



EDITORIAL

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Facing the future as one society

“South Africa is the frontline State” – Pik Botha, November 1971)

And Frontline is the frontline magazine. It is here to deal with the central issue facing us – the relationship between black and white, rich and poor.

It is for people who are interested in that issue – all the people who are interested in that issue. It is not a ‘white’ journal or a ‘black’ one,

Frontline is on the side of change, very substantial change. But it does not set out to speak only to those who also want change, it wants to speak as well to those who don’t.

It is objective, which is not the same thing as neutral. Objectivity in our view means admitting the bad in what we like and the good in what we don’t like. We do not believe that progress in South Africa is helped by beating one-sided information into people’s heads. We believe it is helped by providing information which people can believe whether it is in their interests or not, and which offers the same input to people on different sides of the political dividing line. The real conflict of interests between South Africans is serious enough, without it being needlessly aggravated by the misunderstanding which flows from the different sections of society being offered wildly divergent interpretations

of what's happening within society.

Frontline is not neutral, It believes that the current structure of society is wrong. Not just a little bit wrong, needing only a few amendments and some updating to put it right; but fundamentally and drastically wrong.

It stands for a society which is run in the interests of all the people, not of any section.

Frontline's basic assumption is that South Africa is one society, and that sooner or later it will be recognised as such, no matter how hard conservatives might try to keep it "white" or radicals try to turn it "black".

The real questions are how that recognition is achieved, and what sort of society we end up with.

Frontline doesn't claim to know all the answers, or even all the questions. It does aim to provide a means of airing the questions and allowing debate of the answers.

There are a few points of which it is confident. Among these are:

- * That no matter how much some people might desire it, no worthwhile change will come about without white acquiescence.
- * That no matter how much some, different people might desire it, the days of white control over white destiny are virtually over.
- * That our society does not consist of 5-million people, as some like to assume, any more than it does of the 20-million that others like to think will be left over after the day of liberation.
- * That we've suffered from a previal "them and us" approach for long enough, In fact we're only an "us" and we have a lot of economic and political issues to sort out between us.

Our society has the seeds of greatness within it. There's goodwill and there's courage, and once we can get rid of the needless fear and suspicion that con-strains us, we can achieve wonders.

There's never been a society quite like, South Africa. The transformation will be uniquely difficult and complex. It Is just possible that the end result will be uniquely great.

Denis Beckett