

In 1960, two years after taking office, Verwoerd realised his republican dream, when a White-only referendum supported his plea for a Republic.

**Libertas  
Bryntirion  
Pretoria**  
21/9/60.

Dear Friend,

The time is approaching when all of us must help to decide at the referendum what the immediate future of our country and people must be.

Only in a republic will we be able to unite in giving our full attention to what is of vital importance. This includes the development of a safe future for our white population coupled with justice towards the non-whites. It is also necessary to ensure prosperity for everybody.

Above all however we must create a republic in which we can all co-operate in truly building one South African nation. Self-preservation and the interests



Libertas Pretoria (Copy of photograph)

Libertas located in the Bryntirion Estate Pretoria, was built as the Official Residence of the Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa, and is now the Official Pretoria Residence of the State President. Renamed 'Mahlamba Ndlopfu' by President Nelson Mandela (Shangaan meaning 'The New Dawn').



9c value of 1982 definitive

2

of our children must compel us to look forward instead of backward.

Do will you, though not voting for a republic, let South Africa continue as a state in which the English and African-speaking nations cannot unite? Then the struggles of the past and differences of descent will remain stumbling blocks due to the unresolved conflict on the question: British Monarchy, or: South African Republic. Peace and order and economic progress demand a final settlement of this dispute.

Should South Africa remain a Monarchy, it will have to suffer, time and again, from instigated racial clashes and economic setbacks, since there are the weapons ready to prevent the coming of the republic.

I sincerely trust that

3

you will co-operate with me in developing a united nation within a prosperous South Africa by voting for a republic now. There has the time been most suitable for this. Indeed, circumstances are such that it will prove unwise to wait longer.

The struggle between Eastern and Western nations, between Communism and Christianity, is such that both groups of nations will grant and concede anything (including the white man of Africa, his possessions and his rights) to seek the favour and support of the black man. This has led to chaos in the Congo. Internal conflict and further elimination of the white man seem imminent in most other parts of Africa. Until the Western nations realise more fully what is happening, we should at least combine and protect ourselves.

A democratic republic within the Commonwealth which guarantees

Printed letter signed by H.F. Verwoerd to voters before the Referendum of 1960 on Libertas Bryntirion letterhead

Pages 1, 2, 3  
(Reduced copies of the folded printer letter)

\* Original printed letter page 4 is on the following page of exhibit

Printed 1960 by National Commercial Printers Ltd  
Elsies River Cape Town