

J.F. .... race groups and how they've come together?

D.N. Groups?

J.F. Maybe I could just ask you, when you were quite young and first getting involved politically, (did you have trouble to start to work with white people or Indian people or Coloured people?)

D.N. No, no - (since I was - come from being a member of the A.N.C., where we meet all these other groups - Coloureds, Indians and Africans - we always work together.) -> top p.3

J.F. But didn't you, even when you were /small girl, didn't you ever have any bad feelings about white people, since they were exploiting and they were always in that position - did you not have to first overcome some feelings? /a.

D.N. No, I just remember when I was ten years - I was born in the place they call it mission, where the church gathering the people there. So after that my father was having so many cattles and goats, so he had to move his place and go to (the) other\*side. \*son.

This other\*side (The sound on this tape is not good, so a lot of guessing here - I'm starting this sentence again)

This other son was the owner of the other (.....)(435) the owner of that place Minza Farmer Gore (435) so when he came there that man say I must not go to school - must come to work to him because my father's living there. (I don't think it's a son after all!)

Anyhow, I was not happy but I saw that we are working very hard. I must get up early in the morning, four o'clock at home, go in the ice blocks - top of the ice blocks, go to clean the house of the chickens and gathering the eggs, so that was something that was crushing (441) me.

J.F. But it didn't make you to hate white people?

D.N. No, the day I hate one, I hate the man she tell my father, said : You must cut off the stock, and they must (.....) (444) their cattles and sell it out - just leave the small group of twenty, and that day I was cattle (445) I was wondering why my father is so big and strong - why this man he told you you must sell - sold all these cattle for his - what for?

And then I start to know that these white people are no good, because I saw my father's heart - he sick - three days not eat, when my mother says you must eat he's always put a hand there(449) because he was love this stock - his stock - animals.

Now (he) must be sold out because this full farmer is small. (I think she means farm - or else it could be fool farmer) 451

I was wondering because why they say the farm is small when the area can be a mountain that had got nothing - they got no grass, no nothing eating them - why? So I start to say I wonder why Papa can't kick that man.

And what did he say to you?



D.N. My father said : No, I will not do it, this is a law. I asked my father : What is a law - there is a law who can tell you to do something? So my father said : Yes, my child, this is a law. I must go to strong (458) all my cattles away - stay with only twenty.

And then after two years my father was dead (buried) (459)

J.F. So when did you join the A.N.C.?

D.N. After my father was dead, and then I was go to stay there and there, there and there, there and there\*until and other people, and then I was came to - down to my brother here in Durban so to stay with. When I stay with him I hear the people talking. \*aunties.

I was working and by that time I was start to be sixteen years. I hear these people talking. I was in West (466) Street to Smith Street - people are talking there, and then I sit on a bench and listening this why these people talking?

But these people are talking about this apartheid, so that another man can tell us another man what to do, although he's a man also because of black, and then I look a lot until I come upon that group, and then I sit down.

I listen like this on what they talk, but all they saying : If you want us to fight this apartheid, police go bad (472) come us together so that we\*could fight these enemies. \*Could or couldn't

If we join together, if we say together with one word - we don't want this thing, we are also human being - say that, and so - and so on. I was just take my money in my pocket - I remember (I) was got a school blazer. I got ask my ticket, and when I go there to ask my ticket the man was sitting on the table, said : How old are you? I say I'm near sixteen. She said : No, we don't give the sixteen and eighteen the women's tickets. You can claim to be a volunteer, so that if we use pamphlet and everything you just disappear (481) with that.

Where do you sleep? I tell home, I tell everything. (He) (I) said : I will come. I ask them where they had the office - they told me Lacanchen Baas (482 - that's what it sounds like to me!) Sailor (483) Street in Durban. I go back.

I remember at that time I was working up there. I was not even finished yet to school because I was just finish here, and then the other aunt came take me and leave this place and go to another place, then someone is take me to go other places also, so I come back there another day.

I ask to tell them. I ask them and they must tell me what. I say I join this African National Congress because of the apartheid. They been destroying my father's cattles. That's why my father was hate - had a heart attack and died.

J.F. Now, Dorothy, what year were you born?

D.N. I was born in Northern (492) Natal - Dundee.

J.F. In what year?



