

1 MARCH 1995

PAC PRELIMINARY SUBMISSION

THEME COMMITTEE 2 BLOCK 213

STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT

NATIONAL LEVEL

The Legislature

The PAC stands for a unicameral legislature. In South Africa the case for a second chamber has not been made. If it has been made, it certainly has not been proved. Our present Senate obviously does not as yet represent the provinces. It is a mirror image of the National Assembly.

It cannot be said that Senators are doing a better job of reviewing legislation than the Select Committees of the National Assembly. Rather than reducing the number of the members of the National Assembly, the PAC would suggest instead that we strengthen the Select Committees of the National Assembly, and abolish the Senate, because it is a very expensive duplication!

The Executive

The PAC stands for a strong presidency and a president who is a member of the National Assembly and the leader of the majority party.

Ministers must be appointed by the President. They must be members of Parliament and should be responsible to Parliament. We are, of course, opposed to constitutionally enforced coalitions or enforced power-sharing. Coalitions must be a

voluntary consequence of the political process.

At Provincial Level

(i) The PAC support provincialism with purely administrative centres, and with very soft borders. This will bring government and services closer to the people.

(ii) While we accept that provinces can play a role in economic

management and development, the PAC believes that they should not have any taxation powers.

(iii) Equally they should have delegated powers from central government and no exclusive powers. The present nine provinces should be reviewed with a view to reducing their number. We have too many structures which are sapping the resources that should build houses, roads and schools.

In drawing the boundaries, we also need to take into account the question of land claims. We do not want to have tribal border wars in this country again.

A G Ebrahim

MP