheidstaat. Geen voorstelle vir outonome volkstate of regionale state wat later onafhanklik mag word, gaan skynbaar ingedien word nie, want die segsmanne vir sulke state is nog vasgeklem in die rassistiese erfenis van die verlede en dus nie in staat om hulle saak by Kodesa te stel nie. Wat mense soos ek, wat meriete sien in een of ander vorm van partisie, nou op moet staatmaak is dat van die ander afvaardigings by KODESA dalk ons saak sal moet stel.

Maar meneer, dit is net nie goed genoeg nie.

My vriende en ek het dus gisteraand inderhaas 'n politieke party gestig : Die Afrikaner Party.

Ons Party staan 'n volkstaat voor vir alle Afrikaanssprekendes, ongeag hulle kleur, ras, geloof of geslag. Die Party is spesifiek gestig met die oog daarop dat ons verteenwoordiging by KODESA kan kry, want anders as die KP en dergelike partye glo ons dat 'n staat vir Afrikaanssprekendes slegs bereik kan word deur onderhandelinge met alle ander groepe in die land.

Die doel van hierdie skrywe is dus om by u te verneem hoe daar te werk gegaan moet word om sodanige verteenwoordiging te bewerkstellig.

Om klaarblyklike redes beskik my Party op hierdie stadium nog nie oor groot getalle ingeskrewe lede nie, maar ons het die indruk gekry dat van die mindere ligte by KODESA ook nie juis daarop aanspraak kan maak dat hulle reeds bewese steun het nie.

Ek verskaf inmiddels graag die volgende persoonlike besonderhede oor myself as leier en aanvanklike segsman vir die Party, ingeval u dit benodig: Ek was bykans my hele lewe in die Staatsdiens, aanvanklik in die Polisie en daarna in die Nasionale Intelligensiediens. Tans boer ek


met forelle. Geskiedenis en Staatsleer was my hoofvakke in die BA-graad wat ek aan UNISA verwerf het. In die verlede het ek my daarop toegelê om feite te versamel oor die onderwerp van 'n nasionale konvensie in Suid-Afrika. Ek glo dat ek tans oor uiters rare en interessante materiaal beskik oor die aksies wat al onderneem is in belang van so 'n konvensie - ook, en insluitende die gebeure tydens die eerste konvensie in Durban.

Ek glo dat ek ons Party se saak by KODESA sal kan stel, want ek was die heel eerste persoon in Suid-Afrika wat na Uniewording 'n nuwe land voorgestel het waarin daar, soos ek dit destyds voorsien het, 'n Blanke tuisland, geskep moes word. In die verband kan ek verwys na briewe van my wat in die Windhoek Advertiser van 28 Oktober 1965 en 9 Maart 1967 verskyn het, asook na talle ander briewe daarna.

Wat ek by u probeer tuisbring is dat ek daarvan oortuig is dat my Party 'n positiewe bydrae by KODESA sal kan lewer. Ons wil daar probeer pleit vir 'n ware Afrikanerland. Nie die karikatuur wat prof. Boshoff in die woestyn najaag nie, maar 'n wesenlike staat waarin die gewone vredeliewende wit, swart of bruin Afrikaner 'n tuiste sal kan vind. Die staat soos deur ons voorsien hoef ook nie uit die staanspoor 'n onafhanklike entiteit te word nie. Aanvanklik kan dit net een van die streke of provinsies van die nuwe Suid-Afrika word.

Ons glo dat duisende mense in Suid-Afrika hulle sal vereenselwig met dit wat ons Party bepleit en vra u dus beleefd vir die reg tot deelname aan die verrigtinge by KODESA.

Die Uwe,


P.C. Swanepoel.



Mr P C Swanepoel
DIE AFRIKANER PARTY
Witpoort
Posbus 45
LAERSDRIF
1065

30 April 1992

Dear Sir

We refer to the application by your organisation to be admitted as participant in CODESA.

The matter came up for consideration at the meeting of the Management Committee held on 27th April 1992. In considering the matter note was also taken of the fact that we have not received a reply from your organisation to the questionnaire that was sent out to you.

