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1992/02/10

The Chief Executive  
Codesa Secretariat  
P.O. Box 307

ISANDO

1600

Dear Sir/Madam

I trust that the press invitation to submit constitutional proposals will not result in your receiving a flood of "crank" material. My suggestions take the form of a caveat vis-a-vis the assumed magic of constitutions.

After all, Aristotle reminded us thousands of years ago that there is no inherent thaumaturgy in any constitution because it is human beings who have to make constitutions work.

The greatest danger to constitutionalism and democracy is undoubtedly political radicalism. This is the drift of my recent book, Reflections on Radicalism, a complimentary copy of which I enclose for use by interested Codesa members. I am also enclosing a copy of the latest favourable review.

Codesa participants are obviously extremely busy people; thus, none of them has time to wade through the entire volume. I would suggest, therefore, those interested confine themselves to the preface, chapters one, two, eleven and the postscript.

I do hope that, at least, some parts of this book will be of help to the Codesa deliberations which are so important for the future well-being of our country.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Higgins', written in a cursive style.

PROFESSOR E. HIGGINS

Reflections on radicalism

Edward Higgins

Centre for Science Development

P/Bag X270

0001 PRETORIA

The more blueprinters who sit round the negotiating table, the bleaker the prospects for a peaceful and just order in any future South Africa is what Edward Higgins\* avers in the postscript to his book which was written prior to President F W de Klerk's historic 2nd February 1990 speech.

V This volume should be read both by the participants in Codesa and by sociologists, many of whom Higgins considers to be infected by blueprintitis, a condition which consists of a naive believe in the power of reason, logic and science to alter human beings and increase individual happiness, while ignoring the fact that man is an individual first and part of a group thereafter. II

Of special interest to South Africans is the chapter on apartheid, which basically looks at the character and politics of Hendrik Verwoerd, whom the author considers the closest one can get to an ideal-type blueprinter, characterised by total intransigence and incapable of being persuaded by any other point of view. This chapter contrasts the vision of Dr Verwoerd which was intended to give dignity and rights to the black people of South Africa and the indignities and miseries which were inflicted on them. The author goes on to point out the anomalies of the ideals of those blueprinters who are of the opinion that doing away with apartheid will result in an untroubled society.

Other chapters deal with Nazism and Communism, while also focusing on collectivism and totalitarianism, not theoretically but in an intensely practical and relevant manner. The author, however, does not deal lightly with sociologists and intellectuals who are attracted to blueprinters and who consider that an ideological drawing-board plan can be transposed to the human condition and thus make the world a better place.

He concludes, however, by pointing out that blueprintitis is a condition which does have its positive side in that ideals and dreams are a necessary beginning to the improvement of the lot of the human race.

1991. 301 pages. R27,50

2nd edition, Titles, Henley-on-Klip