

By Carolyn Dempster

For the first time since 1968, there was a close co-operation between Nusas and black student groups, said Nusas president Mr Andrew Boraine on the eve of one of the largest annual congresses in the union's 58-year history.

The National Union of South African Students chose as their 1980 theme "Exposing Total Strategy," and it was as a direct result of close contact with students on black campuses in pursuit of this theme that co-operation had been achieved, said Mr Boraine.

In addition to the observers from black universities, a large contingent from Stellenbosch University, representatives from several other Afrikaans campuses and the newly-formed Afrikaans student union, *Polstu*, as well as individuals from a number of teacher training colleges are expected at the congress.

STATE STRATEGIES

During the course of the congress which starts tomorrow, the executive will reflect on the State strategies, strikes and boycotts of 1980.

Advocate George Bizos SC has been invited to open the congress, and in this choice, Nusas leaders are focussing student attention on the activities of

Nusas: strong ties with black students

Star

28-11-1980

the union during 1980, in particular, state repression, the free Mandela campaign and the widespread school boycotts, said Mr Boraine.

Nusas was hard hit by State action during 1980.

Andrew Boraine was detained for two months under the Terrorism Act and then released without being charged.

Many Nusas publications have been banned.

Although disaffiliated as a campus, five students from Rhodes who would have attended the congress cannot do so because they are being held in detention.

Several honorary office-bearers of Nusas, including Beyers Naude and Helen Joseph, have also

been prevented from attending because of their banning orders.

EMPHASIS SHIFT

Out-going president Andrew Boraine thinks the emphasis in 1981 will shift from largely political issues to educational issues.

"There is a need to return to a theme based more on education — especially on campus," he said.

This does not mean, he said, that Nusas has neglected education crises in the past, or that it will discontinue the search for alternatives and forms of resistance to government strategies.

Among new congress committees formed are

committees on socialisation, fundraising and religious action.

Mr Norman Manóim Nusas vice-president, said the socialisation committee was formed to examine the effect militarisation, the education system, sexual stereotyping and advertising had on society's values.

This aspect will be concentrated on by journalist Joanne Yawitch in an address on socialisation.

The fundraising committee, *Fons*, which was launched earlier this year, had a dual function Mr Manóim said — to devise means of fundraising and to allow past Nusas members and office-holders the opportunity to retain informal links with the union.

RETAINED INTEGRITY

Despite State action, severe attacks from the conservative elements on campuses, and the critical re-evaluative years of 1976 and 1977, Nusas has retained its integrity as a liberal and progressive student body.

A closer liaison with black students and hence Black Consciousness and maintaining links with Afrikaans bodies will place Nusas leaders in a better position when confronting the problems of 1981, it was said, although Nusas always aimed to be aware of the limitations of student involvement.

President's Council is under attack

11-12-1980

By MARTIN FEINSTEIN

THE Government's "total strategy" cannot be accepted because it does not meet even one of the minimum demands of most South Africans, the president of the National Union of South African Students (Nusas) said at the weekend.

Speaking at the opening of the Nusas congress at the University of the Witwatersrand, Mr Andrew Boraine asked: "Do we accept that the new reforms, pronouncements and promises offer a platform for the building of a new South Africa, or are we witnessing one group, challenged by a vociferous majority, making changes in order to consolidate their position of power?"

"Both the Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde faces of total strategy must be seen," Mr Boraine said. "With promises of reform have come increased control and repression — integral parts of both old and new Government policy. He said "total strategy" had

to be rejected because it was also undemocratic.

"Even in terms of parliamentary politics, we see a move away from legislation by Parliament to rule by decree, Ministerial proclamations and select committees.

"Taking this one step further, 'total strategy' seeks out puppet leaders, puts them in prominent positions or in community councils and then talks to them. At the same time, calls for true leaders such as Mandela and Sisulu to be realised, are rejected out of hand."