We regret to inform you that after careful consideration the Management Committee has decided not to admit your organisation as a full participant in CODESA.

May we draw to your attention that this decision does not preclude your making written submissions to any of the five Working Groups with regard to matters relevant to their Terms of Reference.

With kind regards.

Secretariat

Telefoon (0132722) 330.

Witpoort
Posbus 45
Laersdrif 1065
21 Desember 1991.

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KODESA,
Posbus 307
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Die Uwe,


P.C. Swanepoel.

[10]

AFRIKANER PARTY

Posbus 45
Laersdrif 1065
19 Februarie 1992.

Mnre S.S. van der Merwe en M. Maharaj
CODESA
Posbus 307
Isando 1600.

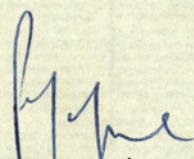
Geagte Here,

Ek erken met dank ontvangs van u ongedateerde brief met opskrif : "Re: Aansoeke om aan KODESA deel te neem", geadresseer op die koevert, maar nie in die brief nie, aan hierdie Party.

In die brief word die versoek gerig dat "die aangehegte vraelys" ingevul moet word. Die betrokke vraelys is slegs in Engels opgestel en my Party was dus met die probleem gekonfronteer of dit beteken het dat dit in Engels beantwoord moes word. Na uitvoerige bespreking is besluit dat dit seker die implikasie was en gevolglik word die antwoorde op die vraelys op die aangehegte vel papier in Engels verskaf.

(Die ironie van die situasie dat burgers van 'n land waarin Afrikaans een van die twee ampstale is, hulle voorleggings in Engels moet doen aan selfaangestelde instansies wat oor die lotgevalle van die burgers gaan besluit, is hopelik nie op albei van u verlore nie.)

Die Uwe,


Voorsitter. (P.C.Swanepoel).

Answers to questions posed in form GuidePtc.SG (1)

1. 20-12-1991.
2. Chairman : P.C.Swanepoel
P.O.Box 45
Laersdrif 1065.
Executive Secretary : Marina Rijff
P.O.Box 45
Laersdrif 1065.
3. Copy of Constitution attached.
4. The Afrikaner Party is supported by all non-racist Afrikaans-speaking people in South Africa, who are satisfied that none of the parties already represented in CODESA will cater for their demands. All such people who have, despite deliberate steps by the national press to suppress news about the formation of the Party, been fortunate enough to hear of its goals, have expressed unqualified support for its efforts. The Party has not taken any part in elections, or organized rallies, but it has held a number of informal house-meetings at which it received enthusiastic support.
5. The Party has published a document entitled: "Introducing the Afrikaner Party", of which a copy is attached. In addition its chairman has produced and made available to the Press and to you a document entitled "Codesa's Secret Forbears".
6. Executive members of the Party are represented in a number of Afrikaans cultural organizations, in organizations for retired civil servants, policemen and other groups.
7. Headquarters of the Party are at Siwanee River, Witpoort, Laersdrif, Dist. Middelburg Tvl. The Postal address is P.O.Box 45, Laersdrif 1065. The telephone number at all hours is (0132722) 330. Two persons are employed by the party, but have to date not been remunerated for their services.
8. The Party is financially viable in the sense that it will be able to second at least six people to represent it at CODESA. Unfortunately the Party has no information about the costs involved in renting accommodation at CODESA and is consequently not in a position to state whether it is, at this stage, financially viable enough to meet expenses of that nature for an indefinite period of time. However, if granted participation, its leadership is convinced of receiving sufficient financial support from supporters to enable it to cover all reasonable expenses involved.
9. The Party has visible support in all four provinces and its representatives in a number of centres have made their homes and business addresses available to the Party as branch offices cum branch addresses.
10. Membership of the Party is open to South Africans of all races who consider themselves to be Afrikaners.

Constitution of the Afrikaner Party.

