

Biko's faith in the kind of country South Africa could become, with people judged as human beings rather than as members of a race group.

That certainly was a point made in many of the speeches. Admittedly it was a minor theme to the major theme of black activism, yet consistent throughout was the message that the end result envisaged is a non-racial, non-ethnic society. . . .

It was a fittingly sad and solemn occasion, but for my wife and me the greatest sadness after all the tributes and speeches were over was the journey home with the renewed realization that the Steve Biko we will miss most painfully is not the revered leader most of the masses will miss, nor the young philosopher the academic visitors will miss, nor the brilliant conversationalist the overseas journalists will miss, but the lovable friend who always made for the same chair in our house and whose inflexions of voice and gestures in lighting a cigarette and quaffing a beer and greeting a child and slouching for a chat are so vividly remembered.

I think he would say that the reason why there was no racial incident at his funeral is that the people were all known to be there in friendship, that they were intermingled - not standing in separate racial groups - and that just as hostility grows from separateness and isolation, so love grows from closeness and contact.

The total opposite of *apartheid*.

Shortly after that column was published, Woods was criticized by radical blacks for being too friendly towards the Government. Qoboza sprang to his defence, denouncing "racism in reverse" in his weekly column in *The World*. He apologized to Woods for the unfair criticism and said:

Evidence that the majority of our people are not part and parcel of racial attitudes was fully demonstrated at Steve's funeral. All those white friends who joined our people in giving Steve a thunderous but solemn farewell were as welcome and safe as anybody.

Ian Paton

In an essay for *Time*, Alan Paton, the father figure of South African white liberalism, said that his country had not a friend left in the world. He made the practical point that the West can no longer afford, for political, economic and moral reasons, to alienate the black countries of the world".

"White South Africa is growing more and more bitter against the West," he said. "I cannot understand that the West does not want to see us involved in a racial war. The greatest beneficiary of such a war could



Wide World Photo

Twenty thousand South African blacks attended Steve Biko's open-air funeral at a King Williams Town stadium last September. As Biko's coffin was carried to the stadium, mourners raised their hands in the clenched-fist salute. At the stadium, a succession of speakers condemned the South African Government and its security police.

only be Russia. Afrikanerdom would be destroyed. Our relatively sophisticated economy would be destroyed too. The only people in South Africa who would welcome such destruction would be the most radical of blacks, who have decided that nothing new can be built until everything old has been destroyed. . . .

"I fear that the Afrikaner Nationalist is resisting Western pressures for change not only because they challenge his sovereignty, but also because he knows he is psychologically impotent to accede to them.

"Meanwhile the black demand for change becomes daily more insistent, more confident. With the fall of Marcello Caetano, the liberation of Angola and Mozambique, the great impending changes in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe and South-West Africa/Namibia, the black people of South Africa