The housing crisis was another reason why the answer of students to "total strategy" should be an emphatic "no", Mr Boraine said.

"This year, through 99-year leasehold plans and Urban Foundation housing schemes, this demand has ostensibly been covered.

"Yet housing was, and still is, one of the key areas of resistance this year, with many communities refusing to pay increased rents."

But, he said, the issue was not so much the increases as the fact that most South Africans were not regarded as citizens of this country.

"The State has thus never felt obliged to provide housing for all its people.

"Until it is resolved that South Africa is a unitary state with 26-million citizens, the amount of 'total strategy' tinkering will solve the escalating conflict."

Mr Boraine said student led, for too long, tended to operate in a vacuum, taking direction only from their own textbooks and favourite authors.

"As young people, seeking to contribute to the transformation of our society, we must choose a path which falls in line with the struggles of the townships and ghettos, the settlement camps and the migrants."

"It is from the majority of South Africans that our leadership must come... let our voice be heard and our actions felt."

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The price Nusas has paid for its long fight against inequality and injustice

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LOM 1-12-1980

ONE of South Africa's leading civil rights campaigners, **GEORGE BIZOS**, asked a vital question when he opened the Nusas Congress at the University of the Witwatersrand on Saturday: Has the time not come for students, irrespective of colour or language, to rejoin the nonracial student body? Mr Bizos is a senior member of the Johannesburg Bar and a member of the Council of Lawyers for Human Rights. He served four terms on the University of the Witwatersrand Student Representatives' Council during the late 1940s and early 1950s, and was a vice-president of Nusas.

DURING the late 40s and early 50s, most members of the National Union (of South African Students), and more particularly its leaders, had either fought in the war that was to end all wars or, though perhaps too young to fight, were old enough to have been influenced by the declared aims of the Allied cause.

It was nowhere better stated than in the Atlantic Charter. The President of the United States and the Prime Minister of His Majesty's Government solemnly declared in August, 1941, in Article 3 of the Charter, that "... they respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they live".

In 1948, even while the National Party was calling for votes for a white South Africa, and making plans to deprive even the few blacks of their right to vote, under the pretext of introducing constitutional certainty, the General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Although Mr Pik Botha, when a backbencher, on his return from America tentatively suggested the declaration's adoption, South Africa is one of the few countries in the world that has not adopted it, even at least as something to which to aspire.

The National Union adopted it for its guidance in the preamble of its constitution.

Almost every one of the inalienable rights of all members of the human family — considered the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in

the world — and enumerated in the preamble and 30 articles of the declaration, were to a greater or lesser extent violated for the majority of the people in South Africa even before the National Party came into power in 1948.

One of the purposes of the adoption of the declaration was that man should not be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression. However attractive the rights and freedoms set out in the declaration as a whole may have been to our black fellow students, those in Article 21 must have overshadowed all others:

- "Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives";
- "Everyone has the right of equal access to the public service in his country";
- "The will of the people shall be the basis of authority of government, to be expressed in periodic elections by universal and equal suffrage."

They felt that if these rights were acquired, others, such as freedom of movement and residence within the borders of their own country; the right to own property; the right to equal pay for equal work; the right to form and join trade unions; and the right to free education directed to the full development of the human personality; as well as the many other rights as set forth in the declaration, could well follow.

The level of expectation among students in South Africa, and more particularly,

those who were disfranchised and dispossessed, increased by these and other declarations of intent.

The demand for full citizenship denied to the majority of the population, was made more earnestly than ever before by the political organisations of the black people in South Africa.

The comparatively small but courageous and articulate groups of black students at Fort Hare, Cape Town, Wits and elsewhere, were no longer prepared to remain spectators in the struggle for freedom. They spurred their organisations to take affirmative action to gain the rights so long denied to them and their people.

It was the end of the period of politely asking the government to alleviate the sufferings of the have-nots, and the beginning of the period of vociferously demanding political rights and threatening that further steps would be taken if they were not granted.