Preamble. We, the undersigned Afrikaners,

having taken note of the emergence of the body known as the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA);

having taken note of the proposed Declarations of Intent of the two main participants, the National Party and the African National Congress as published in the Sunday Times of December 15th, 1991;

having further taken note of the remarkable resemblance between the two documents,

having further taken note of the fact that the National Party, to which we had looked to protect the interests of Afrikaners, and whose national leader had promised gatherings of influential members of the Afrikaner community that no future South African constitution would be accepted which would deny Afrikaners the right to rule themselves and which would place them at the mercy of numerically stronger groups, has committed itself to the creation of "one nation" in an "undivided South Africa", in which the constitution will merely "acknowledge the plurality of cultures and the ethnic diversity of the citizens of South Africa", without holding open the door to the possibility that Afrikaners or any other national groups in South Africa might be granted areas in which they can enjoy a measure of self-government and possible eventual independence;

being of the opinion that Afrikaners, whose history is one long struggle for self-determination and freedom from foreign rule, whose forebears undertook one of the most hazardous journeys ever undertaken by any people anywhere in the world in search of a homeland of their own, who fought two wars of independence against what was then the greatest empire in the world to preserve their independence, who had to go, literally "through defeat, through abasement, even through the valley of the shadow of death", will never accept a system of government under which they will be at the mercy of people who cannot empathise with them, who would seek to destroy their language, their customs and their possessions.

Hereby declare it to be our intention to form a political party, hereinafter called the Afrikaner Party, which will seek to obtain affiliation to CODESA, there to negotiate with other political parties for

(1) the creation of one or more provinces, or regions or states in the new South Africa, which states will

be granted the irrevocable right to have only Afrikaans as its or their official language, and

(2) the right of said state or states, after a period of at least ten years from the date on which the new constitution for South Africa is legally adopted, and if 75% of the Afrikaans-speaking voters in the said state or any of the said states so request, to obtain its or their independence from the South African state.

We hereby further declare it to be our intention and solemn undertaking not to discriminate on grounds of race, colour or creed against any present or future resident in the state or states we seek to create;

That the creation of the said state(s) will not entail the removal from them of any persons already resident there, or the prevention of any South African from seeking lawful entry to or residence or employment in the state(s).

We further believe :

That the right to employ Afrikaans as the only official language of the said state or states implies that only Afrikaans-speaking persons shall be legally entitled to be nominated for and elected as members of the Legislative Assembly(ies) of the state(s) we wish to create;

That the said state(s) shall form part of a country constituted along federal lines, in which the Afrikaans state(s) and any other regional governments or states shall be granted a large measure of autonomy by the constitution of the central government, including specific guarantees that the central government will not undertake any action inside the territories of the said states which will have the effect of weakening or undermining the Afrikaans language.

That the said state(s) shall employ its (their) own police force(s), that no federal forces will be stationed in the territory of the state(s) and that the federal government will not have the power to levy taxes on the inhabitants of the state(s), except forms of sales tax, import and excise duties, etc, if this is done on an equal and non-discriminatory manner in the whole country.

Membership. Any person aged 18 years or over, resident in the Republic of South Africa who regards him- or herself as an Afrikaner will be admitted to membership of the Afrikaner Party upon payment of the required membership fee.

In view of the existence of private and/or secret political armies in South Africa and the fact that political opponents are regularly assassinated, the names and addresses of members will not be made public, unless their duties as party members renders such identification necessary.

Office Bearers. The Party will be led by a national chairperson who will, together with an executive committee of seven members, be elected at the annual congress of the

Party. The executive committee will include a deputy-chairperson, an executive secretary and a treasurer.

The executive committee will meet as often as possible and will be responsible for any decisions or actions to be undertaken by the Party between Congresses. However, the executive committee will not be empowered to effect any changes in the Constitution without the explicit authority of Congress. At least one month notice of amendments to the Constitution will be required.

Finances. Upon receipt of any funds, either by way of membership fees or as contributions, the treasurer will cause a bank account to be opened in the name of the party and all such funds are to be deposited into such account at the earliest possible opportunity. The signatures of at least two members of the executive will be required on all cheques drawn on this account.

The financial statements and accounts of the Party are to be submitted to a firm of auditors at least a month before every annual congress of the Party. The auditors' report is to be made available at such congresses.

