

THE TRUTH ON FLEMISH NATIONALISM AND THE VLAAMS BLOK

Mr. S. Pollard vainly tries to defend the positions of Vlaams Blok in your journal (24-04, "I've seen the future: it's scary and Belgian "). Firstly he states that the extremist party has been banned. Quite untrue. The party wasn't banned, but 3 organisations which-true- constitute the backbone of the party were forced to pay a relative small amount of money. The cause is not, like the author suggests, the fact that the Belgian "establishment" dislikes the party (only the VB itself suggests this). The VB has been condemned because it repeatedly states in his propaganda that the migrant population in Belgium is, basically, vile, rotten and evil. It is the author himself who concludes that maybe this policy is racist. Mr. Pollard refers to the Fortuyn-list in the Netherlands, but he "forgets " to mention that 15 years ago in that same country the "centrumpartij " was forbidden for exactly the same reason forbidden, mind you, not merely judged and found guilty, like the VB.

Other suggestions in the article of Mr. Pollard do not reflect the truth: "The opinion polls were predicting that it could win the most Belgian votes at the European and local elections in June", says the author. In fact the opinion polls showed a progression for the equally autonomist CD&V-N-VA (a Christian-democrat-nationalist alliance) in Flanders, not in Belgium. How could it be in Belgium? All Belgian universalist parties are broken up on a linguistic basis and are on the Flemish side all more or less in favour of confederalism (a union of two states). They are against Vlaams Blok because of its racism, but never because of its Flemish nationalism. On this point they agree more or less with Vlaams Blok. More than this, the VB isn't banned from tv, radio or newspapers: its appearance is more dominant in all these than ever. It is impossible for us to find another word for such false statements: deliberate lies. Mr. Pollard should know by now that the Belgian unionist forces are banned from the media, not the autonomist. Saying that the judge is "pro-Belgian " and that the VB was condemned because of its anti-Belgian doctrine is totally untrue. This point has not at all been mentioned by the judge.

The judiciary, executive and legislative branches are vigorously separated by law in Belgium. It were and are all the other parties in Belgium, this so-called establishment, that gave the Regions Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels a great deal of autonomy, not the VB. If one states that the VB is judged on political reasons, he denies not only the fact that Belgium is a parliamentary democracy, but also gives a false lecture on Belgian history. One were all the parties are vigorously pro-Belgian and the VB is the only secessionist one. To the neutral reader, however, it is very clear that the text is merely intentional anti-Belgian and anti-European. Belgium is described as an "artificial " State. Does the author by any chance know one natural State in our world, or a State that is created by God's own hand? Such a conception of the state is unimaginable, and everyone who defends this is subsequently a nationalist. This is merely a remark, but it is a crucial one. The nationalist does no effort to explain the existence of states, for him every state has to be " natural " preferably coinciding with linguistic frontiers. "Natural" states are described as efficient, "unnatural" as corrupt. In Belgium three linguistic groups (Dutch, French, German) peacefully cohabit, but this isn't right' in the nationalist viewpoint. Nationalism is not a feeling, nor a natural component of life: it is an ideology. Let it be very clear on this point. The author suggests that the European Union shall also be an artificial state, undemocratic and ruled by a sinister nomenclature, only interested in its

proper power. Paraphrasing mr. Pollard we could remark: Scary thought. For it is unclear which alternative there is for a peaceful, multilingual, European integration, other than to return to the *status quo ante bellum*.

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