This was the climate in which many now in prison or in exile became involved in the struggle for political rights for all.

Nusas, one of the few non-racial organisations then in existence, could not and did not stand aloof. It identified itself with the cause of the majority of the citizens of the country, who were then knocking at the door and calling out loudly that they should be admitted to enjoy, on an equal basis, what the country had to offer, or else.

Governments not elected by, and ruling without the consent of the majority of the people, must be able to deal firmly with those who challenge the premises of which those in power hold office.

To this end, the Suppression of Communism Act of 1950 was passed. Nusas, together with many others, protested and warned that the Act would not only be used against a small group of communists then functioning as a political party, but would be used to crush all those who did not accept the then sacred doctrine of apartheid.

He advocates piloting the legislation gave assurances that this would not happen. Nusas was proved right, and those who gave the assurance wrong.

The Act has been used to ban the ANC (African National Congress), the PAC (Pan Africanist Congress), the Defence and Aid Organisation, SASO (South African Students' Organisation), the BPC (Black People's Convention), and a score or more of other organisations seeking to bring about change in South Africa.

The Act was used to restrict, banish or house-arrest some who were communists, but it has also been used to restrict and silence trade unionists, student leaders, teachers, journalists and churchmen.

When even well-wishing friends of the South African Government found it difficult to accept that such staunch Calvinists, Lutherans and Anglicans as Beyers Naude, Manas Buthelezi and David

Russell were restricted and silenced in terms of the Suppression of Communism Act, the law was re-christened — and has now become the Internal Security Act.

Nusas protested the passing of the Group Areas Act, the Separate Amenities Act, the removal of the Coloured voters from the common roll, the threat to close the universities to black students, the introduction of legislation to make it compulsory for women to carry passes, and the tightening up of the provisions of the Urban Areas Act, which separated families and deprived an even greater number of people of the right to live in the city where they could find work.

They protested against the Mixed Marriages and Immorality Acts, the Population Registration Act, the Bantu Education Act.

Those in power enjoin the others to obey the law and not to have doubts about the basis of authority of the government

in power. Rulers, to paraphrase Anatole France, expect their subjects to salute the majestic equality of the law that forbids black and white, rich and poor, to steal bread and sleep on park benches.

Nusas was protesting, not thanking and applauding. Attacks on Nusas were therefore frequently made. There was nothing new in this, even many years ago. Way back in 1933 when the National Union decided to admit students studying at Fort Hare to membership, the late Dr Nico Diederichs, who led the breakaway from Nusas to form the Afrikaanse Studentebond, said that the organisation was too liberalistic, imperialistic and negro-philistic to cater for the needs of Afrikaner students.

Dr D F Malan assured his audience in 1950 that the bunch of Leftists protesting against these laws would soon be thrown out of office by the moderate student body. One wonders what the good doctor would say now, now that at least some of his then associates and spiritual heirs are doubting the wisdom of at least some of the laws passed and the acts perpetrated in the name of apartheid, that Nusas so strongly protested against.

The Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, is reported to have said recently to his constituency at George: "The whites cannot survive through oppressing other races or by denying them human rights and a decent standard of living. I know the moment you start oppressing people, the moment you start denying them their rights to live as people, they fight back."

The recent calls for reform, even though they may be considered as ineffective or cosmetic by many, must surely be considered as an unqualified admission that there was, or indeed is, such oppression as is referred to by the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister called on his audience to learn from the history of the Afrikaner people, who fought when they were oppressed. There is good authority for the Prime Minister's view. Aristotle said that inequality in goods and honours leads to seditions.

The main political organisations of the African people were banned in April 1960. Many of their leaders were restricted and silenced. Any serious attempt to bring about change by calling a national convention, or even contravening location regulations by way of protest, was considered treason by politicians, who believed that the black man should be kept in his place. The inevitable fight-back was about to start.

