

BLACK POLITICS — BLACK ^{SASH}~~ROAD~~!

1986

NOV — DEC.

The FM has been edited to comply with the emergency regulations. Information may therefore be distorted, incomplete and misleading.

Black Sash hopes to have all children in emergency detention released. "If we don't succeed by then, we won't stop trying. Children belong at home, not in jail," says Walt.

Rehabilitation

Adds former Black Sash president Joyce Harris: "Some of these children in detention may well be guilty of vandalism or stoning or burning or worse. Sadly, such acts occur. However, their guilt, if any, must be proven and not assumed. They must be charged in a court of law, and under the protection all civilised communities provide for their children. If they are found guilty, they must be placed in institutions which cater specifically for the needs of children. From there, they can emerge rehabilitated and hopefully into a reformed society which will no longer brutalise them. They must be rehabilitated and should not be in jail."

The National Medical and Dental Association (Namda), an alternative professional organisation to the Medical Association of SA, views detention as psychologically harmful to children as they are often subjected to violence and abuse and are separated from families, friends and schools. It says that cut off from sources of support, they have to face the rigours of imprisonment alone; they can no longer play, exercise normally or interact socially.

"But the psychological effects vary depending on the age of the child and the type of child, his/her background and the specific nature of the detention experience. Many children develop disabling psychological



Black Sash's Harris ... detained children should be protected

symptoms like lack of sleep, concentration and inability to mix with other people; some become withdrawn, depressed and even have suicidal thoughts," says Namda.

Other, less obvious, effects detention can cause, Namda adds, include loss of faith and trust in adults, authority, their friends and associates, and distortion and deformation of personality development.

FINAL MAIL 2/11/86
EMERGENCY DETAINEES

No child's play

Launching its "Free Children Campaign" last Friday, the Black Sash stated: "That children can be detained and held in prison — like adults — under severe conditions without any special protection, is cause for deep shame and a blot on a country and a people who profess to be civilised."

The campaign is aimed at urging the authorities to heed the Child Care Act by releasing all detained children, who range in age from 12 to 18.

The civil rights organisation estimates that 8 000 children have been held since the present emergency began on June 12. This is significantly more than the 2 016 detained in last year's emergency. In 1982, eight children were held under the Internal Security Act, and nine were held in 1984. Statistics have been drawn from reports compiled mainly by the Detainees Parents' Support Committee (DPSC) and the Progressive Federal Party's Unrest Monitoring Group.

In terms of the Child Care Act, a child is anyone under the age of 18. The Act calls for places of safety for convicted children, and specifies that convicted children in prison should not come into contact with adult prisoners. However, there is no such provision for children in emergency detention who are not covered by the Act.

Ethel Walt, Transvaal president of the Black Sash, explains that organisations supporting the campaign include the Union of Jewish Women, Women for Peace, the DPSC, United Democratic Front, Child Welfare, Lawyers' for Human Rights, Concerned Social Workers and the Committee of Concern for Children.

Christmas is the target date by which the

12/11/86 (11C) 20

Sash: lift emergency, release all detainees

Dispatch Reporter
GRAHAMSTOWN — The East Cape regional conference of the Black Sash has called for the lifting of the state of emergency and the unconditional release of all detainees and political prisoners.

A resolution passed at the conference here stated that many of the small number of detainees released, including

members of the Black Sash, had been served with restriction orders.

The resolution said these restrictions "strike yet another blow at our fundamental rights of freedom of association... and that over the years the state has eroded alarmingly the rights of organisations to operate in their opposition to government policy".

The conference, attended by the national president of the Black Sash, Mrs Mary Burton, drew delegates from Port Elizabeth, East London and several other towns in the area.

Delegates viewed with concern the fact that five months had passed since the promulgation of the state of emergency and that thousands of people remained in detention.

Album 4/11/86 (11c)

Black Sash: proving that people care

REHANA ROSSOUW
Staff Reporter

FOR hundreds of homeless, jobless people who stream through their offices daily, the Black Sash is a reminder that there are white people who care about the injustices in South African society.

Formed in 1955 to protest against the removal of coloured people from the common voters' roll, the Black Sash is best known for its advice offices which help black people who are experiencing difficulty with discriminatory laws.

The first advice office started in Cape Town in 1958 and offices now operate in Johannesburg, Durban, Maritzburg, Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown.

Successes

Although most advice office work is unseen and unsung it has, on occasion, had some significant successes.

One was the case of Mehlole Tom Rikhoto, brought to the Supreme Court by the Black Sash, which affirmed the right of about 60 000 annual contract workers to permanent urban residence.

Early every morning, the front stoep of the Mowbray advice office is lined with people waiting for assistance with their problems.

"We see about 300 people a month, some days we can hardly keep up with the load, and others we sit around twiddling our thumbs," says Sue Joynt, organiser of the advice office.

Team effort

There are five full-time workers employed by the office, and three volunteers, engaged for their community experience and language skills, help out.

"We handle each case as a team effort. We all throw ourselves into the fray, and a normal case would involve hours of follow-up work," says Mrs Joynt.

"We never turn someone away, saying we can't do anything for them. If we can't handle a case, we refer them to

other agencies who can assist them."

"The kinds of problems we are faced with have changed significantly. We no longer have as many people coming to see us about influx control related problems, but more labour related issues," says Mrs Joynt.

And the political work of the Black Sash continues. Membership of the organisation now numbers 1 500 throughout the country.

Most members are white, upper-middle class women although the organisation has been open to women of all races since 1963.

The Black Sash sees their role as a political pressure group, publicising information to pressure for change in South Africa.

Forms of protest include deputations and appeals to Cabinet Ministers, letters to the Press, vigils and meetings.

The public image of the Sash is fostered by their imaginative use of "stands" — where members line the freeways with placards, condemning unjust laws.

Face abuse

"Not all our members are willing to involve themselves in this form of protest. It takes a lot of guts to get out there and face abuse from people whose ideas clash with ours," says Mary Burton, president of the Black Sash.

The organisation actively campaigns against detention without trial and the banning of individuals. It fights for improvements in black family life, housing, pensions, unemployment payments, workmen's compensation and the migrant labour system.

Committees gather and publicise information about each problem to pressure for change.

Since the declaration of the first state of emergency in July last year, the Black Sash has been working with families of detainees, monitoring and opposing detentions and doing township relief work.

Sash calls for fares subsidy

JOHANNESBURG — The Transvaal Region of the Black Sash has warned that failure by the Government to increase bus transport subsidies to cover the proposed fare increases of around 17% on Saturday, would create a rallying point for anger and opposition among black communities.

Mrs Ethel Walt, Transvaal regional chairman of the Black Sash, said the Government was morally obliged to pay for the subsidies as Government policy had deliberately distorted population distribution to enforce residential separation.

She said transport had been made into a political issue because Government policies had

forced black people, whether resident in urban black townships or homelands, to live in places far distant from employment centres.

The Black Sash, which has conveyed its understanding to Putco of the fare increase motivation, has made direct appeals to Putco and the Minister of Transport, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, for the Government to absorb the fare increase to black commuters.

The Black Sash said that Government control over transportation prevented the operation of a free market.

Mrs Walt said lack of competition on heavily used routes left consumers with little choice of how to travel and what they were prepared to pay. — Sapa

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11C

Ciskei swoop nets Stofile and Hebe

By FRANZ KRUGER, East London
A CISKEI security swoop in Alice has netted leaders of the United Democratic Front and relatives of Ciskei President Lennox Sebe, facing opposition from the rest of his family.

Among those held are believed to be Rev MA Stofile, general secretary of the Border UDF. Stofile, detained and released earlier this year, first came to prominence when he played a key role in blocking a planned New Zealand rugby tour of South Africa last year.

The president's brother, Namba Sebe, said his sister, Caroline Hebe, has been detained in Alice. He said he feared her husband, Chief SM Hebe, who is an MP and chairman of the ruling Ciskei National Independence Party, had also been detained.

Lawyers for Stofile confirmed he was being held under Section 26 of the Ciskei National Security Act, along with a brother, a sister and other UDF supporters from Alice.

Ciskei police had not responded to a telexed request for confirmation of up to eight detentions by the time of going to press.

● See pages 14-15.

Cape Times

October 20 1986

Site C meeting not held

Staff Reporter

A MEETING at Site C, Khayelitsha, called by Mr Mali Hoza, leader of one of the site camps, was postponed yesterday after some of the groups pulled out because they said the venue was not on "neutral ground".

The meeting, to which all interested organizations were invited, was intended to address the problems of social conflict in Khayelitsha between conservative and other groups. Mr Hoza is the leader of the conservative group.

Bishop Patrick Matolengwe, Anglican suffragan bishop of Cape Town, who was to have chaired the meeting, said last night that no new date or venue had yet been agreed on. Negotiations were in progress.

He confirmed that the Black Sash, Shawco and the Quakers had pulled out of the meeting. Mr Hoza himself had not attended, he said, but he sent a message that he wanted it postponed.

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Sash ^{Cape Town's} 'no' to ^{1/1/66} witdoek offer

By ANDREW
DONALDSON

THE Black Sash has turned down an offer to attend a meeting this afternoon called by the "witdoek" leader of Khayelitsha's Site C, Mr Mali Hoza, to settle differences and discuss allegations concerning his vigilante followers.

Various organizations who have in recent months been actively involved in the problems of the Crossroads and Khayelitsha communities — including the Western Province Council of Churches, the Red Cross, Shawco and various civic associations — were invited.

The meeting — the first of its kind called by a vigilante leader — has been welcomed by various organizations and was expected to be well-attended, an organizer said yesterday.

However, in a letter to Mr Hoza, the regional chairwoman of the Black Sash, Mrs Jenny de Tolly, said: "A meeting called by one group in an area which is seen by conflicting groups as enemy territory does not seem to us to offer an opportunity for open discussion."

People who had made allegations against the witdoek leader or his cadres would not feel able to attend the meeting to voice their concerns or pose their questions in person. This could not be done at "second-hand".

Mrs De Tolly said, however, that Mr Hoza's call for the meeting was appreciated. "We do not wish to exclude the possibility of meeting with you and with other people concerned."

Police deny Sash charge

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PRETORIA — The South African Police have denied an "implication" in a Black Sash memorandum released this week that children in detention in terms of the emergency regulations are tortured, ill-treated or brutalised by security forces — or that such actions are permitted.

In a statement here, the Police Directorate for Public Relations called on the Black Sash to make its information available to the police so that a proper investigation could be instituted.

"Failing this we will surely be justified in assuming this is yet another attempt to discredit the South African Police, an assumption which is strengthened by the fact the 'complainants' are not identified.

"As we have so frequently stated, however, a meaningful investigation cannot be instituted solely on the strength of vague allegations made to a newspaper." — Sapa

Call links 16/10/86 (228) (228) (11c)

Black Sash protests at 'torture' of children

JOHANNESBURG. — The Black Sash has warned against the effects on children of alleged torture by security forces.

A 33-page "Memorandum on the Suffering of Children in South Africa" was compiled in April this year, when South Africa was not under a state of emergency, but only released now.

"The ill-treatment ladled out to children is a frightening symptom of a disease which may have already progressed beyond cure," the memorandum said.

Containing more than 30 statements and affidavits from children aged 12 to 18, adults and witnesses, the Sash document urgently called for the disciplining of the police force, no more detention of children and the abolition of apartheid.

Lawlessness

The Sash's conclusion stated: "When security forces are granted indemnity, when whatever they do appears to receive the tacit approval of their masters, and when they themselves show so little respect for the law that they are prepared to abuse their powers to the extent that they do, their victims cannot be expected to respect the law either."

"Thus is an atmosphere of lawlessness created which can only lead to chaos."

The police and army, the Sash said, urgently required fundamental retraining in attitudes and behaviour.

The Sash based the memorandum, containing accounts of alleged torture, on statements made by children, the youngest a girl of 12.

It was not a premise of the memorandum that all the children allegedly abused and maltreated were innocent of any misdeeds and there was no doubt that stones were thrown, arson was committed and people were subjected to the "necklace" treatment, the Sash said.

Others were "coerced with varying degrees of violence to participate in boycotts, work stoppages or to join the comrades".

"Most of these deeds are perpetrated by young people, and it is one of the tragedies of this country that they are being brutalized in this fashion, and in their turn brutalizing others," the Sash said.

It was, however, a premise that "the kind of treatment to which children are subjected by the authorities is utterly reprehensible, totally unacceptable and indiscriminately applied irrespective of any possible guilt".

The document said that in February 1986, the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange, said in Parliament that 2 016 children under 16 were detained. None were released into the custody of their parents.

Action taken by the South African Police in unrest from January 1, 1985, to February 10, 1986, resulted in the deaths of 209 juveniles, and 703 juveniles were injured, he said.

● Replying to the memorandum, the SA Police denied the "implication" that children in detention in terms of the emergency regulations are tortured, ill-treated or brutalized by security forces, or that such actions are permitted.

'Bid to discredit SAP'

In a statement in Pretoria, the Directorate for Public Relations called on the Black Sash to make its information available to police so that a proper investigation could be instituted.

"Failing this we will surely be justified in assuming this is yet another attempt to discredit the SA Police, an assumption which is strengthened by the fact the 'complainants' are not identified.

"The SA Police have never shirked their responsibility when transgressions by members of the force have been brought to our attention, in the form of complaints by means of affidavits.

"As we have so frequently stated, however, a meaningful investigation cannot be instituted solely on the strength of vague allegations made to a newspaper."

The directorate said police found it "strange" that the Black Sash had had statements available since April this year, but had made no attempt to have these alleged atrocities investigated.

"It is easy to make vague allegations but not so easy to do this in the form of an affidavit, since these allegations can be tested against other evidence."

Indemnity clause

The directorate said emergency regulation detainees were frequently visited by various officials, and that visits by legal representatives and relatives were also in some instances allowed provided the correct procedure was adhered to.

"Ample opportunity thus exists for detainees to air their grievances or to lodge legitimate complaints in the proper manner."

The allegation that the security forces were free to act exactly as they wished because of an indemnity clause was "nonsense".

"The indemnity, in terms of the emergency regulations, was by no means intended to legalize unlawful behaviour."

The directorate said people were not detained indiscriminately.

"Although many of those detained are children, they are arrested for very good reasons"

The Black Sash itself had conceded the reality of stone-throwing, arson and "necklace" killings

"These deeds are committed, in many instances, by children, but we definitely do not consider this justification for any illegal conduct by security forces and stress that unlawful behaviour is not tolerated or condoned."

A further observation by the Black Sash was that none of these children were released into the custody of their parents.

"We wish to point out that at the time the reasons for detention arose, the children were in parental custody," the directorate said. — Sapa

Sash document alleges torture

SASH 15/10/75

HC
PETER

A 33-page "Memorandum on the Suffering of Children in South Africa", compiled by the Black Sash in April when South Africa was not under a state of emergency but only released now, warns of the effects on children of alleged torture by security forces.

The last state of emergency was lifted in February and the current one imposed in June.

The Sash said an "unfortunate series of events" delayed publication. It did not elaborate.

According to the memo: "The ill-treatment ladled out to children is a frightening symptom of a disease which may have already progressed beyond cure."

The document, containing more than 30 statements and affidavits from children aged 12 to 18, adults and witnesses, calls for the disciplining of the police force, no more detention of children and the abolition of apartheid.

It concludes: "When security forces are granted indemnity, when whatever they do appears to receive the tacit approval of their masters and when they themselves show so little respect for the law that they are prepared to abuse their powers to the extent that they do, their victims cannot be expected to respect the law either."

'INDISCRIMINATE DETENTION'

"Thus is an atmosphere of lawlessness created which can only lead to chaos.

"Children must no longer be subjected to the behaviour described above (in the document). Neither must anybody.

"Nor must there be a repetition of the indiscriminate detention of schoolchildren without the protection of the courts."

The memo did not claim the children allegedly tortured were innocent — there were stonings, arson and necklacing — but some were "coerced with varying degrees of violence to participate in boycotts, work stoppages or to join the 'comrades'."

"Most of these deeds are perpetrated by young people. It is one of the tragedies of this country that they are being brutalised in this fashion and in their turn brutalising others."

It was, however, a premise that "the kind of treatment to which children are subjected by the authorities is utterly reprehensible, totally unacceptable and indiscriminately applied irrespective of any possible guilt".

Children were, the Sash said "intimidated, brutalised, and often scared stiff". — Sapa.

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Sash warning in torture memo

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A 33-page "Memorandum on the suffering of children in South Africa" was compiled in April when South Africa was not under a state of emergency but only released now.

The last state of emergency was lifted in February and the current one imposed in June.

"The ill-treatment ladled out to children is a frightening symptom of a disease which may have already progressed beyond cure," according to the memorandum.

Containing more than 30 statements and affidavits from children aged 12 to 18, adults and witnesses, the Sash document called urgently for the disciplining of the police force, no more detention of children and the abolition of apartheid.

The Sash based the memorandum, containing accounts of alleged torture, on statements made by children. Some statements were signed, many unsigned, perhaps for fear of retribution, the Sash said.

It was not a premise of the memorandum that all the

children allegedly abused and maltreated were innocent of any misdeeds. There was no doubt that stones were thrown, arson was committed and people were subjected to the "necklace" treatment, the Sash said.

Others were "coerced with varying degrees of violence to participate in boycotts, work stoppages or to join the 'comrades'".

"Most of these deeds are perpetrated by young people and it is one of the tragedies of this country that they are being brutalised in this fashion and, in their turn, brutalising others," the Sash said.

The Sash said: "Our children are revolting against years and years of differentiation, discrimination and oppression."

The document said that in February, 1986, the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange, said in Parliament that 2 016 children under 16 were detained; none was released into the custody of parents.

Action taken by the South African Police in unrest from January 1, 1985, to February 10, 1986, resulted in the deaths of 209 juveniles, and 703 juveniles were injured, he said. — Sapa

Influx control still alive?

Dispatch Correspondent
CAPE TOWN — The abolition of influx control has made "no difference" to a large number of black people in the Western Cape, and does not allow freedom of movement for everybody, according to the Black Sash.

In its August report, the Sash highlights an incident in which a woman born in Graaff-Reinet — who has worked for many years in Cape Town — was detained at the border by Transkei authorities and sent to jail for nine days.

This was in spite of having her reference book with so-called Section 10 rights stamped in it. She woman had to pay R24 before being freed.

The Sash's Mrs Sue Joynt said yesterday migrant workers whose families lived in Transkei were regarded as "foreigners" and in terms of the Aliens' Act they needed a temporary residence permit issued by the Department of Home Affairs to enter the country.

If people were expected to carry some proof of permanent residence, "this would be a negation of the claim that influx control is abolished, particularly in the Western Cape, where many people carry Transkei or Ciskei travel documents".

Mrs Hall released from detention

GRAHAMSTOWN — A member of the Albany branch of the Black Sash, Mrs Priscilla Hall, was released on Wednesday night after spending 78 days in detention under the emergency regulations.

Mrs Hall, 45, who is also a member of the Grahamstown Rural Committee, was released from an East London prison with restrictions on her movements and involvements in organisational activities.

In a statement yesterday, the Albany Branch of the Black Sash expressed "delight" that Mrs Hall, mother of two children, had been released. — DDC



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Award for Duncan

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HAMBURG — The former president of the Black Sash, Mrs Sheena Duncan, was awarded the Prize for Freedom by the Liberal International Congress in Hamburg yesterday.

The leader of the British Liberal Party, Mr David Steel, presented the prize to Mrs Duncan for her "fight against oppression in South Africa".

Mr Steel said the prize was only symbolic be-

cause the Liberal International "is struggling against a habitual tendency to insolvency".

