

will not be allowed to buy the land. It does not follow that we will deal with the matter on the same lines as municipal locations. That is not the intention. If a man is of desirable character he will be allowed to buy land. The land will be reserved for respectable men of good character. A man would not necessarily be expelled; it would depend on the circumstances of his case. That would only be done after proper inquiry, he would not be dealt with as in a municipal location. You must remember this is a Native area. We might allow him to remain on as a tenant, but he certainly won't be allowed to buy land.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think there has been sufficient discussion. If you so desire I will adjourn until this afternoon to enable you to put in a memorandum. If as I understand, however, you have not got the memorandum ready and that you will send it in some days hence, there is no necessity to adjourn until 2 o'clock.

MR. SMIT: There seems to be some misunderstanding about these Native settlements. There is no intention to create municipal locations. But you see for yourselves that the population is increasing and there is not room for all the people in the Native reserves. We have to do what is done in every country where people become too many. You have to get them together in villages and that means that a man has a place for himself and his children. He can go out to work in the meantime. Either we will establish industries close by, or he can go out, but he will have a permanent place for his family. It does not follow that he will be in contact with liquor sellers, etc. That will be prohibited. The settlements are intended for the respectable type of Native who wants his own little property. The great complaint of the worker is that he has nothing to invest his money in. If he lives in a town location he has to pay rent all his life. We say we will make these villages in your own areas away from the towns, with no danger of your wives and children drifting into town as at present. If a man has his own allotment he can invest his money in a house. He can improve the place and there is no danger of his being driven out. I can't understand why some of the speakers should have misgivings about this. In the Transvaal, where land companies bought land and cut it up into locations for Natives, Natives have paid fabulous prices in order to get a place to sit down. I come with a Government scheme under which you are going to pay very much less than to a land company, and we are going to provide

water and sanitation and everything else for the people. We will give a quarter-acre. If more land is available we might be able to make the plots a bit bigger. There is also the chance of becoming owners of the land. What more can I offer you? I don't understand the position clearly. I have tried to make it perfectly plain to you. You have your father, the Government, coming along with a gift and you don't want to take it. It has been the one complaint since I became Secretary for Native Affairs that the Native had nowhere where he could buy a little place for his own. Now, when I come and tell you it is here you won't take it. If you want to take that responsibility, you can; I won't. I want to get the opinion of the Council to-day. You can put in your memorandum now or after lunch. There is something wrong with that memorandum. You have been bothering me with questions all morning and I have tried to make the position clear. Yet you have drawn a memorandum before this discussion of what you think.

CR. JABAVU: It is not written out yet.

MR. SMIT: We will adjourn until 3 o'clock and that will give you time. I would again urge acceptance of the village settlements. I have been treading a very long road in order to get that concession. Now I have got it for you but apparently you don't want it.

Council adjourned till 3 p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Council resumed at 3 p.m.

CR. V. NTALABATI read the following memorandum on the Government's proposals regarding land settlement on a new basis:—

"The members of the Ciskeian General Council have carefully perused the statement of policy elucidated by the Secretary for Native Affairs at their Special Session in King William's Town on the 8th of January, 1945.

"They have found the statement to include changes in the life of the Native people that will be far-reaching and revolutionary. These changes, they realise, cannot possibly be brought about in the case of any other people in the world within the short space of two or three years, especially with regard to a population the majority of whom are uneducated.

"The Natives quite appreciate the fact of the deterioration of their land; but they do not ascribe this deterioration to overstocking. Their contention is that there has been a huge in-

crease in their population, whilst there has not been an increase of stock to supply the needs of this increased population in due proportion.

"With regard to the Government's proposal for village settlements: (a) There is no guarantee of an individual being able to eke out a living on the suggested quarter-acre plot. (b) The probation period of five years is not of itself a provision for the security of land occupation. (c) The condition that a person without employment will be evicted from the proposed village settlement will give rise to a general disintegration of the race.

"For these reasons the Councillors request the Government to hold up the whole of the new scheme involving new proposals.