Goals: The Afrikaner Party seeks to attain only the immediate objective of creating an Afrikaans-language state(s). It is fully aware of the fact that it is a fledgling party and that other, older and better organized groups or organizations might form parties which would be in a better position to campaign for the same goal. In the event that such a party or parties would emerge and be admitted to CODESA, the Afrikaner Party will undertake to merge its efforts with theirs or to leave the scene entirely. However, the Afrikaner Party is committed to a non-racial and non-discriminatory society, (except of course as regards the use of Afrikaans), hence the Party will not contemplate co-operation with groups which continue to embody racism in their constitutions.

In the event that the Party is denied the right to participate in CODESA, it will continue to promote the ideal of Afrikaans-language areas in any non-violent legal way available to it.

Siwanee River,
Witpoort, Laersdrif.

December 20th, 1991.

INTRODUCING THE AFRIKANER PARTY.

Historical Background to the Formation of the (present) Afrikaner Party.

The reference to the "present" Afrikaner Party needs to be explained. This is not the first time an "Afrikaner Party" appears on the South African political scene. In 1940, when general Hertzog left the political arena, Afrikaners were tragically divided between "Hertzogites" and "Malanites". Mr N.C.Havenga, who had been one of general Hertzog's most loyal supporters, decided, in desperation almost, to form a new party to try and bring Afrikaners together again. That was how the Afrikaner Party was formed. In the election of 1948 the Afrikaner Party and the Herenigde Nasionale Party formed an election pact. The former Party won nine seats, thereby helping the H.N.P. which won 70 seats, to gain a majority in Parliament.

Initially the two parties governed as a coalition, but in 1951 they merged and adopted the name "National Party".

Although many political parties in which Afrikaners have played a major role have been formed since 1951, there has been a reluctance to employ the word "Afrikaner" in any party again. This, despite the fact that more than fifty percent of the people legally entitled to vote for South African political parties have always been Afrikaners.

The reason for this strange phenomenon is not difficult to find. Ever since Union Afrikaners have courted the votes of English-speaking people, because they realised that without the latter's support they could not hope to win a general election. The only election ever won without sizable English support, was that of 1948, but this only happened because the delimitations for electoral districts favoured the Afrikaner Party and the H.N.P. In reality the two parties won only a minority of the votes.

In later elections, of course, the National Party was able to gain the support of steadily increasing numbers of English-speaking voters. The position, towards the end of 1991 when CODESA was launched, was such that the National Party probably had more support from English-speaking than Afrikaans-speaking people. The fact that the National Party, after its merger with the Afrikaner Party, never adopted any reference to "Afrikaners" in its name, no doubt assisted it in gradually winning the support of English speakers.

Why then re-incarnate an Afrikaner Party? And why attempt to create a province or state or region in which Afrikaans will be the only official language? Is this not a futile exercise? Does not the new Afrikaner Party, by its very name and *raison d'être*, exclude English-speaking people from its ranks?

These questions need to be addressed very honestly.

The Afrikaner Party does not propose the exclusion of English-speaking people from its ranks. It proposes a

mechanism by which the Afrikaans language and Afrikaans culture will not be destroyed. South Africa is merely at the threshold of the process of negotiation which is to lead to the creation of a new constitution, but already we find that the very organization in which the negotiation process is to take place has excluded Afrikaans. We find that the Afrikaans national anthem has been barred from international sports meetings. Is any further proof needed that the death sentence has been passed on Afrikaans?

The Afrikaner Party understands very well that what is happening to Afrikaans at this point in time is quite inevitable. For eighty years this language has been one of the two official languages of South Africa, but in all this time it did not become the only official language, even had Afrikaners tried to make it that. Now that it is obvious for all to see that Afrikaans-speaking people will only represent a minority of the voters in the new South Africa, and not a majority, as they had been for eighty years, the majority of the new voters could not care less about what happens to Afrikaans. The majority have already discarded the Afrikaans national anthem. They will not even negotiate with Afrikaners in their language.

So in asking for an area in which Afrikaans will be the only official language, the Afrikaner Party is really making it easier for the rest of South Africa, where English is bound to become the only official language.

But what do supporters of the Afrikaner Party mean by the word Afrikaner?