Last year, the Argentine President, Mr Raoul Alfonsin, was awarded the Liberal International Prize.

Mrs Duncan said South Africa needed "all possible pressure from the Western world" to force a constitutional change that would end racial segregation." Sapa-RNS

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Britain urges business to promote SA reform

The Star Bureau

LONDON — The British Government has urged the international business community to step up its efforts to promote "fundamental political reform" in South Africa and to help improve the quality of life of blacks.

Foreign Office Minister for African Affairs, Mrs Lynda Chalker told a group of businessmen yesterday: "I hardly need to remind you that the more we are seen to back words with deeds, the more convincingly we shall be able to confound the critics."

In an address to Business International — a group of 80 British and foreign businessmen

— Mrs Chalker re-stated Britain's position on South Africa, but emphasised the role of businesses which had a financial interest in South Africa.

She said Britain believed market forces "are a much stronger force for change" and the Government "attaches great importance to taking positive measures to advance the process of reform".

"Our guiding principle is to promote the advancement of blacks as the prime impetus for internal change... and this is an area in which government and business can co-operate.

"The main British subsidiaries in South Africa provide more than 100 000 jobs for black

workers, making them the largest foreign providers of jobs in the country."

She urged the foreign business community to spend more on the education and training of black workers, to contribute more to community projects and to pay black employees above the minimum recommended levels.

The Government's role was to strengthen the code of conduct governing foreign businesses in South Africa, to provide language training and student scholarships and aid for trade unionists and refugees.

"We in government and business alike must leave South Africans of all communities in no doubt of our total opposition to apartheid.

"We must make clear to the South African Government that change is inevitable and that it is in their interest to promote it while it can still be achieved peacefully.

"We must continue to argue patiently and coherently for genuine national dialogue and against measures which will lead only to polarisation and chaos," Mrs Chalker said.

Duncan meets UK Minister

The Star Bureau *STAR* *11C*

LONDON — Veteran Black Sash campaigner Sheena Duncan has had talks with Foreign Office Minister for African Affairs Mrs Lynda Chalker on the situation in South Africa.

Mrs Duncan, a frequent visitor to Britain, had asked to meet Mrs Thatcher, but that was not possible.

The Foreign Office said the 40-minute meeting was taken up with a briefing from Mrs Duncan on the situation in the townships.

The Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe met Mrs Duncan, a former president of the Black Sash, during his visit to South Africa.

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Sash: ordinary women who care

Mary Burton, an Argentinian-born mother of four sons, has taken over the reins from Sheena Duncan as head of the Black Sash. GAYE TAYLOR interviewed her during a recent visit to East London.



MARY BURTON... hope and despair about the future of South Africa.

Women have a very powerful role to play in the future of South Africa and it is one which they have not really fulfilled yet.

This was said by the national president of the Black Sash, Mrs Mary Burton, on a recent visit to East London which formed part of her tour "to keep in touch" with the seven regions of the organisation.

Mrs Burton said the Sash had often been criticised for excluding men from its ranks but she believed there was a need for an avenue which would help women play a part.

"I think black women are a tremendous strength for the future of South Africa and we're very lucky in the contacts we have," Mrs Burton said. "I have great admiration for them and whereas I don't believe women have any special secrets I think there is a need for an organisation that will allow them to develop."

Mrs Burton said there had been a tremendous growth in the organisation over the past year and membership now stood at more than 2 000. The Sash had become more active in many regions partly as a result of a growth in membership and partly as a result of the state of the country.

"We are 31 years old this year and seem to have come full circle in generational terms. There are lots of new members with new ideas who are pushing for involvement and this is quite challenging for us old timers," she said adding that she herself had been a member for 21 years.

Mrs Burton was chairman of the Cape Western district before succeeding Mrs Sheena Duncan as head of the Sash in March.

The Argentinian-born mother of four sons aged between 15 and 24 says she does not do much else besides her work for the Black Sash.

"It takes up a large slice of my time," she says but adds that she does like to read. She says she receives a lot of support from her family "despite it being a male-dominated household".

A few years ago she took time off to study for a BA in English and social anthropology because she felt a need for a greater knowledge of South African history and its social components.

Commenting on the East London branch of the Sash, Mrs Burton said it had been dormant for many years but was now experiencing a revival of interest as was happening everywhere. She attributed the still fairly low numbers, however, to reprisals that the Sash experienced when they became active here.

In May a placard protest at the City Hall protesting against the detention of members of the Duncan Village Residents' Association was disrupted 10 minutes before the end when police confiscated a placard.

"I think people have

She

trained and while many of the members did have wonderful skills these were not a prerequisite.

Many of the local members are involved with the black community through their work and are meeting regularly and sharing their experiences and providing a support network and meeting point for people who shared the same ideas. Mrs Burton said out of this more activities would probably arise.

"Our members are

'Our members are women who really care and are prepared to make exhibitions of themselves because they really care.'

their struggle against the pass laws.

The offices are recognised as an expert group among non-blacks of what the pass laws do to the raw lives of people. They became relied on for accurate information and statistics and government officials recognised that when they said something it was usually reliable.

She said the basic objectives of the Sash had not changed. They had always been interested in justice and parliamentary principles of democracy.

Mrs Burton said people had suggested

'People often regard us as slightly unusual and eccentric and particularly unpatriotic, but exactly the reverse is true.'

that the advice offices were no longer necessary with the changes in the influx control laws but she said this did not necessarily mean that people's lives were made easier particularly as far as people who are not already resident in towns are concerned.

"It looks to us as if there are going to be

other ways in which influx into towns will be curbed," she said.

She said the offices were now assessing what the new laws would mean. They had in the past established important legal precedents and had a responsibility to keep going.

Mrs Burton says she believes the Sash's greatest achievement is the fact that they have been going for 31 years while other organisations have fallen by the wayside.

The policy of the Sash

is that of one man one vote.

"Universal franchise doesn't of itself mean a just society," says Mrs Burton, "but you cannot have justice unless you have it".

Commenting on the future she said like many people involved in politics in South Africa she veered between hope

and despair

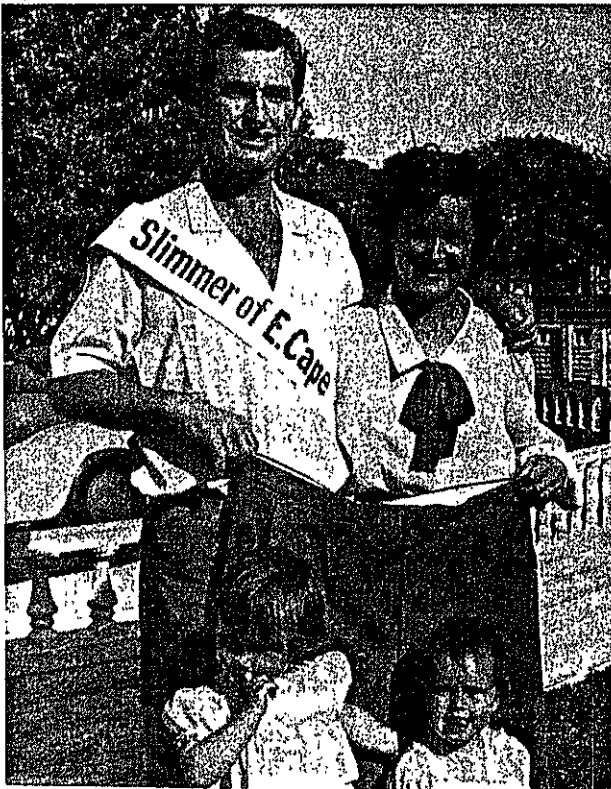
"We are all very worried about the extent of the repression and the restriction on free access of information. We believe people cannot make informed decisions if they have no right to hear other peoples opinions."

She said she sometimes became depressed

but when she met some of the wonderful people in local community organisations and saw their courage and strength in spite of what was happening then she thinks there is something to build on.

"If only we could free people's energies so that they could be directed towards building a common future."

Trim farming figure takes top honours



A Dordrecht farmer will take on three women finalists in the first national Slimmer of the Year contest later this month.

If he doesn't take that title, sheep farmer and race horse breeder Derek Birch will be content with a bronze medal in the Comrades next year.

Over the past six months he has lost a staggering 36 kg "It's amazing how many of my enemies don't recognise me anymore," he said after winning the Eastern Cape Slimmer of the

Slimmers advised to set realistic goals

7/9/86 CITY PRESS

Sash to fight trespass arrests

11C

By ZB MOLEFE

THE Black Sash is launching a massive campaign to highlight the plight of the hundreds of black people arrested daily in South African cities for trespassing.

Black Sash figures show that in 1982, 98 507 people were arrested for trespassing.

The next year the figure rose to 104 607.

"On March 17 this year, the Law and Order Minister, in reply to a question in Parliament, said the latest figures were not ready," past president Sheena Duncan told *City Press*.

She also pointed out that the Sash was concerned about the latest figures because penalties for trespassing were increased in 1983 under the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

A person found guilty of trespassing can be fined R2 000, or sentenced to two years' imprisonment - or both.

Duncan said what made trespassing cases hard to monitor was that the Sash often heard of cases after the arrested people had paid R50 admission of guilt fines.

She said that in some cases in the south of Johannesburg trespassers had the owner's permission to be there, but were still arrested.

In the Johannesburg area, she said, a substantial number of trespassing cases came from the Booyens police station. She could not give a breakdown of the trespassing cases in the area.

Edith, 70-plus, joins group working to upgrade township

By BARBARA ORPEN

IT'S never too late to be involved.

That's the view of Mrs Edith English, who, in her "late 70s", has become involved in the TB-Huis project at Red Location.

Not only does she furiously knit squares for blankets for the destitute people in the area, she has also committed herself to work at the Black Sash Advice Office twice a week.

"When I phoned up to ask what I could do, I was asked to knit squares.

"I'm not really a knitter, but I put my needles together, and also asked the 'Knitting-Bee' group at Park Towers to help," she said.

Mrs English then offered her services to the Black Sash Advice Office.

She is one of a group of people trying to improve life for those at TB-Huis, where about 1 000 people live in impoverished conditions.

This week a multi-faceted project aimed at upgrading conditions in the TB-Huis area in Red Location got underway.

Initiated by members of the community and assisted by the Black Sash Advice Office, the project has involved establishing a soup kitchen, providing blankets, clothes and furniture, and drawing up architectural designs for upgrading shacks.

The soup kitchen, which opened last week, is provid-



Mrs EDITH ENGLISH

ing food for more than 1 000 people.

Members of the Black Sash and volunteers this week brought in car-loads of clothing and blankets and a minibus loaded with furniture, which was donated in response to appeals for assistance.

Mrs Rosie Yonke and Mrs Doris Magi are working flat out every day from 9am to 4pm preparing soup for the hungry.

"We even work on Sunday, so we don't have time to go to church — which is bad as we need to go," they said.

Mrs Leslie Greensmith and Mrs Cathy Binnell, Black Sash Advice Office workers, said the project was a pilot scheme, and it was hoped similar projects would get underway elsewhere.

"We also have plans for the future, like teaching gardening and handcraft skills and establishing a

creche."

Mr Jackson Mancoko, who has lived in a small shack with seven children in TB-Huis for four years, said a committee had been formed to organise the distribution of clothing and furniture.

"We want to hold a jumble sale, but we must first give provisions to those who are really desperate," he said.

Mr Mancoko is also drawing up a list for the Advice Office of those who are bedridden and too sick to get to hospital.

Another aspect of the project — providing ideas for the architectural upgrading of the area — is being undertaken by a voluntary committee of a doctor, an architect and members of the community.

A member of the committee, Mr Stuart Douglas, said the idea was to retain what was there but upgrade it.

"The cost of new housing today is way beyond the means of the people living here, so we feel it is better to upgrade and waterproof the existing shacks, make provision for a market place, realign the streets and make plots out of vacant spaces."

He said the group was formulating ideas, and would present the plans to the Ibhayi Town Council as an alternative to the existing plans.

Fin Mail
15/1/86
112

TRESPASS ACT

Know your rights

Trespassing is a common crime in SA — largely affecting blacks. But those who fall foul of the Trespass Act, which was one of the great number of laws used surreptitiously to control the movement of blacks, are not always aware of their rights.

As a result, an educational campaign is being launched by the Black Sash to inform people — some of whom have, in ignorance, paid admission of guilt fines — of their rights if wrongfully arrested.

According to the law you cannot trespass in a public place.

However, a number of cases have been presented to the Black Sash concerning blacks who have been arrested while simply walking down the street. In one case for example, two people were arrested outside a police station; they paid an admission of guilt fine of R50 to get out of jail.

Lawful reason

To be guilty of trespass a person must enter or remain on property without the permission of the lawful occupier or person in charge. If the manager of a cinema asks someone to leave and they refuse, they are trespassing. In law, the husband of a live-in domestic needs the consent of his wife's employer — the "lawful occupier" — to visit.

The law, however, also says that a person can't be guilty if he or she has a lawful reason to be there. This means a person who believes there would be no objection from the owner is not trespassing. Thus, a person who had frequently walked across an open lot, field or farm without being apprehended would not be guilty — unless he had been warned off by the owner.

Despite these narrow parameters, thousands of people are arrested annually for trespassing: 104 607 blacks were arrested in 1983; 90 555 in 1984; and 87 555 in 1985. (In 1985, 929 whites, 11 097 coloureds and 723 Indians were arrested in terms of this law.)

According to the Black Sash's Court Monitoring Group, however, very few trespass cases come up in court. This discrepancy means most people are paying the spot admission-of-guilt fine. One reason may be that even those who know their rights find it easier to pay up and get out, instead of remaining in prison while trying to find a lawyer.

Sash stage silent placard protest

DURBAN — Members of the Black Sash staged a half-hour placard protest outside Durban's Pavilion Centre yesterday as delegates for the National Party's federal congress arrived for the day's proceedings.

Those involved included Mrs Shelagh Gastrow, the wife of the Progressive Federal Party's MP for Durban Central, Mr Peter Gastrow, and the national vice-president of the Black Sash, Mrs Ann Colvin.

The protestors stood singly at various points along Snell Parade and Old Fort Road and in the pathway to the hall, bearing placards reading: "No peace without justice."

No one was arrested. — Sapa (116) 60 14/8/86

Bitter Sash member leaves

Dispatch Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Swedish-born Mrs Annica van Gylswyk, a member of the Black Sash, flew out of South Africa last night with a send off from family, friends and a large contingent of Black Sash members.

Speaking at Jan Smuts airport shortly before her departure, she said she was bitter about what had happened.

Mrs Van Gylswyk was not deported, according to Home Affairs director-general Mr Gerrie Van Zyl but she was told while in detention that she had a choice of either remaining in detention for 180 days and then standing trial or leaving the country.

She told reporters last night she was determined to return to South Africa and would do so "as soon as things change".

She would be continuing the work of the Black Sash in Sweden, she said.

Calling for the release of all detainees, she said: "All the publicity given me I see as being on behalf of all detainees."

"This all seems so unreal," said Mrs Van Gylswyk who has spent the past 30 years living in South Africa.

Community rallies to fight appalling living conditions

By BARBARA ORPEN
APPALLING living conditions in the TB-Huis area of Red Location are being combated by a self-help project initiated by community members assisted by the Black Sash.

About 1 000 impoverished people are receiving food daily from a soup kitchen established last week, says Mrs Leslie Greensmith, a Black Sash Advice Office

worker and kitchen organiser.

Derelict buildings, dating from the South African War days and unrepaired since then, provide inadequate shelter for the more than 100 families in TB-Huis.

"There are holes in the roof and in the floor and most of the people are unemployed, old and sick," said Mrs Greensmith.

She said many people did

not have blankets and had to resort to refuse bags for warmth.

She said there were only three taps in the area and an open drain, which was continually flooding.

But a strong community spirit had enabled the vital soup kitchen to be established and run successfully.

"Black Sash was asked to look into the area in February and it has been a long,

hard struggle to get things going — the problem being that we have not been able to enter the area.

"But donations came in from all around and when the equipment for a soup kitchen was delivered last week, the people organised themselves and now women are preparing soup to feed 1 000 people every day."

She emphasised that the project was not a "hand-out

project" — the community had established a committee which was fully involved in distributing donations and clothes.

Mrs Cathy Binnell, a Black Sash Advice Office worker, who has also been involved in the project, said it was hoped the soup kitchen would become a pilot scheme.

"Another exciting aspect of the project has been to

provide blankets for the community," she said.

"We have had many people from all over town, including women from TB-Huis, who have been knitting blankets. So far we have received 105 blankets, but we still need 120."

Anyone who is willing to contribute to the project should contact Mrs Greensmith at ☎ 511258 or Mrs Binnell at ☎ 511453.

NEWS 1/1/86

11c

Silently saluting the courage of S African women

Silent Black Sash protesters have become a symbol of the struggle for human rights.

The Black Sash has saluted South African women's courage and strength to mark National Women's Day on Saturday.

**TODAY'S
WOMAN**



ON August 9, 30 years ago, nearly 20,000 women gathered at the Union Buildings, Pretoria, to express their anger at the Government's extension of passes to black women.

Two years earlier had seen the formation of the first major women's organisation, the Federation of South African Women, which had campaigned against such issues as the destruction of Sophiatown, and the introduction of "Bantu Education".

The anti-pass campaign continued until the early 1960s. In the crackdown which followed Sharpeville, most of the Federation's leaders were banned and the organisation declined.

Early in the 1980s, new women's movements formed in the Western and Eastern Cape, Durban and on the Reef. Since 1983, National Women's Day has been used to commemorate the 1956 march and focus attention on the need for equal rights.

The National Headquarters of the Black

Sash has released the following statement to mark National Women's Day:

"On this 30th anniversary of the women's march to the Union Buildings in Pretoria, the Black Sash salutes the strength and courage of South African women.

"They have often borne the heaviest burden of the pass laws and of exclusion from the centres of power and wealth; yet they have never relinquished the struggle to win recognition of their rights and to contribute to a better future for this country.

"In their rock-like determination and in their commitment to principles of justice and freedom, lies hope for us all."

Sash pickets to mark march

CAPE TOWN — Members of the Black Sash will picket at various points in Cape Town today to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the march by 20 000 women on Union Buildings in Pretoria, in protest against the extension of passes to black women.

The historic march took place on August 9, 1956, which has since become national Women's Day.

The Black Sash yesterday saluted "the strength and courage of South African women."

"They have often borne the heaviest burden of the pass laws and of exclusion from the centres of power and wealth, yet they have never relinquished the struggle to win recognition of their rights and to contribute to a better future for this country." — Sapa

(114)
DD 8/8/86

Black Sasher not being deported

BLACK Sash member Annica van Gylswyk, who is leaving SA tomorrow, is not being deported, says a Department of Home Affairs official.

But while moving out of her Pretoria home last night, the Swedish-born Van Gylswyk said she had been told she would face 180 days in detention if she remained in SA.

Director-General for Home Affairs Gerrie Van Zyl said newspapers had incorrectly reported Van Gylswyk was being deported.

He said that while she was in detention security police had told her she had a

choice of either remaining in detention for 180 days and then standing trial or leaving the country.

It was made clear to Van Gylswyk — who has been in SA for 30 years — that she was not being issued with a deportation order, she said.

"The first words my interrogators said to me were, 'This country doesn't need you.' It is clear they want to get rid of me. I agreed to leave the country because I did not want to stay in solitary confinement until mid-December then face charges on I-don't-know-what and be tried. I do not trust that and did not

want to take the chance," Van Gylswyk said last night.

Van Gylswyk's legal representative, Brian Currin, said: "To say she is not obliged is an over-simplification. It's not that she's afraid of being charged, but she's in a Catch-22 situation."