"We request the Government henceforth to allot land already acquired in released areas to be used by the rural Natives living in congested rural areas to live there under the pristine conditions of Crown land locations under headmen and not under the control of the Trust."

Councillors had nothing to add to the memorandum.

MR. SMIT: All I wish to say is that we have asked for your views and we have them now before us. These views will be placed before the Government for its consideration. I must say I feel disappointed at the views you have expressed and I think you will live to regret asking that these matters should be allowed to stand over. It is for Government to decide whether your request will be accepted or not. My own view—I speak frankly as a friend—is that it would not be in the interests of the people themselves if we gave effect to this recommendation of yours. I can speak quite freely to you now as I shall be retiring before long. I think you have made a very big mistake in making this request. To my mind it shows you lack vision. I have discussed this matter at great length with you and I don't propose to go into any further detail. All I can tell you is that I shall convey what you have said and the impressions made on me to the Government. I thank you for the memorandum.

THE CHAIRMAN: That brings us to the end of the discussions in connection with the rehabilitation of locations. I believe that Cr. Jabavu wishes to make some remarks before I declare the session closed.

VALEDICTORY TRIBUTES TO MR. SMIT.

CR. A. M. JABAVU: I wish to propose an unopposed motion which is a tribute to our respected Secretary for Native Affairs on his pending retirement. I think it would be a grave

omission or lack of gratitude if we said nothing about Mr. Smit's services, and I think the Councillors as a whole will support me in this. It is customary to give a valedictory message to anybody who goes away. This is our message to Mr. Smit:—

"The African members of the special session of the Ciskeian General Council learn with regret that the esteemed Secretary for Native Affairs, Mr. D. L. Smit, is due to retire from service in March next. While congratulating him on the pending termination of illustrious and untarnished service, and the well-earned rest Mr. Smit deserves, the members of this Council are fully conscious of the loss of his sympathy and Christian guidance in all his dealings with them as Local and General Councillors.

"Special admiration is attached to Mr. Smit's endurance in bearing the burden of administering conflicting policies of different Governments and the several Ministers under whom he served during his long career. Out of this maelstrom his achievements, and the extent to which he won them, will remain a lasting memorial to his Bantu wards of what a Native Affairs Department senior officer should at best be.

"As a final wish, the members of this Council humbly request you, Sir, to be present and take part in the felicitations of the official opening of the new Native Affairs Department block of buildings in King William's Town later during the year. The incident, we feel, would mark a fitting culmination of an historical work whose entire foundation was set during your term of office.

"We are, Sir, your humble servants and members of the Ciskeian General Council."

CR. J. S. MPHUTHING: I second.

We are very grateful to you, Mr. Smit. We realise your time of retirement has now come. We have beheld your great work, and our prayer is that you will be given a long life after you have entered into retirement—a life of happiness. We hope you will never forget us and will always remain a source of advice and help although you have put down your active work.

The motion was carried.

MR. J. J. YATES: I feel this leave-taking of Mr. Smit would be incomplete without a word from the Magisterial members of this Council. We, I think, more than any others, will feel the loss of Mr. Smit. We feel we are losing, not only a chief of the very finest quality, but also a very great friend of one and all of us. We, more than

any other people, realise and appreciate the burden that Mr. Smit has carried during the last ten years, and particularly during the last five years of the war. But in spite of that he has always found time to interest himself and to concern himself in the personal problems of his officers and their own small private difficulties. We are told that Mr. Smit is a tired man, and we quite realise that he must be. He richly deserves the rest he is about to take after the stress and strain of ten years of conducting one of the most important State Departments. But we would regret it very much if he were to pass completely out of our ken. His statement of policy which he has given us during this session will be a legacy which he leaves for us, and our only regret is that he will not be here to see it through, or at least successfully launched. We hope that after a period of rest Mr. Smit's energetic personality will assert itself and that we will again see him exercising influence on the work of the Department and Native policy generally. The country can ill afford to lose the services of a man of Mr. Smit's calibre, and Natives particularly cannot do without his vigorous championship. You will take with you, Sir, in your retirement the best wishes of this Council for a long, vigorous and useful life, and we express the hope that you will retain your interest in the affairs of this Council.

