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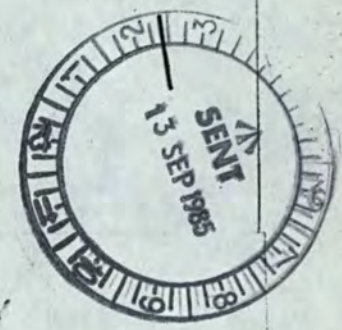
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INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, GABORONE, MBABANE, MASERU, JOHANNESBURG  
INFO SAVING CAPE TOWN CONSULATE, DURBAN

MIPT: PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL REPORT ON INFILUX CONTROL AND URBANISATION

SUMMARY

1. THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN WIDELY WELCOMED BY BUSINESSMEN AND WHITE LIBERALS. BLACKS HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

DETAIL

2. THE REPORT HAS BEEN WELCOMED BY SPOKESMEN FOR THE EMPLOYERS GROUPS, INDUSTRY AND THE URBAN FOUNDATION. THE FEDERATED CHAMBER OF INDUSTRIES CHIEF EXECUTIVE HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT CONFIRMING THAT THE CHAMBER FULLY ENDORSE THE RECOMMENDED ABOLITION OF INFILUX CONTROL AND THE PASS LAWS. THE AFRIKAANSE HANDELSINSTITUUT PRESIDENT HAS COMMENTED THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS NOW SEEING ACTION ON REFORM INSTEAD OF WORDS AND THAT THE INSTITUTE SUPPORTED WHOLEHEARTEDLY ANY MOVE THAT EASED RACIAL TENSIONS AND IMPROVED THE BUSINESS CLIMATE. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ANGLO-AMERICAN CORPORATION HAS WELCOMED THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS ADDING THAT SCRAPPING INFILUX CONTROL WOULD BE THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT MOVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD MAKE TO REDUCE CONFLICT. THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN FOUNDATION HAS URGED BOTH THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL AND THE GOVERNMENT TO ACT URGENTLY ON THE REPORT WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A VITAL BREAKTHROUGH IN THE ENTIRE NATIONAL POLICY TOWARDS URBANISATION AND TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE.

3. COMMENTING AS THE PROGRESSIVE FEDERAL PARTY SPOKESWOMAN ON HUMAN RIGHTS, HELEN SUZMAN HAS SAID THAT IT WOULD BE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT STEP BY THE NATIONAL-PARTY GOVERNMENT SINCE IT CAME TO POWER 37 YEARS AGO IF THE PRESIDENT ACCEPTED THE RECOMMENDATIONS. SHE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS A PITY THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD FAILED TO ADDRESS THE IMPORTANT ISSUE OF SEPARATE RESIDENTIAL AREAS AND HAD PLACED ITS RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN THE CONFINES OF APARTHEID LAWS LIKE THE GROUP AREAS ACT.

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4. THE GENERAL BLACK REACTION APPEARS TO BE A GUARDED WELCOME FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS BUT SOME SCEPTICISM ABOUT WHETHER THESE WILL LEAD TO SIGNIFICANT ACTION BY THE GOVERNMENT. CHIEF BUTHELEZI IS QUOTED AS COMMENTING APPROVINGLY ALTHOUGH STATING THAT THE ISSUES ADDRESSED DO NOT INCLUDE MANY OF THE PROBLEMS FACED IN KWAZULU. OTHER BLACK LEADERS HAVE SAID LITTLE YET IN PUBLIC. THOSE TO WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN IN PRETORIA, MANY OF WHOM ARE TSWANAS, ARE KEEN TO KNOW HOW THIS WILL AFFECT BLACKS WHO HAVE BEEN DEEMED TO BE CITIZENS OF BOPHUTHATSWANA. THE GENERAL BLACK COMMENT IS THAT IF THE GOVERNMENT RESPONDED TO THE REPORT BY REMOVING THE REQUIREMENT FOR BLACKS TO CARRY REFERENCE BOOKS AND ALLOWED REAL FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, THIS WOULD BE A MAJOR BREAK-THROUGH FOR BLACKS.

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