Acting chargé d'affaires of the Swedish legation, Bengt Herrström, said he had received a note from the Foreign Ministry to the effect that Van Gylswyk would be released on condition she left SA within 48 hours. Successful representations were made for her to be granted an extra week.

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DD 6/8/56 (11C)

Sash slams deportation

CAPE TOWN — The Black Sash has condemned the deportation of its Pretoria chairman, Swede Mrs Annica van Gylswyk, who has been ordered to leave the country by Friday.

National Black Sash president, Mrs Mary Burton, said Mrs Van Gylswyk would be a great loss for the organisation and the people of South Africa.

Mrs Van Gylswyk, one of the first people in Pretoria detained under the latest emergency regulations, was released on Thursday.

Mrs Burton said Mrs Van Gylswyk,

the first Black Sash member to be ordered out of South Africa, had "done so much to improve relations and open channels of communication."

Her deportation order was a rejection of this, she said.

"Her deportation was a possibility but we did not consider it seriously because she has lived here so long and has done such good work. We are a bit stunned by the news."

Mrs Van Gylswyk is due to leave for Sweden on Friday. Her husband and two of her three children will join her later. — Sapa

1. Additional Allowance - Bicycle allowance

FOURTEEN

SP186 NFM (110)

Black Sash chairman ordered out of the country

JOHANNESBURG—The chairman of the Black Sash in Pretoria, Swedish born Mrs Annica van Gylswyk, has been ordered to leave South Africa by Friday.

Mrs van Gylswyk was released on Thursday after 46 days in detention and was given eight days to leave the country.

'While I was being interrogated I was told, "this country doesn't need you here", she said.

'I've lived here for 30 years, I got my degree here and I'm very sad about leaving.

'I've considered contesting, but there's nothing one can really do about it,' she said.

She will be flying to Swe-

den on Friday evening, leaving behind her husband, who will join her later, and two of her three children.

'I have a brother in Sweden and my son is in Denmark,' she said.

She said she did not know what she would do for a living in Sweden, 'but I'm taking my typewriter and I certainly have something to write about'. — (Sapa)

Sash member must leave

SWEDISH-BORN Annica Van Gylswyk, chairman of the Pretoria branch of the Black Sash, has been ordered to leave the country by Friday.

She has lived in SA for 30 years and was released from detention on Thursday after 46 days in jail.

Black Sash president Mary Burton said in Cape Town last night the organisation was shocked at Van Gylswyk's deportation order.

"Annica is a true South African. She doesn't deserve what is being done to her," Burton said.

"I visited different regions over the past few days and, if anything, the determination to continue our and Annica's work has increased. We don't have any

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BEULAN BROWN
11C

fears at all," the president added.

Van Gylswyk said she had considered contesting the order, but realised there was nothing she could do about it.

"While I was being interrogated I was told: 'This country doesn't need you here.' I will never forget how unjustly I have been treated."

Van Gylswyk will leave for Sweden on Friday evening. Her husband and two of her three children will join her later.

She said she had no idea what she would do for a living in Sweden — "but I'm taking my typewriter and I certainly have something to write about".

Expelled Black Sasher 'not radical'

By Inga Molzen

Black Sash past president Mrs Sheena Duncan says Mrs Annica Van Gylswyk, who has been given until Friday to leave South Africa, is not a left-wing radical.

Mrs Gylswyk, recently released from seven weeks in detention, is chairman of the Black Sash in Pretoria.

LIVED 30 YEARS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Swedish-born, she is married to a South African and has lived in this country for 30 years.

"She has been a member of Black Sash for as long as I can remember," said Mrs Duncan. "She is a very committed and concerned person. She is people-oriented and has a long involvement in working with old people."

Mrs Duncan said Mrs Gylswyk's eldest daughter

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would accompany her when she left

She has three children and her husband is employed in Pretoria.

Mrs Gylswyk worked with the Winterveld Action Committee, the Catholic Commission for Justice, and has assisted non-Tswana speaking people "dumped in Bophuthatswana before its independence, and then left without pensions as the Government has not assumed responsibility for them".

Apparently, upon her release, Mrs Gylswyk was told that if she did not leave she would be jailed for 180 days and charged. No charge was specified.

A fellow Black Sash member said her reaction to Mrs Gylswyk's forced departure was "one of horror".

"Her children were born in this country. Her husband is South African. This is another form of oppression.

"Mrs Gylswyk is a superb person and has done a tremendous amount of work in this country."

Howe warned of black alienation

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A GENERATION of black leaders could be alienated from Western values if British and American leaders continued to misunderstand the nature of SA reforms.

This was said by Black Sash past president Sheena Duncan to British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe in Pretoria yesterday.

She said this would happen if British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and US President Ronald Reagan did not take extreme care about their approach to SA.

Duncan met Howe with Chris and Durkje Gilfillan, of the PFP unrest monitoring group, and Wits business school senior industrial relations lecturer Loet Douwes Dekker, at the British embassy.

Reagan had incorrectly claimed that 6-million blacks had gained citizenship rights in SA but approximately 1.75-million blacks stood to gain citizenship, she added. The SA security situation negated

CLAIRE PICKARD-CAMBRIDGE

what government was claiming to be doing in the line of reform.

Duncan also told journalists outside the embassy: "We are in a critical situation — what happens in the near future will be vital in determining whether SA fights a long bloody battle or moves towards democratic government."

Howe declined to comment on the meeting or his next meeting with Broederbond chairman and educationist, Professor Pieter de Lange.

De Lange said he had learnt something about the true intention of Howe's visit, but refused to comment on this.

Howe was expected to meet with several legal experts, including Justice Richard Goldstone and Professor John Dugard, yesterday afternoon. He was also to meet Association of Chambers of Commerce and Federated Chamber of Industries leaders.

Evicted families want Sash to intervene

Post Reporter

TWELVE black families being evicted from land belonging to the Wedgwood Park Country Club in Port Elizabeth are asking the Black Sash to intervene.

The families were told to be off the property by yesterday.

Today a spokesman for the families said no families had moved "on their own accord" as the club's manager, Mr Roy Grant-Smith had said earlier.

In a statement today, the residents said: "We want to live where we are. We have been here for more than 30 years now.

"We are happy here and also prepared to pay any reasonable rent the club would like to impose now.

"All was quiet yesterday although there was tension as we expected to be forcibly removed. However, some of us attended church services as usual. We appeal to Mr Grant-Smith and his management to reconsider their decision."

The spokesman said the families had not been paying any rent to the club.

Mr Grant-Smith was unavailable for comment today.

Sash claims 50 children are missing

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11/2/86

2/23

Dispatch Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — A member of the Black Sash, Mrs Dawn Ingels, claims more than 50 children have gone missing since the start of the current state of emergency.

She said the authorities have not confirmed these children were in detention and neither their families nor monitoring groups have been able to trace them.

According to records kept by the Detainees Parents Support Committee (DPSC), 42 children are missing, more than half of whom are claimed to be 16 years and under.

The youngest is said to be seven years old and 10 of the missing are believed to be from Krugersdorp.

Releasing the DPSC's latest available figures on emergency detentions when he spoke in support of a Black Sash "Free the Children" Christmas campaign, Dr Max Coleman alleged that a one-month old baby had been among the conservatively estimated 8 000 children who have been detained since the start of the emergency.

About 4 000 children are thought to still be in detention, he said, and the proportion of children among those detained is consistently high, sometimes as high as 75 per cent.

Dr Coleman said the month-old had been held for a day when police detained a whole family, including siblings, while seeking an 18-year-old son who was not at home at the time.

THERE is more concern in South Africa over cruelty to animals than over cruelty to children, according to the past president of the Black Sash, Mrs Sheena Duncan.

She this week addressed a meeting which was part of the Black Sash "Free the Children" campaign, aimed at securing the release of children in detention so that they can be home for Christmas.

According to the Black Sash's latest figures, between 1800 and 1300 children under 18 are in detention nationwide. About 400 were being held on the Witwatersrand, Mrs Duncan said.

Many of them were under 16 years old and often their parents were not informed that they had been detained or where they were being held.

Mrs Duncan quoted some case histories of the detention of children from the files of the Detainees' Parents' Support Committee.

"Civilised countries don't detain people without trial and they don't detain children.

"I am ashamed that my country is not a civilised country," Mrs Duncan said.

"We demand the freedom of the children and we will continue to work until that has been accomplished," she said.

Human rights lawyer Mr Geoff Budlender, of the Legal Resources Centre, described the conditions of children in detention.

They are not allowed to see their parents unless the authorities permit it. They can only write letters, study or receive reading material other than a Bible if they get permission.

They have only one hour's exercise a day and must clean their own cells.

If they sing, whistle or are a nuisance, it is a criminal offence.

"There is only one way to describe it — it is barbaric," Mr Budlender said.

He urged people to say to the Government that they were ashamed and disgusted with the detention of children. Everybody should reject it openly and as often as possible.



Mrs HELEN Suzman



Mrs HELEN Joseph



Rev PETER Storey

More concern for animals than kids, SAYS SHEENA DUNCAN

SAYS SHEENA DUNCAN

FOCUS

SOWETAN Correspondent

The past president of the Methodist Church, the Reverend Peter Storey, said that the detention of children was an "obscenity", an offence to God and was the deepest shame that South Africans have had to live with.

"Any society is judged by the way it treats the most vulnera-

ble of its people — the poor, the widowed, the orphaned and every child. The kingdom of God belongs to the children," Mr Storey said.

Two Kagiso parents of children in detention said that they were too upset to say much. Mr M Molefe said that his 13-year-old daughter was in detention.

Last week a 14-year-old Kagiso girl was released and was just "dumped" outside Diepkloof Prison with only R1 on her, he said. She took a taxi to Baragwanath Hospital and then she had no money left, so she started walking. It was already 7.30pm and eventually she had to ask a petrol station attendant if she could sleep there for the night.

Mr Molefe said he was worried that the same might happen to his daughter.

"The children are fetched from their homes. Why can't the Government take them back to their homes again?" he said.



Mrs SHEENA Duncan



Bishop SIMEON Nkoane

The speakers at the meeting were joined by a number of representatives of other organisations, individuals and church leaders, who had added their support to the Black Sash "Free the Children" campaign.

Veteran

They included veteran anti-apartheid campaigners Mrs Helen Joseph and Mrs Helen Suzman, human rights lawyer Mr Sydney Kentridge, SC, the Anglican Bishop Suffragan of Johannesburg East, Bishop Simeon Nkoane, Anglican Provincial Liaison Officer, Bishop John Carter. Dr Max Coleman of the Detainees' Parents' Support Committee, the general secretary of the United Congregational Churches, the Reverend Joe Wing, representatives of the National Education Crisis Committee, End Conscription Campaign and Nusas.

Threats to Sash chairman

DURBAN — The Natal coastal chairman of the Black Sash has been threatened with violence and had her home attacked the day after the Sash's involvement in a march to Westville Prison to protest against the detention of 49 children held there under emergency regulations.

On Sunday shortly after 11pm a canister was thrown into Mrs Ann Colvin's house.

"I heard an almighty clatter and ran outside in the rain and waited there," said Mrs Colvin last night.

When she returned and turned on the light she saw an empty canister with the words "next time it will be a grenade" handwritten on it.

Mrs Colvin has also received nightly threatening telephone calls from what she calls "a screeching woman".

Mrs Colvin said many Black Sash members had also received threatening telephone calls, as had her son — Sapa

D.V. 11/2/86
Sash
woman's
home
attacked

DURBAN — The Natal coastal chairman of the Black Sash has been threatened with violence and had her home attacked the day after the Sash's involvement in a march to Westville Prison in protest against the detention of 49 children held there under emergency regulations.

On Sunday shortly after 11 pm a canister was thrown into Mrs Ann Colvin's house. She heard a car driving off.

"I heard an almighty clatter and ran outside in the rain and waited there," said Mrs Colvin last night.

When she returned and turned on the light she saw an empty canister with the words "Next time, it will be a grenade" handwritten on it.

She attributed the harsh threats to the Sash's campaign to have detained children released in time for Christmas.

A police spokesman said the matter was under investigation. — Sapa

13/12/86

TC

Black Sash demo: judgment postponed

Dispatch Reporter

EAST LONDON — Judgment was postponed in the magistrate's court here yesterday to December 19 in a case involving four members of the Black Sash who took part in a single stand demonstration in front of the City Hall on May 7 this year.

The accused — Mrs Patricia Flemmer, of Warwick Road in Vincent, Mrs Sylvia Hagerty, of Kent Road in Vincent, Mrs Susan Powers, of Plymouth Drive in Nahoon, and Mrs Valerie Viljoen, of Mimosa Road in Vincent — pleaded not guilty to contravening a section of the Internal Security Act prohibiting gatherings between March 1986 and April 1987.

The stand was in connection with the detention of Duncan Village leaders.

The defence argued that the demonstration by members of the Black Sash did not constitute a gathering as there was never more than two people present briefly at one time — one taking the sash and placard from the other.

The intention was to avoid a gathering and thus the presence of not more than one demonstrator at a time.

The state argued that the four accused, even if not all were present at one time, had a common purpose and therefore constituted a gathering.

The magistrate was Mr W. M. Opperman and Mr P. J. Venter prosecuted. Mr M. Schwikard appeared for Mrs Flemmer and Mr J. Oosthuizen appeared for Mrs Powers, Mrs Hagerty and Mrs Viljoen.

110 11/14 11/28

Sash hits at order on two papers

JOHANNESBURG—The Black Sash has condemned the restriction orders on the Weekly Mail and the Sowetan prohibiting them from publishing statements which 'advocate' or 'support' the Christmas Against the Emergency campaign.

'If any member of the public still has any doubts as to whether freedom of the Press has been destroyed in South Africa, these latest orders should remove all doubt from their minds,' the women's organisation said.

'There is no Press freedom any more. The Press can only publish what the Government chooses to allow it to publish.'

'The people no longer know what is going on in their own country; every day momentous events occur but all the public knows is what the authorities choose to disclose.'

'Already rumours abound and rumour is exceedingly dangerous.'

'The Government has already driven resistance underground.'

The Black Sash said the bans were 'a tribute to the courage and determination of the editors of the Weekly Mail and the Sowetan. — (Sapa)

DD (11C) 20/12/86

EL Sash members found guilty after city protest at DV leaders' detentions

Dispatch Reporter
EAST LONDON — Four members of the Black Sash were found guilty in the magistrate's court here yesterday of contravening a section of the Internal Security Act prohibiting gatherings between April 1986 and March 1987.

They were each sentenced to a R150 fine or 50 days imprisonment, suspended for three years on condition they were not convicted of the same offence again.

The accused — Patricia Flemmer, of Warwick Road, Vincent, Sylvia Hagerty of Kent Road, Vincent, Susan Power of Plymouth Drive, Nahoon and Valerie Viljoen of Mimosa Road, Vincent — had earlier pleaded not guilty to the charge.

The four women took part in a single stand demonstration in front of the City Hall on May 7 this year.

The stand was in connection with the detention of Duncan Village leaders.

Judgement in the case was postponed from December 12.

The magistrate, Mr W. M. Opperman, said it was clear from the evidence of state witnesses and a series of 11 photographs submitted as an exhibit by the state at the first hearing, that the four accused had gathered with a common purpose.

This gathering was a contravention of an order gazetted by the former Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le

Grange, banning outdoor gatherings apart from bona fide sports meetings from April 1986 to March 31 next year.

Mr Opperman said the contravention existed in spite of the action of the four in holding their demonstration one at a time while the others sat on a bench 12 metres away.

At the earlier hearing it was mentioned that some years ago the Black Sash had obtained written permission from the town clerk to hold single stand demonstrations in front of the City Hall statue.

Mr Opperman said the nature of the offence did not constitute a very serious contravention of the regulations.

'We have no ulterior motives' 23/12/86.

Black Sash is alarmed over Info Bureau's new strategy

11C
STAR

By Colleen Ryan,
Political Reporter

The Black Sash has expressed alarm at the Bureau for Information's "communication" activities — in particular its interest in contacting women's organisations.

The director of the Johannesburg office of the Black Sash, Mrs Sheena Duncan, expressed concern in a statement about the "establishment of a whole new bureaucracy ... to make contact with independent organisations".

She also questioned the establishment of the new Women For South Africa organisation, and asked why the bureau seemed to be promoting it so vigorously.

"Is Women For South Africa a bureau creation?" she asked.

Women For South Africa, launched in June, has been running TV advertisements with the slogan: "If it is not good enough for our children, it is not good enough for us."

The head of Women For South Africa, Mrs Jenny Malan, is away on holiday.

In a recent SABC-TV inter-

view, a spokesman for Women For South Africa denied that it received funds from the Government. She said it got most of its money from businessmen and companies.

Miss Luise Nicholson, co-ordinator of women's activities for the bureau, denied that it had any ulterior motives in its communication efforts.

"Our function is information and communication," she said. "Our aim is to promote effective communication between the Government and the people of South Africa."

Miss Nicholson said she liaised with the various branches of the bureau and promoted communication between the Government and various women's organisations.

There was no connection between Women For South Africa and the bureau, she added.

Asked if Women For South Africa received any Government funding, she said there was no link-up to her knowledge. "I don't know who sponsors it."

"We don't have any other link

other than a communication link. I would approach any women's organisation that is having a meeting, and ask if I may attend. If it said yes, I would go along."

Miss Nicholson said that although she was not associated with Women For South Africa, she had acquainted herself with its formation and had attended one of its meetings in her personal capacity.

NATIONAL DEBATE

She said her chief aim was to contact as many women's organisations as possible "to tell them about Government policy, the achievements of the Government, to get a national debate going".

"I firmly believe that unless we talk to people we are not going to solve our problems," she said.

Miss Nicholson confirmed that the bureau had contacted many organisations and had made inquiries about their aims and objectives.

Asked what the bureau did with this information, she said the initial idea was to establish

a register of various organisations.

"If someone does not want to be included on the register, they need not be."

The idea was that "if someone phoned us and asked who could they contact about flower arranging, for example, we could refer them."

Asked whether the bureau could expect anti-apartheid women's organisations to trust it, Miss Nicholson said that was a policy issue and she could not comment on it.

She did not think the State of Emergency was counterproductive to communication. Asked how there could be communication when some leading women were in hiding or detention, she said: "I can't, obviously (communicate with them)".

She stressed that the bureau had successfully contacted many organisations and had received a good response.

"Some of the groups don't wish to talk to the bureau, but those who are, we are happy to talk to."

● See Page 10.

BLACK POLITICS - BLACK SASH
1987

JANUARY — SEPT. → OCT. →

Write to Box 61682 Marshalltown 2107

Black Sash long fought injustice

30/1/87
Star
HC

The article by Jo Marais (The Star, January 7) and the letter from N Harding (The Star, January 11) regarding a Black Sash attack on The Bureau for Information are revealing, especially Jo Marais' use of a heavy Broederbond tag-word in the term "like-minded women".

This reinforces the suspicions of many that "Women for South Africa" may be a "Susterbond".

Black Sash publicity is based on reality; Jo Marais' is not. The latter considers that the real issue in South Africa today is the ideological struggle between capitalist democracy and communism. The Black Sash knows that South Africa is neither capitalist nor democratic.

Capitalism is severely hindered by various licensing and control boards, such as the Local Road Transportation Board, as well as regulations connected with the decentralisation of industry and the Group Areas Act.

South Africa has never been a democracy. Not much more than 20 percent of the people have ever had a vote in first-tier government, and the vote has always been based on the colour of the skin.

It is noteworthy that the Black Sash was formed 30 years ago in order to protest against the undemocratic removal of the coloured vote.