MR. SMIT: I thank you for your kind references to my association with Native affairs, and I am very grateful indeed for the kind words which have fallen from Crs. Jabavu and Mphuthing on behalf of members of the Council and from Mr. Yates on behalf of the Magistrates and officials. It is very gratifying to me to be honoured by you in this way, and you will appreciate the fact that my heart to-day is full and that I am not able to express my thoughts as I should like to do. I was born in the Ciskei and so I have always had a special place in my heart for the places you represent. As we grow older our interests grow bigger, but one love always remains with the place in which we were reared, and in my retirement I shall return to the country of my boyhood, where I hope I may, in a small way, continue my work for the Native people. I am going to live at a little place called Stutterheim near by here.

People in all ages have asked, what is the chief good of life? And the question is still unanswered. It has been said that the principal joy of life is to be used for what you recognise as a worthy purpose, and there is no department of State with greater scope

for worthy purposes than the Department of Native Affairs. My career in the Public Service has been full of interest and I would like to live it all over again. I refer particularly to the years that have been spent in Native affairs, which have added zest to the whole of life and lifted it high above public administration. I shall remember my contact with this Council and the sympathy I have received from them throughout my service as Secretary for Native Affairs I leave you with the most cordial wishes for your advancement and with the well-founded hope that many of the problems troubling you to-day will be forgotten in the progress that is to follow. We need steadfast faith in the future. We must not look at the world as it has been in the past, but as it may be in future years. To-day every problem is changing and needs fresh analysis, and the stability of our people will be decided by their power to face new situations. Most of all we need vision, for as an old Prophet once said, "Without vision the people will perish." While it is true that in the reconstruction period after the war a great responsibility will rest upon you as members of this Council, for it will be on your attitude that most of the success of Government's experiments in the Ciskei will depend. The eyes of the Native people will be turned to you for guidance, and in saying good-bye I wish to impress on you that in your own interests and the interests of the people as a whole you should give undivided support to the Government and to the officials appointed to take charge of your affairs. The keynote to success in our efforts must be unity of purpose between the people and the Government, and I do hope you will see the wisdom of adopting the proposals I have put before you at this session. Unfortunately we hear much criticism, but we receive very little constructive help from people who criticise, and it is of the utmost importance that we should bring home to the people, especially the younger generation, the need to be loyal to the Government and to remember that officers of the Native Affairs Department are their best friends. We older people in our lifetime have seen greater changes in the world than in any other period of history. Owing to successive periods of war it has often appeared to be a world of dust and ashes, but it is a world that is not without hope, and if we look back we will see that greater progress was made in Native Affairs than any of us could have foreseen. Let us therefore face our problems with persistent courage

and devote ourselves unselfishly to the service of our fellow-men.

As your Chairman has informed you, I shall be succeeded in office by Mr. Gordon Mears, Under-Secretary for Native Affairs and formerly Chief Native Commissioner for the Ciskei. The post of Under-Secretary will be filled by Major Rodseth, Chief Native Commissioner, Northern Areas. Both these men are the sons of missionaries who have the interests of the Native people at heart and are both men of outstanding character.

In conclusion, I wish to express to you, Mr. Chairman, and the officers serving under you, my appreciation of your loyal services to the Government and to the people in your charge. We need in Native Affairs the best talent and the best character we can produce. It has always been an inspiration to know that the officers in charge of District Administration have not pursued their calling for any

shallow reward but from a great sense of public duty, and I have been proud of the fact that I have been able to stand at the head of the Native Affairs Department for so many years.

With these few words, Mr. Chairman and Councillors, I bid you farewell and I hope that God's blessing may rest on the Ciskei and its people. I cannot sit down without expressing a high sense of appreciation of the excellent interpreting performed by Professor Jabavu.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have now come to the end of our business. I could of course say a great deal if I wanted, but I think you have heard sufficient and I will spare you. I could also say a great deal in support of Mr. Yates, but I will spare Mr. Smit. I wish to thank the interpreter for the work he has done. I now declare the special session at an end.

Councillors dispersed after singing "Nkosi Sikilele i-Afrika".