

SACBC STATEMENT

ON

GOSPEL-BASED LIBERATION THEOLOGY (MARCH 1989)

Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) and the post-Vatican II Catholic Church do not speak the same language. This is particularly true when TFP uses the words “liberation theology”. The Catholic Church and the Pope recognised the role of the Church in liberation theology based on the gospel of Jesus Christ. The TFP never mentions that there is a Christian gospel-based theology of liberation. To them, liberation theology is a dirty word.

In their publication *The New Nation and Liberation Theology*, the TFP certainly did not specifically ask for government action against *The New Nation*. We do not know whether they asked the government in some other way. What we do know is that the publication was widely distributed and advertised. Even the Holy Father received a copy. The Catholic Bishops of Southern Africa were the last to receive copies. It would appear that publicity was more important than dialogue with the bishops.

What is very significant is that a copy of the publication was submitted by the state to the Supreme Court to bolster argument for suspending *The New Nation*.

Tradition, Family and Property follows the practise of those in power in South Africa; to use the word communism as a red herring to besmirch any attempt by those who protest against the manifest injustices of the apartheid system. There is almost a presumption that the only alternative to the present, political system is a communist one. TFP must realise that by not criticising the government for suspending *The New Nation* they contribute to further government action against any other media.

The bishops thank the TFP for their prayers and pray that the Holy Spirit may enlighten all TFP members through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, Mary.

(Signed) R ORSMOND
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