Jo Marais smugly describes "Women for South Africa" as a movement of "like-minded" women whose cornerstone is "faith and trust in God", while correspondent Harding desires a "positive role".

I do not know what these "Jo-come-latelys" have been doing during the past 30 years, but I do know that the Black Sash's active and positive role has been completely aligned to Christ's

work description for a Christian given in Matthew, Chapter 26, Verses 35-40.

Black Sash records deal with tens of thousands of case histories concerning help given to blacks to obtain essential documents, make necessary affidavits, deal with appropriate State officials, comply with relevant legislation and obtain legal advice and legal representation.

This has made it possible for thousands of blacks to feed and clothe themselves and their families by obtaining legal employment, unemployment insurance payments, workmen's compensation awards, and State and company pensions.

Other blacks have been helped to obtain, retain or register homes and tenancies by establishing Section 10 rights; and to cope with court actions and avoid or reduce periods of imprisonment. The sick and maimed have been assisted in applications for prosthetic appliances, disability grants and suitable medical care.

I do not believe that any voluntary women's organisation anywhere has done as much to cope with the desperate misery caused by the deliberate political wickedness inflicted upon a disenfranchised majority by the discriminatory and selfish legislation of an enfranchised and self-serving minority group.

B Johnston

Boksburg

Preference will be given to letters in which the name and address of the writer can be published. Those wishing to write under a pseudonym must also sign letters and include their address. Letters sent to other newspapers or organisations are not considered for publication.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Umpires victimised

Media bans must go now, says the Sash

By Rich Mkhondo
star

The Transvaal region of the Black Sash has challenged the Government to lift media restrictions "if it has successfully stemmed unrest".

"This will show they have nothing to fear," a spokesman said.

The Black Sash was responding to an announcement by Information Minister Mr Stoffel van der Merwe that there had been a dramatic decrease in the number of unrest-related deaths since the imposition of the state of emergency.

A Cabinet Minister alleged that unrest figures given by the Government had not been criticised by organisations such as the Black Sash.

"This is not true," the Sash spokesman said.

Sash depllores deaths of four people in township

Star 11/21/87
By Adele Baleta 11C

The Albany Black Sash in the Eastern Cape has condemned the deaths of four people in an incident involving three South African Police "kitskonstabels" in Grahamstown on February 2.

The four were killed and five wounded while special constables were guarding a school in Grahamstown's Tanti township.

A police spokesman previously said the three went to investigate after they were fired at from a township house.

The Albany Black Sash said: "The SAP special force receive a pitiful three weeks' training before they are sent into black townships, armed with guns, sjamboks and all the powers of regular policemen."

DISCIPLINE

"When the force was introduced in September 1986, the Commissioner of Police dismissed fears that they would not have the necessary discipline to deal with the tense situation in the townships.

"Now it appears that we may have witnessed tragic confirmation of those rejected fears and warnings," the statement said.

The Minister of Law and Order has ordered an investigation into the shooting, and three men are appearing in court in connection with the incident.

"We extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved families and members of the community who have suffered so grievously, and call for the immediate disbanding of this ill-conceived force," said the statement.

Minister warns the Black Sash

The Black Sash should take care the organisation was not "exploited" in its efforts to promote justice, peace and "an end to apartheid", Deputy Information Minister Dr Stoffel van der Merwe said last night.

In a statement released in Pretoria by the Bureau for Information, the Minister reacted to reported Black Sash criticisms of a television appearance he made earlier this month.

Dr van der Merwe's statement said agitation and propaganda by those committed to making the country ungovernable and ultimately overthrowing the State by violence continued.

Dr van der Merwe said that in his address to Parliament on September 4 last year, the State President quoted from a letter by Mr Ismail Ebrahim, a senior intelligence operator of the ANC.

"Mr Ebrahim referred with approval to the formation of a white coalition group which, among other organisations, included the Black Sash.

"Mr Ebrahim said the whites must be organised for ending the emergency, release of all detainees and unbanning of all banned organisations."

— Sapa

(JIA)

Black Sash not exploited — chief

17/2/57
Star By Claire Robertson, Pretoria Bureau

The Black Sash has rejected a warning by deputy Information Minister Dr Stoffel van der Merwe to beware of being exploited in its efforts to promote justice, peace and an end to apartheid.

Deputy Information Minister Dr Stoffel van der Merwe last week issued a statement in which he said the intention of "those who would establish a society very different from the ideal which the Black Sash claims to espouse" was to exploit the organisation.

Mrs Mary Burton, president of the Black Sash, today rejected this warning as "an attempt to ward off the devastating effects of criticism we have made of Government policies".

"There seems to be a concerted attempt by the Government to portray the Black Sash as naive and foolish, vulnerable to manipulation by other organisations," she said.

"The Black Sash has, for nearly 32 years, maintained its independence and concern for civil rights and its commitment to democratic principles."

In his statement Dr van der Merwe said the Black Sash accused the Government of trying to "smear organisations and individuals who are motivated by a sincere desire for justice, peace and an end to apartheid."

Dr van der Merwe referred to a so-called white coalition group or front which included the Black Sash.

The Black Sash was not dictated to by any outside organisations, said Transvaal Black Sash chairman Mrs Ethel Walt.

"It has always been completely independent. Our aims have been to work for justice and peace in a non-racial South Africa. These should be the aims of Dr van der Merwe and the State President," said Mrs Walt told The Star today.

Sticker (11c) complaints dismay Sash ^{Star 28/2/87}

The Black Sash is dismayed that "Free The Children" stickers have been used to discredit the organisation.

Callers have complained that the stickers have been stuck randomly on private property.

Car owner Mr D Hunt and a Rosebank shopkeeper who did not want to be identified, complained that the stickers had been stuck on their windows.

Reacting to complaints, Black Sash co-ordinator of the "Free The Children Campaign" Ms Gill de Vlieg asked complainants to bring the stickers to the Sash offices as there was doubt that these were the stickers issued for the campaign.

"Callers have described them as squarish and we wonder if it is the same sticker and not one that has been produced to discredit our organisation," she said.

Ms de Vlieg said it was surprising that of all the stickers available to the public only theirs were being stuck on private property.

She said the stickers were available to those who asked for them. "To prevent irresponsibility we ask individuals where they are from before supplying stickers," said Ms de Vlieg.

Police liaison officer, Lieutenant Pierre Louw, could not confirm whether police were investigating complaints about the stickers.

S-bend takes 3 more li...

Sash fight for justice highlighted 11c

Staff Reporter

THE Black Sash has been an important symbol in the fight against apartheid, according to Professor Jakes Gerwel, who spoke at a public meeting during the organisation's annual conference.

Addressing about 750 people at the Claremont Civic Centre last night, Professor Gerwel, rector of the University of the Western Cape, said it could not be denied there were many differences in the groundswell of opposition to apartheid, but toleration of differences was part of democracy.

"Apartheid is the problem, not the differences we have with each other in the broad democratic movement," he said.

Democracy demanded that people share its values and show the isolation of the minority forces resisting democracy.

The election might be seen as an exercise in futility, but even in the flutterings of white politics could be seen the effects of extra-parliamentary politics.

The election indicated that even with all the curbs at the State's command it could not completely hide the real state of affairs, which should encourage the opposition to demonstrate its wish for a democracy.



Prof Jakes Gerwel

There were three aspects to apartheid — discrimination, exploitation and repression, with repression now the major element.

Highlighting the repressive nature of the society was the sphere in which the Black Sash had played such an important role.

Mrs Mary Burton, national president of the Black Sash, said that as the might of the Nationalist Government crumbled it was not too early to plan for the future.

The Black Sash was committed to full, equal adult suffrage and negotiations towards this would have to be preceded by the release of political prisoners and the unbanning of organisations.

A just peace

Although the emergency regulations denied the use of peaceful avenues of pressure that had been used before, people could reject some options offered them by the State.

They could learn from neighbouring countries that the country should be preparing for a just peace, not a war that could not be won.

People who believed in a just society and with skills to contribute towards it were needed.

They should stay and make their contribution by "appropriating our common history" and exerting unrelenting pressure on the weak point of the ruling system.

(Report by R Usher, 122 St George's Street, Cape Town.)

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Sash report on plight of watchmen

Security guards and watchmen form a special group of abused workers, claims the Black Sash.

Problems cited in a report are a lack of training for guards, pay below the legal minimum, long hours and lack of adequate equipment for a dangerous job.

The report quotes the case of a guard who was arrested and charged for possessing a firearm without a license — “a firearm issued to him by his employer. The firm refused to intervene in any way. They fired him instead”.

When he left, the guard was made to return the uniform which he had purchased — without any refund.

JOURNAL

For every one who benefits from reform ...

Hundreds are worse off — Sash

11c
SASH
13/3/87

By Jo-Anne Collinge

For every person who has benefited from the Government's reform measures “there are many hundreds whose condition is immeasurably worse than it was a year ago — who are poorer, more frustrated and much more angry”, according to the Black Sash.

The warning was sounded at the Black Sash conference today in a report based on 16 181 interviews held in the organisation's Johannesburg advice office.

The report views the conduct of unscrupulous employers, in addition to the failure of “reform”, as joint causes of this growing anger.

The repeal of the pass laws has not decreased the need for the Sash advice service, the report states. In fact the number of interviews in 1986 represented an increase of 13 percent on the 1985 figure.

“There is an entirely new system of law but there is no real freedom of movement. There are new names to Government offices but the same officials continue to deal with the public.”

The report, by former Black Sash president Mrs Sheena Duncan and Johannesburg researcher Ms Joy Harnden, strongly attacks exploitative employers.

“Deplorable employment practices continue. For every company which has an organised labour force and positive employment practices there must be 10

others which exploit their workers and cheat them of their legal rights,” the report says.

“Advice workers are astounded at the widespread evasion of legal obligations by employers and the amount of downright illegal behaviour.”

At least 46 percent of all problems presented in 1986 arose from unemployment, says the report. Employment complaints included:

● 358 cases of abuse of workers — frequently featuring physical assault.

● Unfair dismissals and retrenchments. “People come to the office in a group to say they were told to leave without warning, without reasons and without proper pay.

“Others complain that they arrived at work to find the firm closed overnight, the doors locked and no one there to deal with.” These “fly-by-night” companies are most difficult to trace. They leave their workers without UIF cards, without pay, without tax certificates, without redress, says the report.

“Many workers get severance pay without any statement of a breakdown of the payment.”

● Pension fund inefficiency. Funds are struggling to keep pace with the demands on them, the report says. “Inefficiency heightens the retrenched and dismissed worker's plight. People are faced with inordinately long waiting periods. Files are lost or destroyed.”

● See Page 13.

Black Sash finds chaos, misery in wake of scrapping of pass laws

Lives of blacks no easier

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The euphoric "Hamba dompas!" advertising which accompanied the scrapping of the pass laws has all but faded from mind. Black people are getting to grips with the reality of the new identity system and the difficulties of regaining their South African citizenship.

No non-Governmental group is in a better position to monitor this than the Black Sash. In its Johannesburg Advice Office alone, the Sash had dealt with about 600 cases by early this year.

Its verdict on the administration of the new scheme? "One huge mess and a great deal of confusion."

The judgment is contained in the Johannesburg office's report to the annual Sash conference, written by influx control expert Mrs Sheena Duncan and researcher Ms Joy Harnden.

They itemise the kinds of administrative hitches that are bedevilling the lives of black people.

● **Pension refusal:** The report speaks of a "spate" of complaints that old people cannot not apply for pensions until they received their new ID books. "One reason given was that the computer had been programmed to deal with the new 13-digit identity numbers and could not cope with the old ones."

● **Birth date errors:** In the past black people had no way of knowing what date of birth had been entered against their names in the Population Register. They detected errors only when they tried to apply for pensions. Now the first six digits of the ID number constitute the birth date. For the first time they are able to see what their recorded birth date is. It is often wrong.

Proving one's date of birth in the absence of a baptismal certificate or without registration of birth remains a major challenge. "In Johannesburg it is no easier than it was before July 1, 1986 (the demise of the pass laws), to persuade reluctant officials that affidavits can constitute the only proof of birth."

● **Continued "pass" raids:** "We begin to wonder whether these things are really a thing of the past. In one 10-day period in February this year five people in different suburbs phoned to report that police were stopping people in the streets demanding passes. The wording of the Act is more polite — 'An authorised officer ... may at any time request any person reasonably presumed to have attained the age of 16 years to prove his identity without delay' — but it amounts to the same thing if policemen are going to stop ordinary people of the streets in an arbitrary fashion."

Lives made Hell

● **The housing catch:** There are cases of people who never qualified for a pass book but who should manage to gain the new ID document. Often these are people whose lives were "made Hell" by regular arrest and endorsement out of the urban areas where they had always lived but could not prove in black-and-white their right to be there. The report cites the case of a Mrs Mosala who visited the Advice Office "for the umpteenth time on August 19, 1978. "We were able to tell her that she can now get the new ID and that for the first time in her life she could apply for housing and look for work without being scared".

"But — there is always a BUT in the reform process in South Africa — she cannot live anywhere lawfully. She has no hope of obtaining a rented house in a black township. She has never been able to get on to a waiting list and lists are thousands of families long, dating back almost 20 years. Lists are irrelevant now. If you can pay you will get a house. If you cannot pay you won't. She cannot pay."

● **Establishing residence:** For the restoration of citizenship to persons from independent homelands — one-third of black persons in South Africa — it is necessary to establish permanent residence in South Africa.

Officials appear to be entering the homeland address as the "permanent address" of applicants, even if the applicant himself has lived for years in "white" South Africa and only his family remains in the homeland. "It must be remembered that many people from the now independent homelands have worked in South Africa's cities for many many years. The only reason they never brought their families to town is that the law did not allow them to do so."

● **Physical removal:** Thousands of people have been deprived of a chance to regain South African citizenship because they have been removed from their homes in South Africa to a homeland. The report cites the case of Mr Baveng, a Tswana from Delareyville, who was removed in 1978 to a rudimentary township in Bophuthatswana. "Because he and his family are no longer resident in South Africa he is not eligible to have his South African citizenship restored to him."

The report concludes that Sash advice workers see no real movement towards justice and democracy either in the law itself or in general Government policy.

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Up to us to show there is a better way

CAPK 11/15
13/3/87
11C

THE state of emergency proclaimed on June 12 1986 is exactly nine months old. We are told that political violence is waning, after having claimed at least 2 387 lives in the past 2½ years.

Yet we hear from townships all over the country of the despair and distress and anger felt by people suffering under the repressive presence of the forces of the state. We know that thousands have been detained under security legislation and that many of them remain in detention. We know that such detentions have not ceased.

The difficulty of finding out very much about them, the widespread concern about the conditions in which they are held, and the impotence of the courts to secure their release, all compound the seriousness of the situation.

Apart from the actions of the security forces, during these past nine months we have seen the closure of many schools, the presence of community guards and "special constables" in the townships (with or without the assistance of the SADF and the SAP), and also the severest press restrictions South Africa has known so far.

What kind of legacy will the next generation inherit?

The impact on the lives of the majority of South Africans has been severe: daily life has been disrupted; many communities have lost their respected leaders and experienced fragmentation and disorganization; horrifying accounts have been received about the treatment of detainees; parents are profoundly disturbed at reports that ex-detainees under the age of 21 years have attended special courses at "youth centres" about which

Extracts from Black Sash president MARY BURTON's opening address last night to the Sash's national conference in Cape Town.



strategies and to draw on increasingly sophisticated tactics. The National Security Council and its specialized network of Joint Management Centres and their component parts are ensuring that information-gathering becomes more efficient, and greater control over the entire population can be achieved.

Where are we to look for solutions to South Africa's crisis?

The present critical phase of the struggle to effect real change in South Africa can be dated from the introduction of the new tricameral constitution in 1984.

Those who voted "Yes" in the referendum which preceded it were optimistic that wondrous change would result, and it was thought that its momentum would carry the government further along the road to power-sharing than it intended or could envisage.

Instead, the tricameral parliament has failed to achieve even what it set out to do. If its credentials were dubious to start off with, it has now been severely discredited.

It was bad enough that the State President should reveal his contempt for his junior partners by his public humiliation of Mr Allan Hendrickse. Even before that, however, the progress of legislation through Parliament last year revealed the inherent flaws in their participation in the system.

It is painfully clear

to make further progress in this area. has been partly corrected and we can expect formerly deficient yield on other industries considerable capital expenditure. The is receiving our full attention, and to marketing and production constraints, which expected. This is due to a nexus of markedly less than might have been value placed on the underlying interests. Comparing sectoral income yields with the referred to above. largely as a result of the cautious view been reduced to negligible proportions lesser extent and overseas ventures have gained value sharply, other industries to a good corporate citizen, presently the further changes and thereafter.

force and the more its structures become entrenched, the harder it will be to dismantle. We are convinced that along this road lies disaster.

The most logical, the most peaceful, the most just dispensation for South Africa can only be reached through a commitment to ending apartheid and building a non-racial democracy with full and equal adult suffrage.

The negotiations which might get us there will have to be preceded by the release of political prisoners and the unbanning of organizations; and whatever new constitutional arrangement is devised, it must ensure the recognition, and protection by law of basic human rights and freedoms — of person, conscience, speech, information, movement, meeting and association.

The laws of the country must provide for control over the power of the state, and not for unfettered control by the state over the people.

That kind of society may seem a long way out of our reach, but as the might of the National Party government crumbles away after nearly 40 years in power, it is not too early to plan and work for it.

It is one of the straws of hope for the future that in spite of everything people are doing precisely this. We see the democratic trade unions building worker strength and organization, and looking outwards to the community in which they are based.

the Casspir, is a "mine-resistant vehicle for the civil sector"

* The Rooibok is a basic mine-protected capsule designed by the CSIR and mounted on a pick-up truck.

□ We can choose to stay and work for our common future in South Africa. We do not blame those who decide they cannot bring up young children in this violent society, or who leave because they cannot in conscience serve in the South African Defence Force, or who cannot reconcile themselves to living with injustice. But we believe that people with skills to offer and the willingness to contribute to an open society are needed here.

If, then, we reject these two classic fight or flight responses, how do we face the future and contribute to it?

(a) We can appropriate our common history. We need people's education too.

(b) We can prepare ourselves to accept the inevitable growth of our cities into major urban centres where the majority of our fellow city-dwellers will be black and will thus more accurately reflect the reality of the South African population

(c) Most of all we need to maintain an unrelenting pressure on whatever weak points we can find in the system that rules us, so as to hasten the day when the negotiations I have spoken of can take place at last.

The truth is a powerful tool and we must use it with courage and confidence.

The state of emergency regulations make this more

Domestically sold products of the group
The South African economy, in which we sell the bulk of the products of our industrial companies, grew only marginally in most terms. The condition of overcapacity in most manufacturing sectors consequently persisted and markets remained generally weak and highly competitive; to some extent, however, competition from imports lessened. Somewhat greater real growth is expected this year.

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Our management efforts are aimed at finding a way to handle the tensions inherent in this sphere to find a success manager/worker relationship. The s are using implies wider worker participation.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Sash not asked to help pay for ANC ad

AP IIC
POST 19/3/87

JOHANNESBURG — The director of the Black Sash Johannesburg advice office, Mrs Sheena Duncan, said today that the Sash was not asked to help pay for the cost of publishing advertisements calling for the unbanning of the African National Congress.

The Sash and 14 other organisations lent their support to the advertisement that appeared in newspapers on January 8.

Mrs Duncan, who is a past president of the Sash, was subpoenaed to appear today before the Munnik Commission of Inquiry in Johannesburg.