Is it some kind of "gogga", some hairyback, which nice folk can employ to scare their children with?

Hopefully not.

Afrikaners are people who call themselves Afrikaners. Nobody can really define them, but in the main they are the descendants of people from various parts of Europe and Malaysia who came or were brought to South Africa from 1652 onwards. In the main they are also people who use Afrikaans as their home or first language. But there are Afrikaners who, though able to converse in Afrikaans, probably use English as a first language. People are not necessarily born Afrikaners. They become Afrikaners out of free choice. And if it suits them they cease to refer to themselves as Afrikaners.

There are many people in South Africa with traditional Afrikaans names, who cannot speak Afrikaans and who might be offended if they were to be called Afrikaners. Conversely there are hundreds of thousands of people in South Africa with traditional English, Scots, Welsh, Irish, German, French, Dutch or Malaysian names, who will admit to being nothing else but Afrikaners.

In the apartheid era a madness descended on many influential Afrikaners and led them to vainly attempt a racial purification of the nation, much in the way a breeder of pedigree cattle would set about building up his pure-bred herd. Of course if a non-registered rogue Jersey bull gatecrashed the pedigree Jersey cows' pasture, the resultant off-spring were still Jerseys, but the breeder would remove them from his books. In this way his stud would remain small, fragile and terribly expensive. And generally it

would be ridiculed, and resented, even hated, from across the fence.

However, the stud-book keepers have ceased to be of any consequence and suddenly people who were formerly excluded from the fold are being welcomed back into it. It has become an inclusive nation, not an exclusive one.

People are becoming Afrikaners for various reasons. They either get to know and to love the Afrikaans language and music. Or they develop a fondness for the people, even for their weaknesses, humbug, stubbornness and downright stupidity. They can empathise with these curious African-bred people, who have suffered so much over ages to establish a nationhood, but who have also not been without their full share of sins.

Or sometimes they just identify with the Afrikaners. So to be an Afrikaner is something intangible. Only people who want to be Afrikaners are Afrikaners and they are the only people who can judge whether they are Afrikaners or not. Where they come from, or what their colour is, is immaterial.

In the new South Africa Afrikaners are either going to be one of the most valuable faces of a many-faceted diamond, or they will become a terrible fifth column. Much will depend on the way in which non-Afrikaners react to their pleas for a home of their own. Those Afrikaners who are still clinging to Herrenvolk notions and who would be exclusive gain influence, power and credibility when non-Afrikaners make sweeping anti-Afrikaner statements, crudely flaunt their contempt for Afrikaner ideals of self-determination and pretend that Afrikaners never had their own self-governing states in Southern Africa. But more fatally, there are those who blithely dismiss the Afrikaans language as a relic of the past. Such people succeed in building up the racists, because even ordinary liberal-minded Afrikaners then begin to see visions of the extinction of their nation.

An Afrikaner regards Afrikaans not as a primitive tongue, but as his primary medium of communication with his fellows, with God and the elements. The Afrikaner instinctively sings in Afrikaans, prays in Afrikaans and childishly believes that one day the Almighty will judge him in Afrikaans. If he were to wake up tomorrow in a country in which Afrikaans has been relegated to only one of a number of "regional dialects", the Afrikaner will have lost the very essence of his life. He will have become a dehumanized cell in an internationalist body, an ant in an ant-hill, a mere number in Orwell's Nineteen Eighty Four. A slave of Big Brother.

That is why the Afrikaner Party was born again. It is going to fight for the right of Afrikaners and Afrikaans to exist. Not to exist by right of a document which a dictator or a majority which cannot tolerate opposition can tear up to-morrow, but as an inalienable right, protected by an own area exclusively governed by Afrikaners, be that a province, a region, a self-governing state, the boundaries of which can be agreed upon in honest bargaining and negotiation with the other groups that make up the present South Africa.

Immediate Goals.

When the new Afrikaner Party was formed the situation pertained that the National Party had expressed its preference, like the communist-dominated ANC, for a unitary state in which no provision would be made for any Afrikaner or Afrikaans region or province. Afrikaners, a small minority of the whole population, would be thrown into the South African melting pot, their only protection a kind of pie in the sky vaguely described as checks and balances.

