

NATAL

"The Leader", 17 September 1993 (Durban)

Rajmohan Gandhi is a research professor at the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi. In addition he is a journalist, author and former politician. His publications include biographies of Indian political figures and a study of Hindu-Muslim relations in the last 150 years.

Prof. Gandhi said the compartmentalisation of the different race groups should be viewed with 'great sadness' because people 'just don't know much about their brothers and sisters'.

"There is a self-imposed cultural poverty of an extreme kind amongst people in this country".

Prof. Gandhi believed a truly equal partnership between the different race groups would be an adequate memorial for Mahatma Gandhi.

"It sounds like a hopeless dream but it is important to dream like that. If just a few people from each race group share this dream, then it can be turned into reality one day".

What touched his heart this week was a visit to Pietermaritzburg where he spoke to people sitting around the Gandhi statue.

"They were people of all races and they were intrigued when I was introduced as the Mahatma's grandson but they all spontaneously spoke about peace day and how people had gathered around the statue on that day to pray for an ideal for which my grandfather had lived and died.

Prof. Gandhi is equally proud of his maternal grandfather, Charavarti Rajagopalachari and has written a two volume biography about him, entitled "The Rajaji Story".