She said a Mr Derek Hanekom and another man visited her after the advice office was closed for the Christmas recess.

She assumed the other man was from the United Democratic Front.

Though introduced, she forgot his name.

She was shown a picture of Mr Yusuf Surtee.

She said this was not the man.

The two men asked whether the Sash would support the advertisement.

Mrs Duncan said the Black Sash would support the advertisement as it contained nothing the Sash had not said many times before.

The group was not asked to contribute towards the cost, she said.

CMX Times 10/3/87 (110) ~~110~~

Detainees' UIF, pension problems highlighted

Staff Reporter

PROBLEMS with unemployment insurance benefits and pension and disability grants for detainees were highlighted in a report by the Port Elizabeth advice office at the Black Sash National Conference.

At a session on advice office reports, the director of the PE Advice Office, Mrs Shelagh Hurley, said their office had appealed without success against the loss of UIF benefits for their clients as a result of being detained.

The report cited the example of a "Mr T" who lost his job in April last year after 18 years, and immediately registered for unemployment benefits.

"As he was signing for one of his benefits he was detained and his unemployed wife and eight children were left destitute," the report said.

On his release, the time period for applying for benefits had expired.

"In order to qualify for UIF benefits a contributor must be capable of and available for work. Consequently the UIF board in Pretoria turned down his appeal for benefits," she said.

The Black Sash is currently waiting for a written explanation of the decision of the UIF board.

Although the conference dealt with all aspects of work covered by the organization, special problems arising out of the state of emergency received particular attention.

In another case the Black Sash found that detainees and family members were being refused pension and disability grants on the grounds that "they were no longer in need" as they were in prison "where all their bodily needs were taken care of".

The Advice Office report said an agent of the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning informed them that pensions and grants

were "for the individual only" and family members were "not meant to share this".

After representations to the department in Pretoria, the advice office found that power of attorney would be given to other family members for grant payments, and the department was asked by the Black Sash to make back payments to anyone who lost payment in this way.

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Cable Times
16/3/87

11C

Sash vow to fight system of injustice

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By CLARE HARPER

THE Black Sash will work "more strenuously than ever against the system of injustice" and will use the coming election to "raise issues which voters should be thinking about", Mrs Mary Burton said yesterday after being re-elected national president of the Black Sash for the second year running.

She was speaking at the end of the four-day annual national conference in Rondebosch at which 200 members, delegates and observers from around the country presented reports on Black Sash activities.

She described some of the reports from the various regions as "deeply disturbing", particularly reports on impoverishment and the "terrible conditions in which people were struggling to survive."

The conference, which met yesterday for the first time since the declaration of the emergency of June 12, resolved:

- To condemn this resort (by government) to increased repression.
- To call for an end to repressive policies.
- To work more strenuously than ever against the system of injustice that is plunging our country into ever-deepening conflict.
- To work for the achievement of a just, democratic, non-racial society in a reunited South Africa.

In a statement condemning the National Security Management System (NSMS), the conference stated its "alarm" that "behind the facade of parliamentary rule", the NSMS had taken over the real government of the country.

The organization charged the NSMS with operating "behind a cloak of secrecy", being "profoundly undemocratic" and "dominated by the military and police".

The conference condemned the detention of thousands of South Africans throughout the country, who were detained "without benefit of due process of law".

The conference accepted that this opposition "is also our duty" and committed itself to "unrelenting opposition to apartheid, continuing exposure of the way in which the concept of 'reform' is being used to disguise the way power is consolidated in the hands of the national security council and the ruling party".

The Black Sash reaffirmed its opposition to forced removals and "deplored" Mr Chris Heunis's statement that at least 21 973 people would be moved in 1987.

"The contention that these removals are to the benefit of the communities concerned and not politically inspired is totally fallacious," the conference said.

The conference further condemned the continued detention of children under state of emergency regulations, and noted that the Child Care Act affords children no protection.

"These arbitrary detentions are violations of justice which could lead to a backlash of such hatred that all hopes of a just, democratic future will be destroyed," the conference stated, and demanded the immediate release of detained children.

□ Mrs Di Bishop and Mrs Margaret Nash were re-elected as vice-presidents and Mrs Rosemary van Wyk Smith was elected as a third vice-president.

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Funding the UDF's 'shortfall'

By Day 20/3/77

11C

HA

SHEENA DUNCAN of the Black Sash, giving evidence before the Munnik Commission, said she was not told who would fund the "Unban the ANC" advertisements when asked whether she would support them.

Neither was the Black Sash asked to make any contribution towards the funding, Duncan — director of the Sash's Transvaal advice office — told the inquiry yesterday.

The commission is sitting in the Rand Supreme Court under the chairmanship of Cape Chief Justice Mr Justice Munnik. The deputy Attorney-General of the Cape — Francois van Zyl, S C — is leading evidence for the commission.

Duncan concurred with Mr Justice Munnik that there "was a clear understanding that you would not be expected to make any contribution towards the cost of the advert".

She said she had been approached by a Derek Hanekom before last Christmas and asked whether the Black Sash would add its name to the list of supporters of the advertisements.

"And I said: 'Yes, certainly, the Black Sash could support it, because it contained nothing that we as an organisation have not said many times before'."

The commission later heard that five days before the advertisements appeared, United Democratic Front (UDF) national treasurer Azhar Cachalia had said

PATRICK BULGER

there was a "shortfall" in the UDF's funds and that he was pessimistic about raising the R100 000 for them at short notice.

According to an affidavit submitted to the commission by attorney Krish Naidoo, who placed the advertisements for the UDF, Cachalia had told him on January 2 that he would, however, try to obtain the funds.

"During the early part of the afternoon of January 6, I received a call from Cachalia, who said that he had a bank cheque for R100 000."

Naidoo said he was first approached on December 21 last year by Murphy Morobe, acting publicity secretary of the UDF.

Not illegal

"He advised me that the UDF had decided to have adverts inserted in a number of newspapers throughout the country which would call for the unbanning of the ANC."

He related how he had then visited the offices of *The Star* newspaper in Johannesburg and SA Associated Newspapers (Saan — now Times Media Limited), whose lawyers decided the advertisements were not illegal. He also found out that the advertisements



□ DUNCAN ... not told who would fund UDF advertisements

would cost a total of about R100 000.

On January 29 he again spoke to Morobe, who said he should contact Cachalia who would arrange the financing.

After receiving the cheque, he made out four cheques: to *The Star* (for R62 726), to the *Weekly Mail* (R1 680), to *New Nation* (R1 296) and to *City Press* (R5 670).

Naidoo later made out a cheque in favour of Saan for R32 054, after

learning that both *Business Day* and the *Sunday Times* had agreed to accept the advertisements.

The advertisements subsequently appeared in 16 newspapers around the country.

"On January 9, I received a cheque for R5 000, being the contribution from the SA Council of Churches towards the adverts," Naidoo said.

"On February 4, I received a cheque from Saan for R25 704, being in respect of the advert which had not been published in the *Sunday Times*."

Refused overdraft

"On February 16, I received a cheque from Argus for R13 608 in respect of the adverts not published in *The Star*, the *Sunday Tribune* and the *Natal Mercury*."

At the start of yesterday's proceedings, Johannes Greyvenstein — manager of the Sauer Street branch of Volkskas Bank, where "Mr Z" (Yusuf Surtee) kept an account — said that he had refused Surtee overdraft facilities without security.

Greyvenstein said Surtee had never given any indication that he was in a position to bring accounts to the bank.

The hearing continues today, when Cachalia is due to give evidence.

What reform?

For a few days in Cape Town last week, the Black Sash annual conference managed in a small way to draw the media spotlight away from white party politics. Its focus was on the enormous problems still facing SA despite "reform" and the relative calm brought on by emergency rule.

The four days of discussion were a sobering reminder by a band of dedicated, mainly white, women of what is happening "on the other side of the tracks" in black communities around the country.

In her opening address, Mary Burton, who was later re-elected national president, was not short on the traditional emotionalism

Continued on Page 53

FINANCIAL MAIL MARCH 20 1987

from the chair. Despite official claims that unrest was waning under the emergency, she told delegates, "we hear from townships all over the country of the despair and distress and anger felt by people suffering under the repressive presence of the forces of the State."

Burton said the emergency regulations made it even more difficult for organisations such as the Black Sash to work towards pressuring government into negotiations aimed at a non-racial and just society.

"Despite all the restrictions on publishing information, we must continue to try to expose the facts as we witness them. The truth is a powerful tool and we must use it with courage and confidence . . . We can assure other white South Africans, from our own experience, that non-racialism is alive and

well in this country, if not in its governing structure.

"The quality of the society we can look forward to in the future depends on the quality of the contribution we make to it now."

Reports from the organisation's regional executives and advice offices were particularly enlightening.

First, the Johannesburg advice office — the busiest in the country. Former Black Sash president Sheena Duncan and researcher Joy Harnden reported that 16 181 interviews conducted last year at the Johannesburg advice office showed mounting anger among blacks. This was blamed on "unscrupulous employers" and the failure of "reform."

The report says the repeal of the pass laws

last year has far from made the Black Sash advice offices redundant. The number of interviews conducted in Johannesburg in 1986 was 13% up on the previous year.

"There is an entirely new system of law, but there is no real freedom of movement. There are new names to government offices, but the same officials continue to deal with the public. The bureaucratic obstruction, which we have complained about so often in the past, continues unabated.

"Deplorable employment practices continue. For every company which has an organised labour force and positive employment practices there must be 10 others which exploit their workers and cheat them of their legal rights," the report claims.

"Advice workers are astounded at the widespread evasion of legal obligations by

employers and the amount of downright illegal behaviour. At least 46% of all problems presented in 1986 arose from unemployment." Complaints include:

- Many (358) cases of abuse of workers, often featuring physical assault;
 - Unfair dismissals and retrenchments.
- "People come to the office in a group to say they were told to leave without warning and without reasons being given and without proper pay.

"Others complain that they arrived at work to find the firm closed overnight, the doors locked and no one there to deal with. These "fly-by-night" companies are most difficult to trace. They leave their workers



Black Sash's Burton . . . exposing the facts

without UIF cards, without pay, without tax certificates, without redress.

"Many workers get severance pay without any statement of a breakdown of the payment. 'We are paid from the till' and 'We are

just given cash with nothing' are frequently heard from workers," according to the researchers; and

- Pension fund inefficiency. Funds are struggling to keep pace with the demands on them.

"Inefficiency heightens the retrenched and dismissed worker's plight. People are faced with inordinately long waiting periods. Files are lost or destroyed," the report says.

Other regional reports highlight increasing black poverty, particularly in rural areas and often related to unemployment and/or alleged employer malpractices, the deepening crisis in black education and the plight of emergency detainees and their families. ■

CAPC Times 20/3/87

11c

Sash 'not told' of ANC ad funding

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Mrs Sheena Duncan of the Black Sash, giving evidence before the Munnik Commission, said she was not told who would fund the "Unban the ANC" advertisements when asked whether she would support them.

Neither was the Black Sash asked to make any contribution towards the funding, Mrs Duncan — director of the Sash's Transvaal advice office — told the inquiry yesterday.

The commission is sitting in the Rand Supreme Court under the chairmanship of Cape Chief Justice Mr Justice Munnik. The dep-

uty Attorney-General of the Cape, Mr Francois van Zyl, SC, is leading evidence for the commission.

Mrs Duncan said she had been approached by Mr Derek Hanekom before last Christmas and asked whether the Black Sash would add its name to the list of supporters of the advertisements.

"And I said: 'Yes, certainly, the Black Sash could support it, because it contained nothing that we as an organization have not said many times before'."

The commission later heard that five days before the advertisements appeared, UDF national treasurer Mr Azhar Cachalia had said there was a "shortfall" in the UDF's funds and that he was pessimistic about

January 2 that he would, however, try to obtain the funds.

"During the early part of the afternoon of January 6, I received a call from Cachalia, who said that he had a bank cheque for R100 000."

Mr Naidoo said he was first approached on December 21 last year by Mr Murphy Morobe, acting publicity secretary of the UDF.

"He advised me that the UDF had decided to have adverts inserted in a number of newspapers throughout the country which would call for the unbanning of the ANC."

He said he had then visited the offices of The Star in Johannesburg and SA Associated Newspapers (SAAN — now Times Media Limited), whose lawyers decided the advertisements were not illegal. He also found out that the advertisements would cost a total of about R100 000.

On January 29 he again spoke to Mr Morobe, who said he should contact Mr Cachalia who would arrange the financing.

The hearing continues today with Mr Cachalia due to give evidence.



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raising the R100 000 at short notice.

According to an affidavit submitted to the commission by attorney Mr Krish Naidoo, who placed the advertisements for the UDF, Mr Cachalia had told him on

CAPC Times 20/3/87

SMC 31/3/87

New ID a curse in some areas



By Jo-Anne Collinge

Many would-be pensioners have found the new identity document more of a curse than a blessing, the Johannesburg Black Sash reports.

In some instances pension applicants have been told that their application must be postponed until they have their new IDs.

According to the Black Sash, one Johannesburg pension applicant was told to return in April as the office was dealing only with identity document applications.

The official policy of the Department of Development Planning is that identity document and pension applications should be taken simultaneously, says deputy director Mr S J Verwey.

He said the old documents presented administrative problems as the computer had been programmed to take the new-format ID number.

But this was not a good enough reason to delay the pension application, he explained, and added that formal instructions to process pension and ID applications simultaneously would soon be sent out to all pension clerks.

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AM64 16/4/07 11c

Police confiscate four Sash posters

Staff Reporter

FOUR Black Sash posters bearing the words "Why can't we call for the release of detainees?" were confiscated by the police today.

More than 80 members had been taking part in a "stand" in Sea Point, Rosebank, Rondebosch, Claremont, Wynberg, Plumstead and Muizenberg.

Black Sash president Mrs Mary Burton was held for an hour at Rondebosch police station.

"The police made it quite clear I was not under arrest, although we were questioned," she said.

Mrs Burton said that after the security police arrived, they were told the police had "misinterpreted" the situation and they were free to go.

Their posters were returned.

Black Sash member Mrs Jenny Boraine said she was approached by police at 7.50am while standing on Rondebosch Common.

She said they told her they

had official permission to confiscate the poster.

"I am extremely angry. They had no right to take it. We had official permission from the City Council to be on the streets this morning," she said.

"I demand the police return our posters."

WILL NEGOTIATE

The co-ordinator of the "stands", Ms Anne Finsen, said four posters were confiscated by police in Wynberg and Claremont.

Mrs Burton said they interpreted the police's "misinterpretation" as meaning that the stand was perfectly legal.

"We intend resuming our demonstration at 4.30 this afternoon. We shall have to negotiate with the police to get our four posters back from the Wynberg police station."

Police spokesman Lieutenant Attie Laubscher confirmed two posters had been confiscated and taken to the Wynberg police station. No-one had been arrested.

Sash members questioned

CAPE TOWN 17/4/82 Staff Reporter

TWO members of the Black Sash bearing placards in Rondebosch were yesterday briefly detained and questioned.

Armed with placards reading "Why Can't We Call For The Release Of Detainees?", the Black Sash manned one-person pickets yesterday in various points throughout the Peninsula.

Confirming the police action, a police liaison officer for the Western Cape, Captain Jan Galitz, said the women were questioned at Rondebosch police station about their placards.

They were later released and police were continuing their investigations, he said.

Police restrained from assaulting Sash worker

The Argus Correspondent

ARGUS 24/4/87 (12) (103)
EAST LONDON. — A Duncan Village resident was assaulted by municipal police when he inquired about a radio they had taken from him, it was claimed in papers before the Grahamstown Supreme Court.

Mr Justice Kannemeyer granted an interim order restraining the municipal police from assaulting or threatening Mr Anthony MacKiben, a translator in the Black Sash advice office.

The application was brought on behalf of Mr MacKiben by his mother, Mrs Olga MacKiben, against the Gampo Town Committee under whose authority the police fall.

The return date is May 21.

In an affidavit, Mr MacKiben said police took his portable radio when they stopped and searched him while he was walking in the street on April 10.

When he went to inquire about the radio, he was taken into an office and assaulted, he said.

A municipal policeman struck him "with an open hand in the face, an elbow in the stomach and with a fist in the mouth and eye". Two other policemen were present throughout the assault, he said.

His radio was handed back later and he said one of the policemen had threatened that "if he saw me in the street he will do something to me and might even shoot me".

Sash worker wins court application

By FRANZ KRÜGER,
East London

A BLACK Sash worker was assaulted by municipal police in Duncan Village after inquiring about a radio they had taken from him, it was claimed in papers this week before the Grahamstown Supreme Court.

Mr Justice Kannemeyer issued an interim interdict restraining the "greenflies" from assaulting or threatening Anthony MacKiben, employed in the Black Sash Advice Office as a translator.

In an affidavit before court, MacKiben said police had taken a portable radio he had clipped to his belt when they stopped and searched him in the street on April 10, and when he went to inquire about the radio, he was taken into an office and assaulted.

His radio had been handed back to him later, he said, amid threats from one of the policemen involved in the alleged assault who, he said, threatened that "if he saw me in the street he will do something to me, and might even shoot me."

MacKiben said he had not stayed at home since the alleged assaults but had slept in Mdantsane, going to work early and returning late to avoid the municipal police.

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Cape Times 5/5/87
11c

How much longer? Sash asks

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa is worthy of a greater love than blind adherence to policies that have wrecked the economy and seen thousands die in townships and now on city streets, the Black Sash said in a statement yesterday.

"The actions at Cosatu House (trade union headquarters in Johannesburg raided twice by police in the past two weeks) and the shootings on the campus of the University of Cape Town should have shocked South Africans to the core," it said.

The "civil war" in the country for nearly

three years had come out of the townships and into the cities, the statement said.

How much longer before it knocked on suburban doors?

"How much longer before white South Africans sit up and say 'no, apartheid must end, the shooting must stop'?"

It said its aim was to see "one South Africa, one people".

□ Thirty-three Sash members stood apart in an hour-long demonstration at peak hour yesterday morning along two of Johannesburg's busiest roads. — Sapa

(11c) Summary 5/15/87.

SASH FLAYS SA'S 'CIVIL WAR'

SOUTH AFRICA is worthy of a greater love than blind adherence to policies that have wrecked the economy and seen thousands die in townships and now on city streets, the Black Sash said in a statement yesterday.

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The "civil war" the country had experienced for nearly three years had come out of the townships and into the cities, the statement said.

How much longer before it knocked on suburban doors?

"How much longer before white South Africans sit up and say 'no, apartheid must end, the shooting must stop'?"

"Children need peace, we cannot detain them or fill their minds with fear and hatred.

"Our children have to be protected and taught to love. None of this will be achieved unless we have justice for all, and government by consent," the Sash said.

The Black Sash said its aim was to see "one South Africa, one people", so that the country's "ironic" motto, "Unity Is Strength" would be fulfilled.

These issues had been ignored in an election "pockmarked with trivia and astonishing racial hatred", the statement said.

The "lie of apartheid reform" had been exposed.

"White voters think of your children and the encroaching war," the statement added. Sapa.

'The
shootings
must
stop'

Advertisement withdrawn

JOHANNESBURG — A full-page advertisement relating to detentions and placed by the Black Sash, was withdrawn by the Business Day newspaper late on Monday on legal advice.

This came after a police warning on Monday evening that they would continue applying restrictions on the media — which were overturned by the Natal Supreme Court last month — because an appeal had been noted against the judgment.

Business Day's legal advice was that publishing the advert would expose the newspaper to unacceptable risk of seizure.