The commencement of the campaign against targets called the symbols of apartheid, at the end of 1961, soon led to the 90-day detention provision, which was soon thereafter to be made into a 180-day provision. The courts' right to interfere with such detentions was removed, as was its right to admit people to bail.

Nusas protested. Those in authority were less tolerant of protesting and criticism. The then Minister of Police, Mr B J Vorster, said Nusas was a cancer in South African society and that he would personally root it out.

Participation in its activities until then could, at worst, lead to the deprivation of a passport, or possibly a banning order. By the middle 60s, the prospect of detention without trial, or even conviction because of peripheral involvement in an underground organisation, became real dangers. Commissions of inquiry, disaffiliation campaigns, scurrilous articles in certain newspapers, and infiltration by police informers weakened, but did not destroy, Nusas.

The arrest, trial and acquittal of its leaders for advocating a better education for all, trade union rights for all workers, and the release of political prisoners, highlighted the injustice done to those who had not been charged in court, but had been banned for reasons unknown to them — and without having been heard.

It was no doubt felt that if it was prevented from receiving funds from outside the country, it would fold up. It was declared an affected organisation — cutting off funds from outside — in September, 1974. It has managed without such funds. It is encouraging that a Friends of Nusas Committee has been formed, to call on us to help the National Union to continue its work.

Nusas, although on a collision course with the Government for over 30 years, has survived. Black students left Nusas in the late 60s and early 70s in order to go it alone.

Nusas is a nonracial, demo-

cratic student organisation open to all. Has the time not arrived for students, irrespective of colour or language, to come back into it, no matter what other organisations of their own they may still want to be in? It can only strengthen the forces calling for democratic rights for all.

Nusas is probably stronger now than it has been for some time.

Apartheid, however, has had more than its fair share of victims: More than 40 have died in detention since detention-without-trial was introduced; at least six have died on the gallows for politically motivated acts; very recently, three have been sentenced to death, though not found guilty, of an act involving loss of life; hundreds have been shot dead in the last five years, and many more wounded in confrontations between police and students.

Thirty-eight have been sentenced and are serving terms of life imprisonment.

According to Annual Surveys, published by the Institute of Race Relations since 1955, at least 9 958 persons have been convicted under the arsenal of security laws. The figure is probably well over 10 000 — during certain periods, no accurate record was kept.

More than 16 654 persons were detained up to the end of 1979 under the regulations pro-

mulgated during the emergency of 1960, the 90-day, 180-day and indefinite detention provisions in terms of the Terrorism Act and Internal Security Acts.

There have been 1 412 persons banned in terms of the Internal Security Act; 162 persons have been banished to outlying areas in terms of what was called the Native Administration Act of 1937; 22 organisations have been declared unlawful.

None of these figures include what has been happening in Namibia (South West Africa).

Has the price paid solved any of our problems? Will more deaths, long terms of imprisonment, detentions, bannings or banishings solve any of our problems. Or will they be multiplied?

History would tend to show that death sentences, long terms of imprisonment, and other punitive actions only make those who feel deprived of political rights to become more determined to get them at any cost.

Our courts have hitherto kept a cool head in relation to the passing of death sentences where no life was lost. It is hoped that this tendency will continue.

Life imprisonment is an ambiguous term, but it has never — at least in modern times — been understood to mean the natural life of a prisoner. The prison authorities decide when to release a prisoner sentenced to life imprisonment. In prac-

tice, it varies from 10 to 14 years.

There are prisoners on Robben Island and in Pretoria — sentenced to life imprisonment — who have been there for more than 18 years. Is it intended to leave them there for the rest of their lives?

Leibrandt, convicted of treason during the war, was sentenced to death. His sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. He was released some four years after the sentence was imposed.

As observed by Chief Justice Rumpff, *en passant* in argument in another case, "life" there meant the life of the government in power. Is the only hope that these men have, that the life of the government will be shorter than theirs?