- D.N. In 1932.
- J.F. And you joined when you were sixteen - you joined the A.N.C.?
- D.N. Yes.
- J.F. Did the A.N.C. ever say anything to you about white people or black people - when you joined, did they say this is an organisation that's opposing the whites, or did they say this is an organisation that all...
- D.N. No, no, no, - (when I <sup>1st</sup> came I was told <sup>to ANC</sup>) I must sit down - I was listening, attend to the - they say : "Look here, my child, we not fight against a white skin and any colour, but apartheid," and we again that people who do wrong. African, whites, Indian, Coloured they are one person.
- (That's why we call upon <sup>all</sup> people to come, let us stood together and fight the enemy. We fight a law, not even those in parliament because they are whites, but we fight their law) - a law. /all. → to p. 4
- J.F. And did you see some good white people in the A.N.C.?
- D.N. Of course, yes, even outside among to the street, some others they were very good. Even if you are working with them, they working very good, and sometimes I saw our friends they getting wrong (509) people, but not all of them whites now.
- J.F. So who were the good ones?
- D.N. They were very good - some others they were wrong - they let them work, work - when the month comes to be end and then they chase them out - they said they had stolen something.
- J.F. But did you know some white people who were in the A.N.C. - did you meet any white people who were supporting the A.N.C., who were members of the A.N.C.?
- D.N. I remember Dorothy <sup>Shandley</sup> Shandon (516) and Errol Shandon. I remember <sup>Rowley</sup> Arrenstein and Jackie Arrenstein. I remember Rudy Fress in Transvaal and Joe Slovo. I remember Leon Albin in Cape, so I remember so many.
- J.F. And did you ever hear of Braam Fisher?
- D.N. Yes, we were some work together. When I'm growing up I was taught by the you know, how to move activities in the A.N.C. by the whites and Indian and Coloureds and blacks.
- J.F. And then what year did you get - go to prison?
- D.N. What?
- J.F. Which year did you go to prison?
- D.N. I went to prison from the first of - from the first occasion (527) for four years - it was 1963.
- J.F. That was the first time?



D.N. Yes, and then I came back out - I do only three years. I have a remission one year. And then I came back. In 1938 I was caught, and 1939 I was sentenced in (Sounds like Prinon 533 - could be prison, though, but how can she have been born in 1932?!) until I came out in these fifteen years. I came out last year.

J.F. And (did your prison experience not make you against the whites?)

D.N. (No, really) - I don't even (not) against them, even now. I don't question (537) them even now, but I just see that there (are) some group who don't love the blacks, according to what they do, or sometimes it's because they are working for win their government or sort of thing, but not all (of) them. It's just the same thing (Interruption)

J.F. Haven't - have there ever - \*so young people ever said to you : But, Dorothy, how can you not hate whites, with all the things they've done to you personally - all those things - do they ever ask you that? \*some.

D.N. No (Laugh) no - and they some others with little bit hatering (hatred 548). There (are) some others who don't care about our politics with the government, but they are doing their work.

Some others you can say that although she's working, or he or she, she's got this feeling spirit (551) that they hate blacks, because we demand that\*(.%......)(553) is belong to the blacks. \*South Africa.

Sometimes we wanted to throw them out. Some others they evening to sit with me and try to discuss : As we are white we are born in the South Africa - do you ask us to leave the place and go? I say : No, no. My arm (557) of organising - they say : No, white and black, Coloureds and Indian they must live together in South Africa as a human being, not hate each other, so that we must teach each other how we hold our children, how we build our houses, and we work together, and white women who can teach me to knit, I must teach me what I know - teach to her, and we stay together, and those who are not understand to sit together with other people we will teach them to knew that this South Africa's belong to anybody.

J.F. And those white prison wardresses - what will happen to them - when freedom comes will they be able to stay - the ones who were treating you badly when you were in prison?

D.N. No, no, no, we'll never do - we'll never cutting their throats - we'll never do that - we are Christian. We will teach them how to love each other until they used to it, because you show how we are nice to them, shall we - we'll show them how we are doing, and then their heart they will be free that we'll never - we'll not go to kill them. (We'll not go to pay revenge.)

(But only thing, I will never gorgive, if a man - white man kick a black man, I will not say a black man must not give it back - he must give him it back.)



J.F. And I've been asking you about whites and blacks - when you were growing up, were there problems between black Africans and Indians?

D.N. Oh, this - they were dear brother. I remember when I was small when just - it was a clutch (581) I go towards coming from Judson (581) Town the small boys until there all whole area was burned, but Dr. Nathan she (.....) (583) to me that (it) was (.....) and was finished then until today we are brothers and sisters.

I mean evening and that - after that we are loving more, more, more, more - we are working hand to hand with Indian and blacks. That is a new thing that was coming now - mean that there's somebody who oppress (Sounds a bit like press, but I think it's oppress 588) the blacks to must hate Indians - they never long ago. I remember that thing - if I'm not mistake I was seventeen or sixteen when that was happen.

Since that day we'll never hear anything - always we were brothers and sisters, we are doing everything together, we are stay together. Wherever we are working together we are working for them. They are paying us stuff (593) (staff) and we are doing everything - we never in (...593) They haven't even had a grudge with us - never - they never did it.

J.F. So why do you think it's coming up now?

D.N. As I say, I thought it's somebody pushing behind - the something - the something.

J.F. And, Dorothy, when you were inprison all those years, did you always know you'd come out and that the country would be free one day, or did you ever give up hope - did you ever feel on some days that perhaps you're not going to live to see it?