Meanwhile, lawyers said yesterday that the police were incorrect in declaring they could continue to enforce the emergency media regulations scrapped by the Natal Supreme Court, pending the state's appeal. 6/5/87

A statement from the police public

relations division in Pretoria said the SAP would apply the regulations concerned as in the past, until the result of the appeal was made known.

"The SAP will, in every instance where the media regulations concerned are breached, take steps required by the law," it said.

However, a newspaper attorney, Mr Peter Reynolds, said: "The judgment in effect invalidates those portions of the media regulations dealt with by the judgment.

"The fact that it was given in Natal and that there is a pending appeal, do not alter this fact. It is the law until such time as the decision is altered."

An advocate said a decision of the Supreme Court laid down the law and the pending appeal could not change this. "In effect, the Natal court has said there was never any law on those points," he said. — Sapa (C) DD

Black Sash warning

The Black Sash has warned that violence could follow the announcement that kwaNdebele is to take independence retrospective to December 11 1986.

Chief Minister Mr George Mahlangu announced the independence yesterday.

It follows the expulsion from the Legislative Assembly of four prominent anti-independence activists, and the jailing of another during the past fortnight.

Independence was rejected by the Legislative Assembly last August.

The Transvaal chairman of the Black Sash, Mrs. Ethel Walt, said she felt pessimistic about the "troubled birth of this so-called new nation — with the security forces as midwife".

"The fact that they had to detain or dismiss people from the Legislative Assembly really casts doubts that this was a unanimous decision.

"We are afraid there is going to be a great deal of unrest in the area because there is opposition to independence in the area," she said.

● See Page 4.

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Sash 3 held after picketing

(ic)

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17/4/89

CAPE TOWN — Two members of the Black Sash were picked up from their pickets in Rondebosch by police yesterday and, after being held briefly for questioning, later released along with their placards.

More than 80 members had been taking part in a "stand" in Sea Point, Rosebank, Rondebosch, Claremont, Wynberg, Plumstead and Muizenberg. They were armed with placards reading "Why Can't We Call For The Release Of Detainees?"

The national president of the Black Sash, Mrs Mary Burton, was held for an hour at Rondebosch police station.

Confirming the police action, a police liaison officer for the Western Cape, Captain Jan Calitz, said the women were questioned about their placards at Rondebosch police station.

They were later released and police were continuing their investigations, he said. —Sapa

Sash calls for release of children

The Black Sash has challenged the Foreign Minister Mr. Pik Botha and newspapers "who have rightly condemned the detention of a 14-year-old girl in Zimbabwe to call now for the release of all child detainees in South Africa and to push for legislation to ensure that this barbarous practice will never again occur in this country."

In a statement issued yesterday, the Black Sash deplored the detention of Lisa Spalding in Zimbabwe, but reminded South Africans that there were hundreds of children in detention in this country.

The statement, released by Transvaal chairman Mrs Ethel Walt, pointed out that yesterday was International Children's Day.

"We call on all South Africans to pledge to work toward a just peace for all children in this country.

"We call for an end to child detentions and for equal opportunities for all children — from the right to live with their parents in adequate shelter to equal nonracial education," the statement read.

Pic: MBUZENI ZULU

11C
S. J. et al 2/6/87

SASH CHALLENGE

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"We call for an end to child detentions and for equal opportunities for all children — from the right to live with their parents in adequate shelter to equal, non-racial education," the statement read.

MOTOR SPARES

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Sturges. Job. (011) 835-8472

Police stay away as Black Sash mounts protest against emergency

A generation 'brutalised'

The tragedy engulfing South Africa was expressed most starkly and horrifyingly in the brutalisation of a whole generation of young people, white and black, Mrs Joyce Harris of the Black Sash said at a Vigil for Peace in Johannesburg yesterday.

Hundreds of people attended the lunchtime gathering at St Mary's Cathedral. Anglican and Methodist ministers led prayers for the first hour.

Mrs Harris said the state of emergency graphically illustrated the Government's inability to govern without the use of force and surely questioned its legitimacy.

"There is no reasonable sort of future for anyone in our country if the policy of repression takes final control, as it shows every sign of doing, with counter-violence in its wake.

"Perhaps the tragedy which is engulfing our country is expressed most starkly and horrifyingly in the brutalisation of at least one whole generation of our young people, white and black, who are a product of the society in which they are living and functioning, and for whom rehabilitation will surely be very difficult.

"The omens for the future are not encouraging. We seem to be moving backwards into real totalitarianism in which the Government, despite even its own flawed

tricameral parliament, holds itself unaccountable."

Mr Frank Meintjies, of the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu), said South Africa was watching the rise of fascism.

He challenged his audience to join a democratic organisation because they could not stand on the side to watch genocide similar to Nazi Germany.

"Through a democratic organisation we can tap the strength of millions of people opposed to tyranny and we can build the future we want."

While some people sang freedoms songs, flowers to be taken to Soweto and Alexandra were laid at the front of the church next to a sign remembering people who had died violently since June 16 1976 and calling for prayers for a united, non-racial South Africa and the lifting of the state of emergency.

About 70 members of the Black Sash held a poster demonstration on main roads into Johannesburg yesterday to protest against the state of emergency.

Commuters on Jan Smuts Avenue, Empire Road, Oxford Road, Wanderers and Sunmonds Streets were greeted by the women holding posters.

The Sash Transvaal regional chairman, Mrs Ethel Walt, said the turnout of "70 odd" was one of the largest in recent times.

"This is an indication of how strongly people feel about the state of emergency," she said.

Mrs Walt said one demonstrator had been taken away by police, but the liaison officer for the Witwatersrand, Lieutenant Pierre Louw, said no one was arrested or detained.

Police were aware of the demonstration, but "no action was taken".

The Black Sash demonstrated in central Durban early yesterday. Placards in West, Smith and Broad streets took many early morning commuters by surprise.

The silent protest attracted attention from passers-by and demonstrators were sworn at by some people.

Professor L.J. Boule, dean of the school of law at the University of Natal, has called on lawyers to voice their protest against the state of emergency.

"The emergency has allowed the executive to act as maker, enforcer and arbitrator of the law, in many areas it has seriously eroded the traditional powers of Parliament and the courts. It has denied people access to lawyers, to the courts and to normal civil and criminal law remedies.

"This is an opportune time for lawyers to add their voices to those calling for an end to the state of emergency and the establishment of the rule of law," said Professor Boule. — Staff Reporter, Sapa, Own Correspondent.

New Emergency under attack

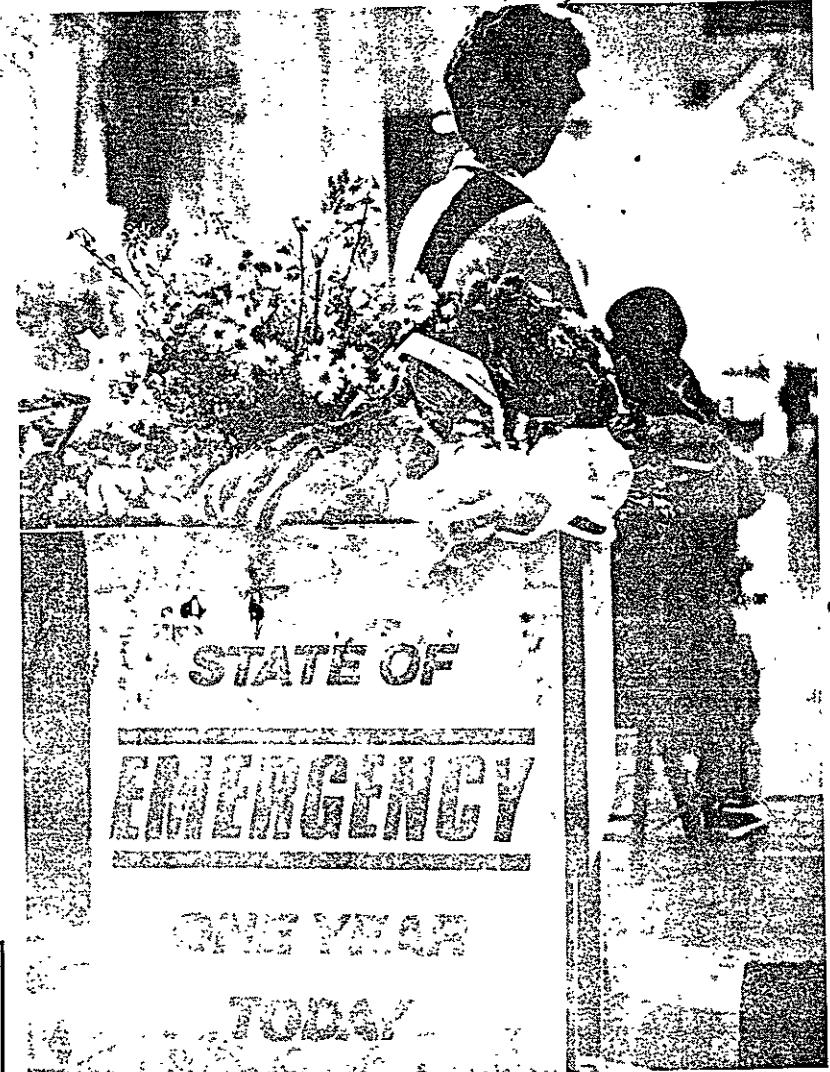
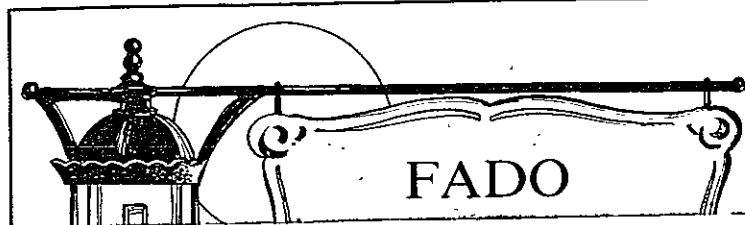
The re-imposition of the state of emergency would only have a long-term positive effect if the State President adopted a statesmanlike policy and used the breathing space provided to implement negotiations with all the representatives of black people, the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR) said yesterday.

The year-old state of emergency had seen a reduction in incidents of violence, a drop in deaths from political unrest, and less violence between rival black groups, but against this must be measured the cost of regulations that infringed people's civil rights, the SAIRR said.

In Cape Town, Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu said he was not surprised that President Botha had imposed another state of emergency.

It was becoming increasingly difficult for people to protest peacefully against the South African Government, he said.

In London, *The Guardian*, in a leading article yesterday, said the re-imposition was a stark reminder that the struggle against apartheid inside and outside South Africa was going to be "a depressingly long haul".



A member of the Black Sash stands by bunches of flowers during a Vigil of Peace at St Mary's Cathedral yesterday to mark the first anniversary of the state of emergency. The flowers were laid on the graves of Alexandra children killed in a bus crash in the Eastern Transvaal recently.

11c DD 25/6/87

TO ADVERTISE ON THIS PAGE — TELEPHONE E

Black Sash opens advice office after requests for assistance

Dispatch Reporter

EAST LONDON — The branch of the Black Sash here opened an advice office this year in response to requests of assistance from the public, the chairman, Mrs Sue Power, said in her report to the organisation's annual meeting.

Mrs Power, who was re-elected, said the organisation had received many requests for help after the detention of staff members of two other advice offices — the People's Advice Office and the Afezis advice office.

The Black Sash advice office opened on March 1 this year and had been "very busy," she said.

The majority of cases received concerned complaints against municipal policemen, and the acquisition of identity documents and detentions.

A field worker had been employed and the research and work of the advice office now would be "much more thorough," Mrs Power said.

A fact paper on the residents of Kwelera, who had been regarded as part of Ciskei and were later "returned to South Africa" had been prepared and would be presented to the organisation's national conference.

Much work on problems ranging from pensions, detentions to plough-

ing had been done in the area.

Mrs Power said residents who had experienced difficulties in obtaining identity documents were now able to apply to the Department of Home Affairs for documents if they had affidavits to prove their identity.

Turning to Duncan Village, Mrs Power said conditions in the township continued to be "very bad".

"The high schools have not yet reopened, health and welfare services are not yet fully restored, and the rent boycott still continues."

Many members of the Duncan Village Residents' Association, which was formed in July 1986, had been in detention for more than a year.

Mrs Power said the Black Sash, together with other organisations, had formed a crisis committee to assist Potsdam residents who fled from Ciskei in February this year.

Although the majority of residents had returned to Ciskei they were being "harassed by vigilantes and the Ciskei police" and were living in fear, Mrs Power said.

Other executive members who were elected at the meeting were Mrs Pat Flemmer, (vice chairman), Mrs Val Viljoen (treasurer) and Mrs Jean Daphne (secretary).

Despite all, the talking must go on

By Sheena Duncan
of the Black Sash

On July 30 a powerful bomb is detonated in Johannesburg. A few days before that Nobandla Bani has died in detention at the age of 56 after 11 months of imprisonment without trial.

On July 30 four men appear in a London court charged with conspiring to kidnap members of the ANC. On July 9 three people are shot dead in Swaziland. The assassins have not yet been identified.

On July 24 Eric Mntonga of Idasa is assassinated in the Eastern Cape. On the same day Zola Nozewu, a community leader in Potsdam, is murdered.

On July 30 three people are injured in a landmine explosion near Pont Drift.

In what amounts to an admission of liability the Minister of Law and Order pays out R1,3 million to 51 people who suffered grievous loss when the police shot 21 people dead and injured many more at Uitenhage on



Mrs Duncan March 21 1985.

Does this mean we must no longer talk to the South African Government?

War is terrible, violence is terrible and is to be condemned, but those who are now so vociferously condemning the Dakar talks should tell us if they are pacifists.

The Minister of Defence is certainly not a pacifist. Are Mr Harry Schwarz and the State President pacifists? Are all those members of the public who condemn violence entirely non-violent themselves and if so, are they prepared to surrender their privately owned guns?

The answer is almost certainly "no" because they believe that their own violence is justified while their opponents' violence is not.

Those who are truly concerned to bring an end to violent conflict in South Africa will continue to talk to people on both sides of the war. Wars do not end without talk and meeting together.

Those who condemn talks are fuelling the violence and must accept responsibility for doing so.

(110) Star

Black Sash in street protest against curbs

3/18/87

The Black Sash said today it would protest in Johannesburg tomorrow against new press restrictions.

In a statement the anti-apartheid group said:

"The Black Sash is appalled at the growing arrogance and autocracy of this Government, which is treating all people with increasing contempt.

"Parliament can exercise little control over what appears to be becoming a presidential dictatorship which is riding increasingly roughshod over what remains of the rights and liberties of all the people.

"The press is threatened, the universities are threatened, the Government's own severely flawed constitution is threatened, the funding of opposition organisations is threatened, the organisations themselves are threatened, and we seem to be sinking into a dark age of imposed ignorance and mailed-fist control," said the statement.

It said the Black Sash will be demonstrating against "this progression towards a totalitarian disaster" tomorrow morning along Jan Smuts Avenue.

Posters will read "Hands Off the Press", "Hands Off Wits", "Hands Up for Liberty", and "Stop Wagging that Finger at Us".

'Appalled at the growing arrogance and autocracy of the Government'

By LANGA SKOSANA

THE Black Sash will display placards on Jan Smuts Avenue, Parktown, Johannesburg, today criticising the Government's new curbs on the Press which were gazetted last Friday.

The curbs, which are aimed at limiting the activities of the so-called "alternative media" have been widely criticised in South Africa and abroad.

According to a media lawyer, the new powers extend the powers of the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, to ban any publication even if it has not committed any offence.

The major implication is that, if the Minister holds the view that even "lawful" material is undesirable, he can act against a newspaper.

The publicity officer of the Black Sash, Mrs Joyce Harris, said in a statement yesterday that the Black Sash was appalled at the growing arrogance and autocracy of the Government which is treating South African citizens with contempt.

Dictatorship

"Parliament can exercise little control over what appears to be becoming a presidential dictatorship which is riding increasingly roughshod over what remains of the rights and liberties of all the people.

"The Press is threatened, the universities are threatened, the Government's own severely flawed constitution is threatened, the funding of the opposition organisations is threatened, the organisations themselves are threatened and we seem to be sinking into a dark age of ignorance and mailed fist control," she said.

The demonstration will be held between 7.15 and 8.15am.

The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC) is deeply disturbed by the implications of the new regulations affecting the alternative media, for these take South Africa further down the road to dictatorship says a statement issued by the organisation.

"We advise those taken in by the Government's propaganda and the use of the communist bogeyman not to rejoice, but rather to mourn over these measures against the media. For it is not primarily the media being attacked, but the people of the country themselves who are being

BLACK SASH DEMO OVER PRESS CURBS

deprived of a most important means of being informed about the other side of the story.

"The Government, which is running scared, is fitting larger and tighter blinkers over the eyes of the white electorate to shield them from the ugly realities of South Africa today.

"They will know even less of what their black compatriots experience and feel about those realities. The result will be even deeper polarisation.

"Furthermore, they will be even less informed and aware of the urgency of working to secure a settlement that will meet the aspirations of especially black South Africans along the route of negotiations aimed at effective and just power-sharing.

Alternative

"The alternative is a second Lebanon. We do not want that.

"On the other hand the new measures will prevent the oppressed from making their voice heard as they cry out against the injustice and inhumanity to which they are subjected by the structures and agents of the apartheid system.

"They are being deprived also of the power inherent in their right to speak for themselves and to demand that steps be taken to establish a just and equitable system of government.

This we believe will inevitably lead to frustration and anger. It bodes ill for the efforts of those committed to seeking a peaceful solution.

We are particularly concerned about the fate of the *New Nation*, the alternative newspaper owned by the Catholic Bishops Publishing



MRS JOYCE Harris... Black Sash.

Company.

We reiterate our standpoint that the editorial content of the *New Nation* is not fabricated to create a climate of unrest. Rather, what is reflected in the newspaper is the stark reality of life in South Africa, particularly in the townships and other black residential areas.

Grateful

"As the SACBC delegation which met the State President on November 17 last year pointed out, the Government and the country as a whole should be grateful to the *New Nation* for informing them about the daily realities of the oppressed and the sentiments they evoke, so that appropriate steps might be taken towards a just and lasting settlement to the current conflict.

"Anyone interested in a negotiated and peaceful settlement should in fact be eager to get unsanitised information on the lives and problems of the people with whom and on whose behalf they will be negotiating.

"Our concern extends, however, beyond the *New Nation* to the other alternative publications as well. It is precisely because the SACBC sees negotiation as a way to a peace based on justice that it defends the right to the existence of a free Press — for without such a Press the views of and information about the oppressed and voiceless will not be known.

Folly

"We doubt whether we can persuade the Government from its folly of delaying the moment ripe for peaceful negotiation by muzzling the mouthpiece of the voiceless. But we nevertheless appeal to them to rescind the latest measures against the alternative media," the statement said.

• The United States was "deeply distressed" by the imposition of additional restrictions on the Press in South Africa, an embassy spokesman said in Cape Town yesterday.

"We are saddened to see that the South African Government does not trust its own citizens with information about the happenings in their country," the spokesman said.

The end result of restricting the media would be to rob all the country's citizens of their right to be informed.

"We are sorry to note the action further removes South Africa from the code of Western values to which it

professes to adhere," the statements said.

• Government censors may theoretically be deciding whether each issue of certain newspapers, and magazines may be published as soon as four weeks from now.

This is one of the effects of the controversial media curbs.

The regulations, which empower the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, to make subjective decisions on whether to restrict the publication of newspapers and magazines, have been widely criticised.

A Johannesburg media lawyer said they empowered the minister "to ban a publication even if the material which it is publishing is perfectly legal.

"I think that is a very serious development in the ever-tightening net of Press censorship because a newspaper will now have to guess as to the state of mind of the Minister."