As we are assured that all prisoners are treated alike, why is the practice of reviewing life sentences after 10 years or so not followed in the case of political prisoners? Why is no remission granted to those sentenced to many years of imprisonment?

Nusas has done much to help educate and bring comfort and

hope to many of the life-loving people in our prisons. Let it continue to pay special attention to the life prisoners and the many others who are discriminated against by not having their sentences reviewed, and to whom no remission is granted because they are political prisoners. Many of them are in the late teens or early 20s. Will they not be given an opportunity to lead an ordinary life before they reach middle age?

On the Prime Minister's own statement, many of them were victims of apartheid who had to fight as his people had done. He and some of his Ministers assure us that apartheid is dead. If that be so, why are those who were its earliest and staunchest opponents still in prison?

The refusal of the authorities to treat them in the same manner as other prisoners may be regarded as an act of revenge because they challenged the government's right to govern them without their consent.

For our self-preservation, it is as well that we do not make ourselves guilty of remaining silent when such acts of revenge are committed. Let us, and more particularly those in power, remember the words of the historian Thucydides, written almost 2 500 years ago: "Indeed, it is true that in these acts of revenge on others, men take it upon themselves to begin the process of repealing these general laws of humanity (human rights are not a 20th century invention) which are here to give hope of salvation to all who are in distress. Instead of leaving those laws in existence, remembering that there may come a time when they, too, will be in danger and

Inquiry 'a part of total strategy'

2-12-1980

STC

By Kerry Clark
The present commission of inquiry into education is part of a strategy which aims at giving a few privileges and leaving the large majority as oppressed as before.

passed why in South Africa the power structure should change with the introduction of compulsory, free and equal education.

ENDS

"Indeed, there are strong indications that such changes as proposed by the State right now can be used for highly conservative ends.

"The Human Sciences Research Council commission of inquiry into education, which is likely to come up with liberalising suggestions of reform, is clearly part of the State's

with adequate ones and for sufficient teacher training colleges to produce an adequate number of well-trained teachers.

The replacement of ethnic education departments with one national education department for all was another short-term demand, she said.

LINK

These demands were for an equalisation of educational facilities rather than for democratisation, Ms Chisholm added.

She noted that short-term and long-term demands were inextricably linked — "You cannot have democratic education in an undemocratic

society and therefore the struggle in the schools has to be linked with the struggles of the rest of the oppressed people."

She said the short-term demands of the students for equal access to schools and equal facilities were not enough — consideration should also be given to what is distributed in the schools.

"This forms their medium-term demand, namely an educational content that is comprehensive and relevant, and in which the values transmitted are significantly different."

Industry as well as the students were demanding changes in education. "The South African eco-

nomy has moved into a different phase.

"Highly sophisticated technology is now being used. While making hundreds of workers redundant, it at the same time requires skilled, trained blacks for professional and a host of other jobs.

RESTRICTURED

"To keep the system going, education needs to be restructured," said Ms Chisholm.

She added that the movement towards democratic education should include taking control away from the State and vesting it in local regional bodies such as the SRC, PTAs, and Teachers' Committees.

Nusas kicks out security police spy

The National Union of South African Students (Nusas) has withdrawn the honorary life membership conferred on Mr Craig Williamson who turned out to be a security police spy.

Mr Williamson became deputy director of the International University Exchange Fund but was ousted early this year when it was disclosed that he was a South African secret agent. The fund recently announced its decision to close.

NECESSARY

The president of Nusas, Mr Andrew Boraine said this morning: "Although the students felt it wouldn't make that much difference to Williamson, it was something that had to be done."

Mr Boraine said that Mr Williamson had also been involved in the questioning of Nusas students while they were in detention.

On the third day of the Nusas annual congress yesterday, students also called for the unconditional release of four students from Rhodes University who are being held under Section Six of the Terrorism Act.

