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# History on Bram's side—Andre Brink

Staff Reporter

FAR from being a stranger to and a deviant from Afrikanerdom, Bram Fischer "enlarged and deepened the concept of Afrikanerdom," Andre Brink said in an eulogy read at the communist leader's cremation in Bloemfontein yesterday.

The Afrikaner academic and writer who was unable to attend said:

"If Afrikanerdom is to survive it may well be as a result of the broadening and liberating influence of men like Bram Fischer."

Andre Brink's was one of three long messages read by Johannesburg advocate, Mr Arthur Chaskelson.

Mr Brink said: Fischer's true cause went beyond the confines of a political system. He believed in liberty, justice, compassion, trust, equality of mercy and above all, in human dignity.

He believed these things in a climate that favoured hate and suspicion; in a country where the Rule of Law did not operate any more, in a situation of rigid rules and a world climate of destructiveness and degradation.

Bram Fischer had to suffer for his beliefs, but significantly the country was moving, albeit tentatively, towards the realisa-

tion of the very ideals Fischer cherished.

"It is my firm belief that in his pursuit of these ideals, history will not only absolve him but vindicate him," Mr Brink said.

Mr Hugh Lewin, who was a prisoner with Fischer for some time, said in his tribute that prison had stripped Bram Fischer bare but in so denuding him, had made him strong.

Prison, in seeking to stifle Fischer, had given new vigour; it had sought to maim but had made him strong; it had sought to hide him and succeeded only in revealing the simple essential greatness of the man.