Inhibiting

The chairman of the South African Media Council, Mr L de V van Winsen, said their "stringent and far-reaching" nature, applicable to all the South African Press, would undoubtedly have an additional inhibiting effect on the free flow of information reaching the public."

He said the uncertainty as to the intended scope of some of the regulations and the severity of the sanctions attached to their breach will increase this effect.

The regulations empower the Minister to warn periodicals that "in his opinion" they contain material he considers as a threat to the public safety, the maintenance of public order or the termination of the state of emergency.

If publishers fail to heed his warning and continue to publish allegedly inciting or "threatening" material, Mr Botha may prohibit periodicals' publication unless they had been previously approved by "a person" specified by him.

According to the regulations, before he issues a warning or makes publication subject to a censor's approval, the Minister must notify publishers in writing of his intention to act in terms of the regulations, and afford them two weeks to make representations to him.

No mention was made in the regulations of appeals to a higher authority.

Call for help for evicted farm workers

Daily Dispatch Reporter

EAST LONDON — The Black Sash has appealed to the government to pay urgent attention to the plight of the families of labourers evicted from farms after they have resigned or are dismissed.

A spokesman for the Border region of the Black Sash, Mrs Sue Power, said yesterday it was the responsibility of the government to "provide suitable land within the borders of South Africa for displaced persons to start a secure life without the fear of future eviction."

She was responding to the eviction of a family of 11 from a farm in the Kidd's Beach area this weekend. They were transported off the property with all their possessions by the farmer and left on the side of the road, where they remained for two nights.

Mrs Nopindile Kethe said her husband, Kolela, had been a labourer on the farm before his death.

She said she was told to pay the farmer R800, to cover losses caused by two of her sons who had since left the area, or she and her family would be evicted.

She had refused to take responsibility for the actions of her adult children and now she and her family had nowhere to turn, Mrs Kethe said.

Mrs Power said many such families had been resident on a farm for generations before they were evicted and had no other home to go to.

This put both the farmer and the farm labourer in an impossible position as the worker was "left vulnerable to exploitation by the farmer and will put up with unsatisfactory terms of employment rather than resign and risk losing his home".

"On the other hand the farmer, who may have legitimate reasons for dismissing an employee, will be placed in the unenviable position of either having to evict a whole family or allow them to remain on his farm, occupying premises he requires for new staff members," Mrs Power said.

The farmer, Mr Norman Laaks, said Mrs Kethe's sons had refused employment on his farm after the death of Mr Kethe and had assaulted him, "ran amock" in the area and stole cash and agricultural equipment worth about R800.

A complaint had been made to the police but the two could not be found, Mr Laaks said.

He said he had offered to allow the rest of the family to remain on the farm if they paid him the R800 as he had felt sorry for them "but some time people must start to feel sorry for me too".

He said the family had been given four to five months warning before they were evicted and had been reminded every few weeks but had done nothing to find alternative accommodation.

A spokesman for the Cape Provincial Administration declined to comment on the situation yesterday, saying the matter would have to be fully investigated first.

He said that if the family members were South African citizens, accommodation would be provided for them until they could find a new home.

Black Sash warns on housing crisis

'Invasion of homeless is inevitable'

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SFM
23/9/87

Government policies will lead to conflict between the haves and have nots unless the housing backlog is tackled, the Black Sash has warned.

About half a million people live in shacks on the Witwatersrand, the organisation has estimated, while one in six South Africans is homeless.

The Witwatersrand Network for the Homeless will hold an ecumenical service at St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday at 1 pm, to be addressed by Bishop Zithulele Mvemve.

Homeless everywhere

In a information package to co-incide with the service, the Black Sash said the homeless lived in backyards in white, Indian and coloured residential areas, in shacks behind houses in African areas and in rented properties in grey areas such as Hillbrow, Yeoville and Mayfair.

They lived in station waiting rooms, warehouses and parks, on church and mine properties, on agricultural land

and on smallholdings, on the peripheries of urban areas, and on undeveloped land designated for residential occupation by other groups, the organisations said.

"Some have no shelter at all and are living under bushes, in cardboard boxes which they fold up during the day, in public lavatories, under bridges and on city pavements.

"Homelessness is a huge and largely uncatered-for phenomenon of crisis proportions on the Witwatersrand. There is a never-ending cycle of eviction, demolition, prosecution and jailings as a futile set of control measure is deployed in vain to resist the inevitable process of urbanisation.

"If the important issues of Group Areas and inequitable land allocation are not urgently addressed it is likely that the near future will see continued and greater invasion of land by homeless people."

Looking to the future, the Black Sash predicted further overcrowding in existing formal houses, the growth of shacks, conflict between the haves and have nots, conflict between formal

town councillors and other representatives, and the invasion of white spaces, vacant buildings and lands.

Despite official action, this will be impossible to control, costly and conflict-ridden, the movement said. Whites will increasingly fear that they are being swamped and threatened.

The Black Sash said small pieces of land, mainly in buffer strips, were being used, for houses developed by private sector property developers.

The movement noted that houses built by the SA Housing Trust cost R14 000. Monthly repayment, including municipal levies and insurances, amounted to R220.

Disruption at Sash Claremont meeting

Cape Times 8/10/82 Staff Reporter *11c*

A PROJECTILE was fired at the platform of a Black Sash meeting in Claremont Civic Centre last night.

The chairwoman of the meeting, Mrs Di Bishop, immediately called on about 400 people for calm and said: "It is not teargas," and people returned to their seats.

It was then established that a red signal flare had been fired from outside the hall at an open window directly in line with the speakers.

The flare hit a wooden window frame, bounced into the garden and set a bush alight as acrid fumes poured into the hall.

Restrictions on the press and on universities were addressed at the "Who can Tell the Truth?"-billed meeting.

Speakers were SA Council of Churches vice-president Ms Sheena Duncan, UCT Law Professor Dennis Davis, former UCT SRC president Ms Carla Sutherland and the Western Cape vice-president of the South African Society of Journalists, Mr Tony Weaver.

Appeals upheld (AC)

*Sue Power
26/10/82*

AN APPEAL by four Black Sash members against their convictions in terms of the Internal Security Act was upheld in the Grahamstown Supreme Court recently.

The women, Mrs Val Viljoen, Mrs Pat Flemer, Mrs Sylvia Hagerty and Mrs Sue Power, were convicted earlier this year in the East London Magistrate's Court of attending an illegal gathering, after being arrested by police outside the East London city hall in December last year.— Sapa.

Sash members' appeal upheld

CP Correspondent

THE Grahamstown Supreme Court has upheld an appeal by four members of the Black Sash against their conviction last year of attending an illegal gathering.

The four, all members of the East London branch of the Black Sash, are: Sue Power, Pat Flemmer, Val Viljoen and Sylvia Hagerty.

The charges arose from a stand the four held outside the East London City Hall in May last year, protesting the detention of members of the Duncan Village Residents' Association.

They were found guilty of holding an illegal gathering in terms of the Internal Security Act and given suspended sentences of R150 or three months' imprisonment.

In last week's appeal, the court found that the case against the accused, as set out in the charge sheet and supported by evidence, did not constitute an illegal gathering.

The State alleged that the illegal gathering occurred when they met in front of a statue outside the hall, before taking turns to hold a placard reading, "Talk to our leaders, don't detain them".

However, the defence argued that they had, in fact, gathered at a nearby bus stop and stood singly in front of the statue. — Elnews.

Sash conviction overturned

By LOUISE FLANAGAN,

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THE Grahamstown Supreme Court has overturned the conviction of four Black Sash members for holding an illegal gathering — apparently because the state couldn't decide exactly where the offence took place.

The charges related to a series of solitary protests in front of a statue outside the City Hall, holding a placard reading "Talk to the leaders, don't jail them".

The state alleged the offence had taken place in front of the statue, while presenting evidence of a gathering at the bench. The appellants argued they had gathered at the bench and stood singly by the statue.

Ruling in favour of the appellants, the Grahamstown bench found that the case against them, set out in the charge sheet and supported by the evidence, did not constitute an illegal gathering. — elnews

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Daily Dispatch Reporter
EAST LONDON — The Black Sash has rejected a municipal official's statement that a high burglary rate in Abbotsford and Dorchester Heights was a reason to raid a Cambridge squatter camp last week.

Reacting to a statement made by the director of the East London municipality's protection services, Mr J. Fowlis, the chairman of the Border region of the Black Sash, Mrs Sue Power, said the squatter camp was situated too far from Abbotsford and Dorchester Heights to affect the burglary rate in those areas.

Mr Fowlis said earlier this week that residents in Cambridge, Dorches-

Black Sash rejects reason for raid

ter Heights and Abbotsford had complained that stolen goods were being taken to the squatter camp near the Cambridge abattoir.

The squatter camp was raided by police on Friday morning during which at least 10 shacks were burnt down, leaving 18 families homeless.

Mrs Power said no stolen property was recovered at the squatter camp and no-one was charged for theft.

"The situation has

been made to look like the squatters are criminals," she said.

The Border Police liaison officer, Major Trevor Hayes, said 31 squatters were arrested during the raid on Friday and charged with squatting.

He said as far as he knew they were not charged with anything else.

Meanwhile, the homeless families are still waiting for the municipality to make arrangements for permanent homes.

Mrs Power said they had been living at a Catholic Church in Peferville for almost a week and the authorities had still not made up their minds where they would be settled.

"They have endured a great deal of hardship in that ice-cold church hall. It is urgent that action be taken immediately to find homes for them," she said.

Mrs Power said it was difficult for the church to keep the families for a long period of time, because it was disruptive to the everyday running of the church.

"The authorities are taking advantage of the church's kindness," she said.

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NGK ministers see township life at first hand

Chris van Gass, Pretoria Bureau

Sixteen prominent Ned Geref Kerk dominees completed a one-week "fact-finding" tour of black areas in the Transvaal by sleeping in the homes of black families in the township of Mamelodi last night.

The ministers, who requested that their identities not be made known, were from the Western Transvaal, Eastern Transvaal, Johannesburg and the Western Cape.

Their stay with the black families in Mamelodi was arranged by the Centre for Hermeneutics at the University of Stellenbosch and the Koinonia church group seeking

to create a better understanding among the various racial groups in South Africa.

Dr Johan Kinghorn, of the Biblical Studies Department at the university who acted as a spokesman for the group, said the visit had been part of an "information tour" and that the ministers had joined the tour "in their personal capacities".

IN SECRET

A similar tour and stay by another group of 14 Ned Geref Church ministers had already taken place "in secret" in March this year.

Dr Kinghorn said the group had looked at the experiences of blacks in

townships and had made contact with various black organisations, churches — "and the man in the street".

"We received a very good insight into the real complexity of our society and the overriding discovery by all was how much false fear of blacks existed among whites. The big question left by the experience was how to overcome this fear among whites."

The group saw various black church leaders and toured Soweto, Alexandra, Mamelodi and also visited squatters' camps at Katlehong.

"We held discussions as a group of individuals," he added.

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NGK rightwingers likely to get short shrift at W Cape synod today

By KAREN STANDER
Religion Reporter

THE traditionally liberal-leaning Western Cape division of the Ned Gerel Kerk begins its synod today amid a simmering crisis elsewhere which has led to a rightwing break-away.

Rightwing elements are unlikely to make much impression on the Western Cape synod whose delegates strongly supported the contentious clauses in the policy document *Kerk en Samelewing* (Church and Society) adopted at last year's general synod.

It has been a turbulent period for the 1.5-million strong Ned Gerel Kerk — the largest Afrikaans church — since the passing of the policy document a year ago, but this turmoil has caused hardly a ripple in the Western Cape.

The major issues of recent regional synods in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State — dissatisfaction over the new policy of open membership, the new Afrikaanse Protestant Kerk formed by breakaway rightwingers, and the rightwing dissident Ned Gerel Bond, whose aim is to "reform" the church from within — are likely to be discussed, without being the major focus of the synod.

Issues more important to the Western Cape are relations with other churches in the Ned Gerel family, particularly with the Sendingkerk, with whom relations have steadily deteriorated after the twin rejections of *Kerk en Samelewing* and the Sendingkerk's Belhar Confession.

Pressure is likely to come from the sole coloured congregation belonging to the white "mother" church — St Stephen's in Cape Town — for the synod to take more definite stands on apartheid and socio-political matters.

The church's present official stand on apartheid was a compromise between rightwingers and the attempts of Western Cape delegates to have the policy condemned as a sin. The proposal rejected certain aspects of apartheid, and condemned efforts to justify any political system on biblical grounds.

Stronger 48 NG synod line against apartheid?

Staff Reporter

THE 40th synod of the Ned Geref Kerk (Western Cape) starts today amid speculation the synod could take a stronger line against apartheid.

The synod played a leading role in the planning and acceptance by the general synod last year of the controversial document "Church and Society" in which apartheid was declared a "scriptural error" and churches were opened to all races.

The Ned Geref Kerk's sister churches — the Ned Geref Sendingkerk and the Reformed Church in Africa — said this move was not enough and that the section of the document dealing with apartheid was ambiguous.

The Sendingkerk subsequently declared apartheid a heresy and prominent church members said the parent church should do the same, if it were honest in its opposition to apartheid.

NG Kerk sources yesterday said there was a feeling in the Western Cape the church should take a less ambiguous and stronger stand against apartheid.

When asked yesterday whether the Western Cape region was more verlig and if more far-reaching anti-apartheid proposals could be expected, a Ned Geref dominee said: "The number of defectors in the Western Cape to the (right wing) Afrikaanse Gereformeerde Kerk was negligible — among the lowest in the country. That should speak for itself."

Synod row over NGK chief's speech

Religion Reporter

A ROW broke out on the first day of the Western Cape synod of the Ned Geref Kerk when the outgoing moderator, the Rev Tappies Möller, was criticised for failing to mention the emergency in his opening address.

Mr Möller's address was criticised in a statement signed by the Rev Herbert Brand of St Stephen's and the Rev Ben Kotzé of Observatory.

In his speech Mr Möller said rightwingers who left the church in protest gave reasons that were not grounded in theology or on the Bible.

Leftwing

He also condemned leftwing attempts "to associate violence and revolution" with Christianity.

He said an appreciable number of members and ministers had been so opposed to a few decisions in the policy document *Kerk en Samelewing* (Church and Society) that they had broken away and formed a new church (the Afrikaanse Protestante Kerk).

"Although we mourn every member and minister who leaves the Ned Geref Kerk, we grieve especially for those who have broken away over the policy decisions of *Kerk en Samelewing* — because the reasons given are based on non-theological and not on biblical grounds," he said.

Mr Möller said the church

W Cape moderator 'verligte'

Religion Reporter

THE Rev Dirk Hattingh of Stellenbosch has been elected moderator of the Western Cape synod of the Ned Geref Kerk.

He is said to be a supporter of Professor Johan Heyns, "verligte" moderator of the general synod.

Mr Hattingh, the former Western Cape actuary, replaces the Rev Tappies Möller, who has retired.

The new assessor is the Rev Kobus van der Westhuizen of the Groote Kerk. The Rev Ernst Lombaard of Stellenbosch was elected actuary and Dr Fritz Gaum, editor of the church's newspaper *Kerkbode*, was elected scribe.

They replace the Rev Jan Hanekom (assessor), Mr Hattingh and the Rev Okkie Raubenheimer (scribe).

was also under attack from those who attempted to reconcile Marxism and evangelism and to associate violence and revolution with the Christian message.

Mr Brand and Mr Kotzé said in their statement they noted "with deep distress" that no mention had been made in the opening speech of the country's crisis.

They said Mr Möller failed to mention "the deep divisions, the suffering of millions of our fellow citizens, the lack of justice, peace, love and human dignity inherent in our basically unjust society".

Mr Brand handed the statement to the synod as a proposal for discussion, but when the new moderator, the Rev Dirk Hattingh, read it aloud he made a "friendly call" to Mr

Brand to withdraw the motion.

He said not every point could be raised in a speech.

Mr Hattingh said he had known Mr Brand for many years and had once considered him a candidate for the general moderation.

Mr Brand was now walking "a narrow path", he said.

Mr Brand replied that he would "dearly love" to comply with Mr Hattingh's request, but this was not simply a single point out of many others.

"Our synod opened today at a time when our country is in a state of emergency and no reference to this was made in the opening address," he said.

Mr Hattingh said the motion would be referred to the moderation for a decision on when it could be placed on the agenda.

Parow man's objection to open church rejected

Religion Reporter

THE Western Cape synod of the Ned Geref Kerk has rejected a Parow member's objection to opening the church to all races.

The synod adopted a report by the Temporary Legal Commission which rejected the objection of Mr W A Els.

The report said the church had never made a decision that it was only intended for white members and that only whites could attend services.

The synod said belief in the Trinity and the Bible was the only condition for membership.

"ALL IN HELL"

No congregation could refuse anyone who wished to listen to the Word.

Mr Els said in his objection that he and "many other members" did not agree with the decision of the general synod to open the church to all races.

He said: "We don't visit their churches. Why must it be thrust down our throats that we were wrong all these years to have a church for whites only? Our ancestors are surely all in Hell, according to the recent decisions of the synod."

Mr Els said the women of the church worked hard to collect funds.

"Must we now share this or give it all up?"

"If this is the direction that the synod and moderator wish to follow, we will have to search for other grazing lands."

Peninsula workers exploited — report

Religion Reporter

SOME Peninsula employers shamelessly gave preference to "illegal" black workers whose labour was cheaper and who were easily exploitable, according to a report adopted by the Western Cape synod of the Ned Geref Kerk.

The report said influx control measures were not succeeding but that the level of urbanisation of the black population (about 30 percent) was low compared to other population groups. The level for whites was about 80 percent.

The commission for liaison with the authorities reported that development in the homelands was not nearly sufficient.

"Many black people have really no choice but to 'flee' to the cities in the hope of earning a living through 'illegal activities'.

Kairos report adopted as 'a guideline'

Religion Reporter

AN explanation for the enthusiasm with which black people had greeted the Kairos document should be sought in the way they experienced life, according to a Ned Geref Kerk report.

The report by the synodical commission on race was adopted as a guideline by the Western Cape synod of the church.

"Apparently this 'illegal' presence in the Peninsula — with all the associated risks and hardships — still presents a more acceptable existence than the pauper's existence offered by the Transkei and Ciskei."

The freezing of Langa, Nyanga and Guguletu and the possible future removal of residents caused great insecurity and ill-feeling.

This could easily "radicalise" those black families who formed the stable nucleus of black people legally in the Peninsula.

Ill-feeling

The report said it was unlikely that this removal was possible, because of the acute shortage of housing and available land. It was a pity that a policy which caused ill-feeling and uncertainty and which in all likelihood would never be carried out, was still being upheld.

Although squatting was un-

desirable, the large influx of black people to the Peninsula and the backlog of housing meant that it was only realistic to accept that a relatively large percentage of black people would live in squatter camps for the next 20 years or more.

The report said the church had made representations to the Government in connection with the acceptance of 99-year leasehold and site-and-service in Khayalitsha and the deregulation of certain areas to ensure greater opportunities for the informal sector.

They had asked the Government to reconsider whether the freezing of Langa, Nyanga and Guguletu was practical and to consider a 99-year leasehold scheme for these areas. They asked for the coloured-labour preference policy to be scrapped if this was accepted.

Since this report was drawn up several of the laws referred to have been scrapped.

The Kairos document was an attempt by clergy of the Institute of Contextual Theology to open dialogue with the church.

The synod also adopted a motion noting "the negative aspects of the black experience in our country" and requested a commission of the general moderation to probe urbanisation, housing, poverty and the structure of wages, education,

discriminatory measures, group areas, political involvement and inter-church relationships.