The Conservative Party, being the only other political party with sizable Afrikaans support, had declared its intent to ignore CODESA. This meant that CODESA would be left to operate with literally nobody to champion the cause of Afrikaners.

(It has to be admitted, of course, that long before CODESA, the Zulu leadership displayed a remarkable far-sightedness in making provision at their INDABA for Afrikaans representation in the second chamber of the governing body recommended by them. However, like a Bill of Rights, representation in a governing body is a nebulous guarantee. The Afrikaners, an ostensibly Christian and Western civilized group, took away the rights Coloured people enjoyed in the South African Constitution. If Afrikaners themselves could circumvent a constitution in this way, how will they know that others may not do the same thing in future?)

To even the most casual of observers it was obvious that some kind of horse-trading between the ANC and the leadership of the National Party had preceded the formation of CODESA. The President was telling his senior ministers, his members of parliament and his fellow Afrikaners: "I will not leave you in the lurch. Believe me. Read my lips".

People in positions of power do not meekly hand over the reins unless they have struck certain deals. The problem is that deals struck in secret have a way of back-firing. When the British imperialists and their Afrikaner hirelings of the first decade of the twentieth century held their CODESA in Durban, they had already conspired to deny people of colour the right to vote. That was the first major flaw in the constitution they thereupon set about to draw up. The second flaw was the acceptance of two official languages in a unitary state. Had they given the Afrikaners, at that time, only half the territory of the two former Boer Republics, and accepted Afrikaans (or Dutch, as it was then still called), as the only official language of the Afrikaans province and English as the only official language of the remaining provinces, South Africa would have been spared much of the misery of the past eight decades.

That is why the Afrikaner Party wishes to be at CODESA. It wants to make sure that the mistakes of the past are not repeated. It wishes, at the same time, to convince other groups of its genuine acceptance of their rights and aspirations, while at the same time demonstrating to them the wisdom of realising the needs and aspirations of the Afrikaners.

In the main it wishes to show the other groups how easily the aspirations of the Afrikaners can be satisfied and how profitable its suggestions for the new South Africa can be to all its citizens.

The first goal of the Afrikaner Party is thus merely to obtain the opportunity to be represented at CODESA on an equal basis with other political parties already represented there.

The Afrikaner Party's Solution.

To understand the proposals put forward by the Afrikaner Party, two self-evident truths have to be taken note of.

(1) There are fewer problems in a homogeneous state than in a heterogeneous state. It follows that any intelligent group of people setting out on the task of creating a new state from the debris of the old, would give preference to the creation of a homogeneous state, rather than a heterogeneous state. Cynics reply: That is true, but what if all the parts of which the whole is to be constructed, are not of the same kind.

The problem with the cynics is that over the years they have started to ingest the racist theories which stress the visually discernable differences between people and downplay those invisible elements which people have in common. Almost instinctively they then conjure up a picture of a homogeneous South African State as meaning one in which there will be people of only one race group. And of course they shoot it down immediately as being unrealistic.

But race or colour are only external characteristics. A homogeneous population is not composed of people of one colour or race only. Its homogeneity stems from the fact that the people all speak the same language. In most European states there are different colour groups, but because in the U.K. they speak only English and in France only French and in Germany only German, the melting pot effect, as in the United States, has produced reasonably homogeneous populations. Even in Belgium, where they were wise enough to create provinces partitioned along language lines, the effect has been to create stable communities.

To revert to that herd of cattle again. White cows and black cows and red cows get along famously despite their colour differences. The bond that keeps them together is their communication system. They understand each other.

A homogeneous state or province or region, then, is one in which people are able to communicate with each other, naturally and intelligibly.

(2) The second self-evident truth is that partitioning a country need not be the creation of insurmountable barriers, with forced evictions of large numbers of innocent people.

A country can be partitioned on a map, painlessly and peacefully. The only requirements are a body of people reasonably representative of the whole population who can sit down and talk and argue intelligently and honestly with each other. If these people agree upon a new map for the country, it will not imply that this will entail

forced removals, loss of property, disturbance of the economy or other harmful effects normally associated with the partitioning of countries.

