Nigerian author, Mr Noel Mahmud Okereke, right, makes some startling statements in his book - Time to admit SA

'Admit SA to OAU'

Story: Goolam Majam, Metropolitan Digest

It seemed at first to be just another routine visit to South Africa, but within minutes of the Rev Noel Mahmud Okereke's arrival for his Press conference at Wits University, the Nigerian journalist and author stunned a group of South African journalists with his statement that one man, one vote was not a solution to South Africa's problems.

"The only way out is a federal solution", said the 36-year-old author of the book, *"OAU: Time to admit South Africa"*.

In his book, he urges the admission of South Africa into the OAU (Organisation of African Unity). The OAU was formed in 1963 to accelerate the tempo of decolonisation in Africa. Today, 53 African nations belong to the OAU with the exception of South Africa and Namibia — South West Africa.

The Nigerian patriot said the exclusion of South Africa from the OAU was illegal.

The OAU Charter provides for two conditions for admission. Namely, you must be situated on the African continent and, second, you must be a sovereign country and exercise sovereignty over internationally recognised boundaries.

South Africa satisfies these two conditions. And there is a case for South Africa's recognition and admission into the OAU, because it is not a colonial situation like Rhodesia was. It is an independent sovereign country and a member of the United Nations.

He stressed that he did not endorse South Africa's racial policies, "but natural justice demands that this malady should be defined and identified wherever it exists and condemned universally rather than selectively."

"Sad to say, South Africa is not the only case of apartheid.

"We do have it in other parts of the African continent — particularly Arab North Africa and in the Sudan (which remains a member of the OAU and whose President, General Mohammed Jafaar El-Numeiry, even served at one time as OAU chairman).

"So apartheid should not form any basis for South Africa's disqualification. On the other hand, South Africa should be admitted into the OAU and be in a position to exchange diplomatic relations with African countries so that this problem could be resolved from within."

Mr Okereke added that apartheid equated with the demand for majority rule was very unrealistic.

"Asking the Whites of South Africa to accept majority rule on the basis of one man, one vote is tantamount to asking them to negotiate their political suicide.

"It is not realistic. What South Africa requires is a confederal arrangement that gives each and every linguistic group autonomy over its own affairs similar to what operates in Switzerland in Europe today.

"That is the answer to South Africa's dilemma and anybody who is sincere about contributing to the peace process in Africa should address it from that perspective."

Asked about the image of South Africa portrayed abroad, he said that journalists painted an utterly unrealistic picture and a lot of adverse publicity had been given to the changes that have taken place in South Africa.

"The changes have been dramatic. I believe that the South African Government is trying very, very hard and I think they are sincere," he said.

MEDICINE

Dentistry African style

First World dentistry must make way in South Africa for an appropriate African-style dentistry devised by young dentists, says Professor Peter Cleaton-Jones, director of the South African Medical Research Council.

Addressing a graduation ceremony at the University of the Witwatersrand he told dentistry graduates: "Your mandate is to add to knowledge of how to develop an African solution.

"We cannot escape the fact that we in this country have a mixture of First and Third World conditions and populations."

Professor Cleaton-Jones said dentists of the new generation must assume the task of developing cost-effective strategies in dentistry for the First and Third World mixture.

"We need to know how dental practice is changing in this country.

"We need academic staff in dental schools to train appropriate people, and ongoing research in our country as it affects our brethren.

"We must find solutions — the cop-out of leaving the country is no longer there — so the end of First World dentistry must herald the beginning of appropriate African-style dentistry."

The Star, June 28

Qualification accepted

After consideration of a report by a delegation of the British Medical Council who visited the Medical University of Southern Africa (Medunsa) from 26 October to 14 November 1984, the overseas committee of the British Medical Council has agreed to accept the degrees of MBChB of Medunsa for the purpose of limited registration under section 22 of the United Kingdom Medical Act of 1983.

The delegation, led by Professor J H Peacock, MD, ChM, FRCS, states that Medunsa has made remarkable progress since its inception in 1976 and members of staff are congratulated wholeheartedly for their professional competence, dedication and enthusiasm.

Top medicine awards

Two top prizes of the College of Medicine of South Africa have been won by members of the University of the Witwatersrand's Department of Physiology.

The Suzman Medal for the most outstanding candidate for the fellowship of the College of Physicians of South Africa this year has been awarded to Dr Richard Marcus.

Dr Jonni Lewis has received the Trubshaw Medal for being the most outstanding candidate in the part 1 examination for the fellowship of the College of Surgeons of South Africa in 1984.

Dr Marcus is attached to the Medical Research Council/Wits University Circulation Research Unit in the Department of Physiology where he is researching cardiodynamics. Dr Lewis was an assistant lecturer in the department last year but has now joined the surgery circuit.

The Citizen, June 29