CONDEMNED

Another resolution passed last night condemned the draft Labour Relations Amendment Bill.

Mr Boraine said that during the recent strikes in the Cape students raised more than R10 000 to help the strikers. The proposed Bill would prevent them from doing anything similar in the future.

One of the resolutions to be discussed today concerned amnesty for people sentenced to death, such as those in the Soekme-kaar/Silverton siege case, Mr Boraine said.

... contd

The best proof, if any is needed, that Nusas was right and its critics wrong is the recognition by at least some of them that they have to put right at least some of the things Nusas has been protesting about for a generation, at some cost to itself.

Commissions of Inquiry, calls for reform, and promises of better things to come for some, fall far short from the ideals Nusas set its sights on.

Let us urge Nusas to keep on protesting until everyone has the right to take part in the government of the country; until the will of the people is the basis of authority of government expressed in periodic elections by universal and equal suffrage; until Nusas's principles are accepted, even by those in authority.

By Iain Macdonald

Nusas has called for the commutation of the death sentences on the three Silverton trial terrorists on the grounds that the accused should be "treated as prisoners of war in terms of the Geneva Convention of 1949."

There was only one abstention from the vote which was taken at the Nusas congress at Wits University today.

The meeting resolved also to call for "maximum clemency for the remain-

Nusas: commute *Star* 2-12-1980 Silverton sentences

ning six accused, for extension of prisoner of war status to all those taken as prisoners in the current low level civil war, and for the South African Government to sign the 1977 protocol to the Geneva Convention."

It was said at the meeting that a state of low

level civil war existed in South Africa, and that the current conflict was "a response to a legacy of injustice and oppression and that it follows from the absence of effective constitutional channels for ensuring the redress of grievances.

"In view of this, the

accused should be treated as prisoners of war in terms of the Geneva Convention of 1949 and in terms of the recent protocol to that convention covering wars of national liberation," the meeting said.

It was also noted that the passing of death sentences in general — and in particular where no loss of life had occurred — were considered excessive by lawyers and human rights associations.

● See Page 9: Nusas kicks out Security Police spy.

Nusas *KOM* demands detainees' release *2-12-1980*

Staff Reporter

THE National Union of South African Students (Nusas) yesterday demanded the release of three Rhodes University students who have been in detention for nearly four months.

In a strongly worded resolution delegates to the Nusas congress at the University of the Witwatersrand said the continued detention of Mr Michael Kenyon, Mr Chris Watters and Mr Alan Zinn was evidence of the State's intention to suppress progressive thought and action in South Africa.

The resolution also expressed solidarity with a Rhodes lecturer, Mr Guy Berger and a student, Mr Devan Pillay, who have been charged under the Internal Security Act after four months in detention.

"The Act is one of the most reprehensible pieces of legislation available to suppress legitimate political opposition," the resolution said.

Another resolution called for the commutation of the death sentences passed on three of the nine accused in the Silverton/Soekmeaar siege trial, and "maximum clemency" for the other six.

Last night the congress also unanimously passed a resolution dealing with the draft Labour Relations Amendment Bill, details of which were disclosed by the Rand Daily Mail yesterday.

It expressed "solidarity with those workers who continue the struggle for democratic trade unions".

Support *Star* for a *9-12-1980* selective boycott

Delegates at the Nusas congress yesterday heard a report from a sub-committee giving support to a selectively applied academic boycott of South Africa.

A committee considering various aspects of the subject "University and Education" told the delegates in a report back that it was unable to support or reject an academic boycott *per se*.

However, it said a boycott of some sort was desirable, first for the reason that "such a boycott would be in accordance with the general condemnation of the South African regime and the policy of enforced isolation."

Second, it noted that "such a boycott would hinder the repressive tendencies of the current re-

gime which increasingly relies on the accumulation and use of sophisticated technical and other knowledge."

The report added: "nevertheless, the committee recognised the positive contributions made in the past by foreign academics supportive of radical change in South Africa and felt that a blanket boycott would cut off an important source of useful and progressive ideas."