D.N. I remember when I was in prison (Doesn't sound like prison this time 602) - you know when I was got a long number to come I didn't think much outside. I was not thinking now. I start when to - when I saw that it's coming to be five years left, and then I just turn my mind to back.

What I was thinking that, I wonder, as we are here, everybody they are being (a)rrested, some others they cross the border - what is going on outside? People who are still love to fight for their freedom, well, what are they doing? But - because I was not allowed to have the paper - even to read anything - even in the radio - they just title - giving the title things. We must not hear anything what has happened outside.

When we come to three years, two years, I hear something, know something it's moving outside - that is the students are doing. But when I came outside I found that the Durban women they got a organisation - their new organis(ation) - even they're working outside, although we are inside in jail. It means that it's not us we want freedom - everybody want freedom.



- D.N. When our leaders taking away we'll start back where they leave. When they die we start back where they left, working for freedom because we want to get freedom - we want to be free.
- J.F. And after you were in jail the first time, when you came out, did some friends say to you : Dorothy, you've made your sacrifice, you should stay out of politics - did you ever think : I've suffered enough, I've made my contribution, let the next person do it?
- D.N. When there's a year coming I was just thinking to come outside (and) stand on a platform and tell them, and tell them how much I wish to fight against this apartheid.
- Nobody - nothing was make me feel that I'm come from jail I will go back. I know I will go back. I know I will die inside in jail, but I am not planning to remain and sit fold up my hands - no.
- J.F. So how do you feel these days - do you think that freedom is coming soon, or do you think....
- D.N. You mean about this occasion?
- J.F. Not - I mean what do you think about how soon it would be before it comes?
- D.N. Anyhow these days I just thinking that we supposed to get our freedom soon, but there is a something come block (She says broke 645) us. There is\*something to prevent us not go forward with our struggle, you see. \*somebody who.

Now we work very hard because among our people they had people who tell them must not do, although we are facing the white government, but the South Africa black government also is upon our neck, that we don't understand what is the government is this, because the South Africa Prime Minister, Gacha Buthelezi he's one of the oppressing us.

If anything's happening we put on a paper against the law of the white government in Pretoria, she will come and then she want to give their dogs to you must beat up on the road. Many people been kicking on the road and do something bad thing to them. They don't know who's these people, but after later we knew that people they are come from INCATA.

The first time when I came outside I was seven days here. I came from home, kwamashu, go to the station. I saw that three people were standing just on the road, and then I cross coming down, I saw these people coming to me.

When I was came from the steps there's somebody was catch me here, to want to push me down. Luckily my hands came that side and grabbed his collar, so when she push me down and him also want to come, and this other they beating me up because they want me to leave, so now they pulling him out - when they pull him out they pulling me out too - three of us we are come out, and\*saying when I come out and then I'll catch his throat and turn him down and then I caught his throat, until these others they ....



D.N. .... are running away and then I left him, and these other schoolboys they were starting to throw the stone - I stop them. \*Could be stand 672

I didn't know that - what I was think sometimes is there's just scabenga (678) scavenger (?) or it's also his who catching me (679) but later when I understand what INCATA is I say : No, these people was belong to INCATA - somebody pointing me from them, because when I'm came out they were go this way, that.

I had the insight (eye witness) Kaja Perezi - I say she was my witness.. He's one of the was giving evidence on my case, which that is true - he's one who was giving evidence.

After that the judgment - I mean the judge tol(d) - when my advocate ask, but Dorothy was not supposed even to go through this case, and the judgment said to him : What you mean - you didn't understand what Gacha Buthelezi says - it's Gacha Buthelezi arrest that girl. That was a judge say that.

To me I was thought that : No, might he\*take all the story behind there, because inside in a court he didn't talk so much about my - (I) mean that he tell the true - all the true that, from the police. \*tell.

J.F. Were you surprised that he testified against you - did you think he would keep quiet?

D.N. Yes, he was - I was sitting there and keep quiet when I hear these things he talking (700) but he didn't talk so much, as I understand when the judge he say he's one of the him who arrest me. If he was not a evidence come from Gacha I was coming free from the gates.

J.F. So did you think he would have stuck by you and supported you, or did you used to trust him before?

D.N. I do used to trust him before because always he was coming he's the friend of the Chief Luthuli. She was always among to us.

J.F. So why did he change, do you think?

D.N. I think that they promised him that they would give him to be a president of the state - that's why she change. Because before the all he done this, they never think of Gacha - this government, so they saw that this is a easy people because she was a member of the A.N.C. first, we'll get everything from him and then we'll be giving him to be president of Natal.

J.F. So after freedom comes in South Africa what will happen to Gacha Buthelezi?

D.N. No, he will never do nothing - I wish the freedom was to be, to show him that we are innocent. We'll never do nothing with that. Even those - I mean the youth if they will (Sounds like tire 720) our official they will teach them to know not to do nothing from Gacha. Let's sit to Gacha and show Gacha that he was wrong, let Gacha ....

D.N. .... work together with us.

END OF INTERVIEW.