The only effect a unanimous acceptance of the new map would have, would be a gradual phasing in of regional governments in the new regions and a gradual phasing in of the languages agreed upon at CODESA as the only official languages of the different regions or states or provinces.

In practice this would mean something like this: CODESA might decide that the present Region A, ie the Western Cape, would in future have only Afrikaans as an official language. (70% of the present inhabitants already use Afrikaans as a first language). Because Afrikaans is to be the official language of the regional government, only Afrikaans-speaking people will be able to offer themselves for election as members of the legislative assembly of the region. However, all the inhabitants of region A, of whatever language or race group, who qualify in terms of age as voters, will be able to vote for members of the Regional Legislative Assembly. (RLA)

So there will be no discrimination.

Irrespective of which political party succeeds in obtaining a majority in the RLA, it will be bound by the Constitution to phase in Afrikaans as the only official language in the debates of the RLA, in the courts, in the schools and in all the different sectors of the public service and in all other regionally operated public bodies. A regional broadcasting and television service would, eg, offer only an Afrikaans language service, but obviously private English-medium schools, newspapers, radio and television stations and other phenomena of the kind would soon be created.

All the voters in the various regions will vote for people to represent them in a federal parliament, which will set up the various federal government departments required to govern the country. The official language of the federal government and its various departments will be English, but the influence and powers of the federal government will be severely circumscribed and indeed reduced to the absolute minimum inside the various regions. The details will have to be worked out at CODESA.

South Africa, thanks to the efforts of Messrs. de Klerk and Mandela, (whether honourably performed or artificially forced upon them by some Big Brother), now has a forum where the future constitution of the country will theoretically, at least, be hammered out. This forum is CODESA. It is possible, as the Afrikaner Party fears, that CODESA might just be the public dressing for a private braai, but whatever the circumstances were that led to its creation, it is there and it would be shortsighted to wish it away as the CP and its allies are doing. In the end it has to be conceded that it is a unique body. Why not give it a try?

The Afrikaner Party believes that CODESA might just prove to be the tool with which to create a better South Africa. For that reason the Afrikaner Party wishes to be a part of it.

The Afrikaner Party's Suggestion.

It follows from the foregoing that the Afrikaner Party's suggestion is a simple one. It suggests that CODESA investigate whether sizeable groups of the country's population desire the creation of states in which one language only will be recognized as the official language.

If it finds, as the Afrikaner Party is convinced that it will, that there is a significant demand for the creation of regions or states or provinces in which either one language will be recognized and accepted as the only official language, or two or more languages of which number only one had previously been an official language, it can set about, with the assistance of the entire state machinery, to devise boundaries of the states which will, as far as possible, group together majorities of people speaking the languages in question. Assuming then, purely hypothetically, that CODESA discovers that there is significant support for only two language defined areas in South Africa, it will set about drawing maps showing the fairest way in which the country could be carved up into provinces or regions or states in which the two languages would, from the outset, already be numerically stronger than any other language already in use in the particular area.

CODESA could then declare, as the Belgian government did, that the areas defined by it, will have either language A, B or C or a combination of any of these as its official language(s).

The regional governments of the areas in question would then be obliged to cater for the inhabitants of the regions in the languages so agreed upon in all spheres of the public service.

The federal government (the creation of which will be supported by the Afrikaner Party, rather than a Unitary State), will not, by virtue of the Constitution, be entitled to create in the various states, any structures which employ languages not agreed upon as the official languages of the states in question.

The effect will be that the population of the various unilingual provinces, states or regions will gradually display the melting pot effect created in the United States of America until fairly recently. People who do not wish to be assimilated into the language pattern of the state in which they happen to live will not be forced to move from it, but will probably do so from their own volition and at their own pace.

For the Afrikaners, who will naturally lobby for a state or states in which Afrikaans will be the only official language, this would mean the creation of a homeland, albeit not initially an independent one. It is quite conceivable that the advantages in economic terms of remaining part of the Federal Republic of South Africa will discourage the inhabitants of the Afrikaans-language states from ever asking for independence, but this possibility should be held open to them.