In considering course reform in the university, the committee named its long term goals as "democratic education and the creation of courses designed to serve the needs of the majority of people."

It recognised however that these goals could not be achieved in an undemocratic society and concentrated on medium term, more attainable goals. It emphasised that course reform was not an end in itself.

Practical areas which the committee named in which students could participate include participation in academic appointment; restructuring of the academic year; contact and liaison with sympathetic academics and the questioning of teaching methods.

Nusas takes stand on 'progressive struggle'

33

By Kerry Clarke

Student support for boycotts and strikes, contact with other student bodies and accommodation for blacks at white universities were some of the subjects that arose at the annual congress of the National Union of South African Students yesterday.

A sub-committee which investigated social action told the delegates: "The solution to social problems lies in political action by progressive community groups."

"Social action by progressive student groups should thus link up with progressive groups within the community, working within the group's capabilities of resources, finance and analysis."

It said student response to the meatworkers' strike in the Cape showed how financial support could contribute to a "progressive struggle."

"It enabled the workers to consolidate their position, facilitated unity and boosted their strength against management."

"Thus while contributions to strike funds take the form of handouts, they contribute to consolidated political action by workers."

It added that support given to the schools boycott was also important.

"We recognise that the role of white students within the broader struggle in South Africa is primarily a supportive one which responds to the various forms of resistance constantly emerging."

It said that although it was difficult to propose a blueprint for social action in 1981, students engaging in social action should have a thorough understanding of the political economy of South Africa.

It added students "should become involved in social action at the request of organisations or groups of people working towards democratic change," and said students should have progressive and long-term goals.

On the question of contact between Nusas and other groups, a report noted: "We should not have contact with groups that are clearly racist, anti-democratic or who have been labelled as reactionary by their communities, for example David Thebehali."

ALIGN

It added that the National Union should align itself with progressive forces.

"The fact that many previously conservative students are also now beginning to question reflects the depth of the South African crisis. We should credit these groups for moving away from the confines of their ideology."

The meeting congratulated Mr Moll on his "courageous and consistent stand."

It called on the State to amend the Acts governing military service to provide non-military options for genuine conscientious objectors.

COURAGEOUS

The Nusas conference noted this as well as "the deficiency in the existing legislation in its failure to provide for genuine conscientious objectors."

This led to "many persons electing to remain in South Africa being subject to the wasteful and destructive punishment of being confined to detention barracks."

Congress applauds stand by objector

3 -12- 1980

A motion congratulating conscientious objector Mr Peter Moll on his "courageous and consistent stand" was unanimously passed by delegates at the Nusas congress yesterday.

Mr Moll was released from detention barracks in Pretoria yesterday after serving a twelve month sentence for refusing on religious grounds, to do military service. He spent 136 days in solitary confinement.

The motion, which was seconded by Mr Moll's brother, Terence, also

noted the "deficiency in existing legislation" which failed to provide for genuine conscientious objectors.

Those who opted to remain in South Africa were subject to the "wasteful and destructive punishment of being confined to detention barracks," the motion said.

The motion also called on the State to "amend the Acts governing military service, to provide an alternative non-military option for genuine conscientious objectors."

Nusas wants 'non-military options' for objectors

3 -12- 1980

By Iain Macdonald
Nusas has called on the Government to provide alternative non-military options for genuine conscientious objectors.

This was resolved on the third day of the Nusas conference at the University of the Witwatersrand.

The resolution was taken following the release of objector Peter Moll from detention barracks in Pretoria.

Mr Moll served a 12-month sentence for refusing to serve in the South African Defence Force because of his Christian con-

victions. He spent 126 days of his sentence in solitary confinement.

The Nusas conference noted this as well as "the deficiency in the existing legislation in its failure to provide for genuine conscientious objectors."

Nusas to oppose festival

Arg 15
5-12-1980

DELEGATES at the 58th N u s a s congress today unanimously resolved to call for an 'alternative programme' on university campuses to replace festivities planned to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Republic of South Africa next year.

The programme would be implemented by 'anti-Republic Day committees' as a counter to the anniversary celebration, which was an ideological expression of the subordination by the State of the majority of South Africans.

- That each campus should stage a 'high-profile counter-event' on June 1.
- That posters and publications airing Nusas opposition to Republic Day festivities should be distributed on a nationwide basis.
- That the activities of Nusas should be coordinated with those of other groups sharing its opposition to the festival.

It's lonely in front

Star Editorial

4-12-1980

DOWN the ages the price of avant-garde thinking has often been vilification. So it has been with the student organisation Nusas. More than 30 years ago it recognised that South African-style discrimination was a denial of human rights. Its protests began when many of today's liberals were content to coast with apartheid. Inevitably it was on a collision course with the Government.

As Minister of Justice, Mr Vorster called it a cancer to be rooted out. The Government leaned on it with its full weight: detentions, bannings, commissions of inquiry and police infiltration. Conservative students and the public joined in with disaffiliation campaigns and what Mr George Bizos, an advocate, this week referred to as scurrilous articles.

Public participation was in-

voked by innuendo. In an unrelated appeal hearing this week, counsel for the State was reported to have said: "People are banned, it must be accepted, for a good reason." Perhaps. Actually the "good reasons" are never given, never publicly tested. On the evidence of a puff of banning smoke the public is expected to believe there is a subversive fire.

Meanwhile some of the light which Nusas has been trying to shed is beginning to filter into the dark corners. As Mr Bizos noted, some people are starting to recognise the need to put right some of the things Nusas spent a generation protesting about. The students may often get carried away by radical and ineffective proposals, but history will be kinder in assessing Nusas's role in striving for justice than contemporary critics who would not see.

5-12-1980
Boraine

re-elected
Capit Times
Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Mr Andrew Boraine was re-elected president of the National Union of South African Students (Nusas) on the last day of the organization's conference here yesterday.

Other members of the executive committee elected yesterday were: Lisa Seftel, projects officer; Frans Kruger, secretary-general; Ingrid Obery, media officer; and Jonty Joffe, research officer.

Voice of dissent raised at Nusas congress

4-12-1980

Star

By Kerry Clarke

A voice of dissent was raised at the congress of the National Union of South African Students last night when a former vice-president of the Wits SRC told the union to change its orientation and direction.

Mr Tony Leon told students that his fundamental opposition to Nusas revolved around "the blatant insincerity of its projected themes and basis for existence."

He said: "You claim to be in favour of democracy, you claim that the university is unflinchingly

autocratic and unsusceptible of grass root opinion and critical input, yet the structure of your organisation would make P W Botha, our alleged ver-lige dictator, a proud man."

He added: "Your adverse and paranoid reaction to criticism, to dissension within the ranks, to brand your opponents as Boss agents and police activists is McCarthyism of the worst kind."

He suggested that the new Nusas president decline to be elected tonight, decline to stand, and allow the national executive to make arrangements for a campus-

wide election to choose the president.

He also suggested that the 1981 theme for the union be made "National Unity," and advised students to "look at the broad brush of South Africa's future — at how to avoid the Armageddon which is imminent, the bloodshed of the future."

A third suggestion he made was that Nusas "accept its position as an opposition which can never become a government."

"Rather see the union as a faction of a broad based opposition, not in opposition to elements of the opposition."

"If you see the PFP, the Urban Foundation and the Inkatha movement as the enemy then you are truly obscuring reality."

"The enemy is apartheid. Any attempts to ameliorate it should be welcomed," he said.

His fourth suggestion to the union was that it annually submit itself for reselection by the campuses who are affiliated. He suggested that when SRC elections are held, a separate ballot is held on the question of Nusas.