More than three-quarters of all South Africans were Christians and three out of every four Christians were black, the report said.

"For precisely this reason the challenge of the Kairos document cannot be evaded."

Cape Times 15/10/87

Church called to be society's 'conscience' 48

Objection to open NGK overruled

Staff Reporter

THE CHURCH has a calling to act as the "conscience" of the authorities and society, according to a commission report tabled at the Western Cape synod of the Ned Geref Kerk yesterday.

Accordingly, the Commission for Liaison with the Authorities had considered the squatter problem and the issue of human rights in the Peninsula.

Several "rights" were set out in the report, including the right of every person to be involved in decision-making that directly affects his or her life and future; to a home that takes family needs into account; to a "job opportunity"; and to facilities that provide for his social and economic needs.

"The church cannot close its eyes to so much poverty, lack of housing and amenities of life, disruption of families, crime and fear," the report said.

The Department of Co-operation and Development had indicated that there were 100 000 "illegal" black people in the Peninsula, and the commission noted the "shameless way in which some employers preferred the much cheaper and more easily economically exploitable 'illegals'."

Sixty percent of the "illegals" were economically active, and their contribution to the economy of the Western Cape was almost essential.

The report recognized that there were not enough job opportunities in Ciskei or Transkei, and that many black people "therefore in reality had no other choice than to flee to the cities in the hope of earning a living through 'illegal' activities".

The commission also expressed "deep concern" over the terrible conditions in squatter camps, and said the inevitability of squatting should be accepted. Serviced sites should be provided to improve the lives of squatters.

It recommended that the government should investigate and apply suitable influx control, on the one hand, and attend to the lack of jobs for blacks in the "national states" on the other.

Kairos 'uses Marxist analysis'

Staff Reporter

THE CHURCH could not "go the way of the Kairos Document", the Western Cape Synod of the Ned Geref Kerk decided yesterday.

The Kairos Document, drawn up two years ago, called for a new "prophetic theology" and was signed by members of almost all churches in South Africa, including members of the NGK family.

The NGK's Synodal Commission on Racial Matters submitted a document entitled "Racial Discrimination and Love of One's People" criticizing the Kairos Document for over-emphasizing that God was on the side of the poor and the oppressed.

It said the Kairos Document also freely used a Marxist analysis of society.

"It is impossible to be a Christian in the true sense of the word and simultaneously a Marxist."

It would be a pity if the church rejected the Kairos Document without genuine self-examination, it said, but the church could not go the way of the Kairos Document, which accused the church in South Africa of serving one ideology while it (the Kairos Document) "tended to serve another".

AN objection to the synod decision last year to open the Ned Geref Kerk to people of all races was overruled at yesterday's Western Cape Synod meeting.

Mr W A Els, a member of the Parow ring, said he and many other members of the church did not agree with the decision to open the NGK to people of all races.

"Why must it be pushed down our throats that we were wrong for all these years when we had a white church?" he asked.

"Our ancestors are surely all in hell, according to the recent decision of the synod, and at its forefront, Professor Heyns." (Professor J A Heyns is the moderator of the general synod.)

Mr Els quoted The Book of Daniel 2:43, which says: You have seen iron mixed with clay — they will intermarry with each other, but they will not be unified, just as iron does not mix with clay.

A synodal commission replied to Mr Els by saying the NG Kerk had "never in history" taken a decision that the church was just meant for white members.

The context of the quote from the Book of Daniel had to be carefully considered, it said.

King Nebuchadnessar had a dream of iron and clay, which represented two kingdoms which fought each other over possession of Palestine, and tried — without success — to bury their differences through intermarriage.

There was no racial or cultural difference between the two kingdoms, according to the commission's reply.

"At issue is a power struggle between the two kingdoms and the Kingdom of God. Even though they unite and intermarry, it will not prevent their destruction by God."

Gate Times

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aturday, October 17, 1987 ★

Detainees should be charged — synod

By RONNIE MORRIS

THE Western Cape synod of the Ned Geref Kerk yesterday requested the general synod to call on the government to use detention and restrictions without trial only as an "extreme measure" and not where peaceful protest was concerned.

The synod said people should not be detained without a clear intention by the government to lay a charge and try the detainee in court within a reasonable period.

It declared its "sincere intention" to minister to those people — and their families — affected by security legislation.

The synod expressed "deep concern" about the large number of people in detention but was grateful for a government assurance that the reports would be investigated, witnesses called and the law allowed to run its course.

The Rev Karel Antonius, of the Stellenbosch Student Church, said the government had admitted that 19 000 people had been detained and that between 30 to 40% were children.

The synod remembered those in detention in the "spirit of Christian compassion" and declared its "sincere intention" to minister to those people and their families affected by the security legislation.

"The synod categorically states that irrespective of where in the world it takes place, the torture of prisoners and those in detention is sinful."

The synod called on the Synodal Commission for Study and Current Affairs to continuously study detention and restriction without trial in terms of the emergency regulations and to compile a report for submission to the moderamen for eventual submission to the general synod.

● The synod called on the Centre for Reformist and Contemporary Studies — on whose board two Ned Geref Kerk members would serve — to "single-mindedly oppose liberation theology and its practices".

It said this should be done through the furtherance of the "Reformed Protestant doctrine of faith" by remaining in touch with the ecclesiastical needs of the whole population because both conditions could become the "breeding ground" for Marxist propaganda.

'No detention without intent to lay charge'

N/6 MR603 17/10/8 F. 48

by KAREN STANDER
Religion Reporter

THE Western Cape synod of the Ned Geref Kerk has asked the Government not to detain people without a definite intention of laying a charge.

The synod has also asked that detainees should be tried within a reasonable time.

Earlier, after a long and lively debate, the synod rejected an amendment condemning the principle of detention and banning without trial.

The synod noted with grave concern the many people being held without trial.

It took note of the reports of death and assault of people in detention, while thanking the Government for assurances that these reports were being investigated.

"The synod declares emphatically that no matter where in the world it occurs, the torture of prisoners and people held in detention is a sin.

"Extreme measure"

"The synod asks the general synodical commission to call on the Government to see to it that detention without trial is used only as an extreme measure when the safety of the State is threatened (that is, when acts of terror are involved) and not when peaceful protest against the Government or Government policy is at issue.

"The synod declares further that when the Government feels obliged to detain people, no person should be detained without there being a definite intention to lay a charge and to hear the case within a reasonable period."

During debate the Rev Herbert Brand of St Stephen's Church said that while delegates condemned certain actions performed by "godless" nations they did not condemn those same actions when they occurred in South Africa because "it is in our own interest."

"I challenge every delegate here. You all know that white domination is non-negotiable. If you know it then say it."

He said the spiral of security legislation was growing. It was possible to become enslaved to security legislation because it silenced all opposition and it was easier to rule without opposition.

The Rev Dirk Warnich of Brackenfell said he was unhappy with the impression created that all those in favour of the emergency and detention without trial were whites. Many others, black and brown, were also in favour of these measures because the issue was the protection of people.

4416 Toms 17/10/84 48

NGK concern at Group Areas Act disruption

THE Western Cape Synod of the Ned Geref Kerk yesterday expressed concern at the disruption the Group Areas Act was causing mixed couples.

The synod called on the government to enact a law to protect the residential rights of racially-mixed couples but said it was thankful for the measures being taken at present.

● They recommended that the government amend the Defence Amendment Act to further accommodate religious objectors.

The preparedness of an objector to serve longer periods of alternative service should be the important criteria in determining whether a refusal to be conscripted was really a matter of conscience.

● A proposal that the synod charge its Inter-Church Commission for Education and Culture with the task of investigating, among other matters, the opening of all schools, was referred to the Temporary Commission for Study and Current Affairs.

Another issue which may be brought up for discussion by members of the Synod on the Inter-Church Commission is the opening of schools to all races to those who so wish it.

● The synod accepted a recommendation that the church, in its fight against communism, continuously guard and warn against all political and economic totalitarian tendencies in society.

17/10/87

WLB:AKG

40

'Change law to recognise objectors'

Religion Reporter

NO one should be compelled to perform military service against the dictates of his conscience, according to a report before the Western Cape synod of the Ned Geref Kerk.

The report, compiled by the synodical commission for doctrine and current affairs, said that legislation should be amended to legal recognition applying not only to religious objectors but also to a broad category of conscientious objectors.

The report questioned the justification of the call by some South African churches to their members to refuse to perform military service.

However, the report recognised the responsibility of each individual to make this decision.

Consideration

The committee urged church members to consider positively in the present circumstances the Government's call to military service.

The report and their recommendations would be submitted to the next general synod for consideration.

They recommended that existing legislation be changed to extend the classification of religious objectors to include pacifists and those who for religious or moral reasons believed that a particular military conflict was unjustified and therefore could not in conscience perform military service.

● A motion declaring that there were no Biblical grounds to prevent women becoming preachers and governing elders was adopted but the synod said that further reflection on the practical implementation was needed.

NGK synod sidesteps decision on apartheid

Religion Reporter

A NED Geref Kerk report calling for discriminatory legislation to be scrapped, the emergency to be lifted and for the rights of all to be honoured in a new constitution has been referred back for "further reflection".

During heated debate at the Western Cape synod yesterday delegates reacted sharply to "insinuations" that the report — on the responsibility of the church to work for peace — supported revolution.

It was referred back to the commission on doctrine and current affairs after several delegates objected.

The Rev A Bergh said the problem with the word "peace" was that some people who prayed for peace actually meant the conclusion of revolution.

"Shadow"

Professor Willie Jonker said those delegates who thought the report supported revolution had not read it correctly.

The Rev C Antonisen said a shadow hung over the report because of the insinuations.

"This is one report I was excited about. Its purpose was to confront the synod with the urgent realities of our country. I am disappointed that it has been referred back," he said.

The report said structural injustice was one of the most important causes of political unrest and violence in South Africa.

The growing number of Government restrictions to curb protest had contributed to greater bitterness and tension.

"The search to find an answer in violence and revolution has grown proportionally as the scope for peaceful protest has become smaller."

The report called for remaining discriminatory legislation to be scrapped, the emergency to be lifted as soon as possible and for the rights of all South Africa's people to be honoured in a new constitution.

● The Western Cape synod is to ask for observer status on the Western Province Council of Churches.

The synod yesterday decided also to ask the general synod to apply for observer status on the South African Council of Churches.

Professor Jan Hanekom said that if the NGK did not take the lead with "this small step" there would never be reconciliation between the churches.



Picture: DANA le ROUX, The Argus

NEW DYNASTY? This Baid Ibis chick — yes, it is still a baby! — is one of 10 sent to Hout Bay's World of Birds from the Transvaal as the nucleus of a captive breeding programme. Numbers are decreasing in South Africa and the species has disappeared completely from the Cape Province. On hand to welcome the new arrivals was Susan Fowkes.

Ballerina's death: Green Point man pleads not guilty

Staff Reporter

A GREEN Point man pleaded not guilty in the Cape Town Regional Court today to a charge of culpable homicide after the death of former Green Point ballerina and ballet dancer Miss Susan Blake.

Mr Shaun St Clair Rafferty, 36, of Modena Street, Green Point, was charged with the death of Miss Blake on July 24. She later became Mrs Susan Dogon and lived at the same address as Mr Rafferty.

Mrs Dogon, the mother of country singer Tracy Lee Dogon, died after an alleged assault with fists and a hammer.

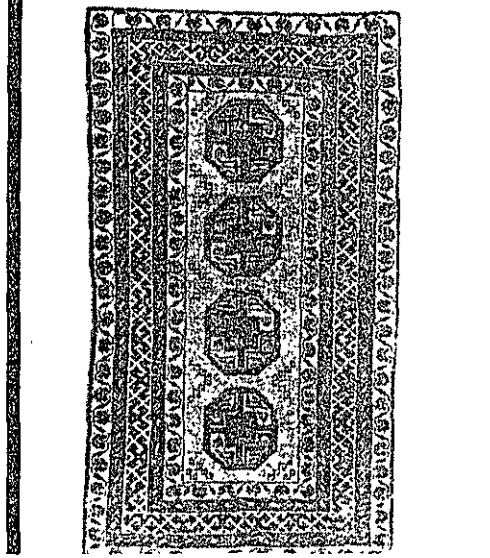
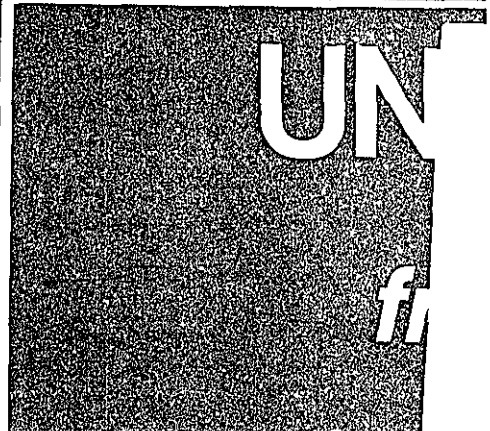
BODY FOUND

Mr MS Nacerodien, for Mr Rafferty, said his client would deny that Mrs Dogon's death was "caused by him in any manner", although he admitted being present on the day her body was found at Grosvenor Court.

The magistrate, Mr J D Huggett, postponed the hearing to November 18 for trial.

Mr Rafferty was released on condition that he reported to the Sea Point police station every Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 6pm and 8pm.

Mr W P Smith prosecuted.



Info: 20/10/77

Bid to 48 dissociate women rejected

Staff Reporter

THERE was a short-lived attempt at the Western Cape synod yesterday to dissociate the Ned Geref Kerk's women's organization, Vroueaksie, from the "controversial" Bureau for Information.

The attempt — an amendment to a clause in the synodal committee for Vroueaksie's report, suggested by the pastor of the country's only "coloured" NGK community, the Rev H J D Brand of St Stephen's in Riebeeck Square, Cape Town — was rejected unanimously by the synod after some debate.

The proposed amendment was prompted after Vroueaksie chairman Mrs C Hattingh reported that the church's viewpoints and doctrines were discussed at meetings.

One such meeting, concerning the "role of the Christian woman in the crisis situation in our country", had featured a presentation by a Bufin researcher.

A member said the synod should be grateful for the work done by Vroueaksie.

'Risky choice'

Mr Brand, objecting and proposing an amendment to the report, said: "The synod cannot afford to associate itself with the risky choice of a representative of the state, Dr Kobus Neethling, of the controversial Bureau for Information, as speaker at the meeting."

● Later, a recommendation, again by Mr Brand, that the synod declare the SA state illegitimate, was also rejected.

Argus 21/10/87

NGK synod opts for watchdog ⁴⁸ role in education

Religion Reporter

THE Western Cape synod of the Ned Geref Kerk has refused to discuss the opening of schools to all races.

The synod declared that the church would and should be involved in education, but to watch over the Christian character of education and not to prescribe policy, models or syllabuses.

The motion proposed by the Rev Herbert Brand of St Stephen's congregation called on the synod's representative on the inter-church commission on education to initiate discussion on:

- One department and educational policy for the country and its people with the opening of all schools to all races;
- Permission by the Government to schools that wish to open to all in the interim, and
- Representations against school textbooks which interpret history from a one-sided "white" and specifically Afrikaner point of view.

Motivating his proposal, Mr Brand said the issue was precisely about watching over the Christian character of education.

UNCHRISTIAN

It was unchristian for people to be kept apart by being forced to live in different group areas and attend different schools.

"Then they will never find one another," he said.

To laughter from other delegates, he said the synod might not be able to believe its ears, but he would like to thank the Government for decreasing the gap between what was spent on education for whites and other population groups.

"But broeders, there is still a huge gap. This is unchristian," Mr Brand said.

● Church councils will decide whether they and their ministers should continue to wear traditional dress for services.

In a lively debate, many delegates spoke against scrapping the traditional dress of black-suit, white-tie and toga, but the synod adopted the recommendations of the commission on general affairs that dress should fit the occasion, but that no further prescriptions be laid down.

NGK women in push to be ministers

Pretoria Correspondent

Women were "frustrated" by the fact that they were forbidden to serve as elders and ministers in the Ned Geref Kerk (NGK), the church's Eastern Transvaal Synod heard yesterday.

"Women are not automatically disqualified by their sex from serving in supervisory and teaching capacities. The gifts of the Holy Spirit apply to women as much as they do to men," Mrs Martie van Zyl, an Elardus Park deacon, said.

Mrs van Zyl is one of five women among approximately 300 delegates attending the synod.

The Rev Johan Viljoen of Witbank-Valley said women should be permitted to fulfil their callings "side by side" with male members of the church, but in "their own homogenous ('eiesoortige') way".

After a lengthy debate, the synod recommended that the church's General Synod favourably consider the admission of women as elders and ministers.

● A motion suggesting there was "insufficient reason" to urge the easing of the income tax burden on married couples was defeated by an overwhelming show of hands.

2/10/87
SNC

48

W Cape NGK rejects apartheid

By RONNIE MORRIS

APARTHEID was yesterday rejected by the Western Cape synod of the Ned Geref Kerk.

The move came about through the acceptance of an amendment to a section of "Kerk en Samelewing" (Church and Society), a document endorsed by the general synod in October last year.

The recommendation accepted at last year's synod read:

"The Dutch Reformed Church is convinced that the handling of apartheid, as a political and social system by which human dignity is adversely affected, and whereby one particular group is detrimentally suppressed by another, cannot be accepted as a Christian ethical principle because it contravenes the very essence of neighbourly love and righteousness and inevitably that of the human dignity of all involved."

The Western Cape Synod yesterday scrapped the three words (the handling of) and asked that the amendment be accepted by the general synod.

A section of Church and Society which said that: "The conviction has gradually grown that a forced separation and division of people cannot be

considered a biblical imperative. The attempt to justify such an injunction as derived from the Bible must be recognized as an error and should be rejected" was added to.

The added paragraph said: "Where the principle of differentiation in a particular political, constitutional and social framework was accepted by a community voluntarily and by mutual consent, the Ned Geref Kerk would not object."

Lively and lengthy debate preceded the acceptance of the amended proposal.

A motion by the Rev Herbert Brand, of St Stephen's, — the only coloured congregation of the Ned Geref Kerk — called for: "The rejection of apartheid as a sinful assault on human dignity because of its racist basis."

The motion, which called for the establishment of an ad hoc committee to advise the synod on how it could contribute to the "establishment of a just and humane society through the abolition of the policy of apartheid as found in the Race Classification Act" and a call by Mr Brand for the synod to "unambiguously distance itself from apartheid and its racist substructure" was rejected.

NGK synod gives nod to ANC talks

158
SME
22/10/82

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The Western Cape Synod of the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk yesterday acknowledged the right of the church and individuals to talk to organisations such as the African National Congress.

However, theological lecturers, students and ministers were asked to tread very carefully because of the "propaganda value of meetings with controversial political and other organisations."

RECONCILIATION

"At the same time the Synod emphasises the necessity and the right of the church as an institution and of individual believers to take reconciliation seriously."

In drawing up these recommendations, the Synod's temporary commission for general affairs rejected a motion by the Rev H M van Rensburg of Beaufort West which condemned ministers and theological students who had talks with "communist and terrorist organisations".

The commission also rejected an amendment from Dr J A Loubser which emphasised the importance of communication between conflicting groups in South African society and encouraged members to further this communication as part of their calling to reconciliation.

During debate, Mr van Rensburg proposed an amendment to the commission's recommendations that such talks would not take place without the permission of the moderation.

AKS 43 22/10/87 (48)

NGK rejects theory of apartheid

71

Religion Reporter

THE theory of apartheid, and not just its practice, must be rejected, the Western Cape synod of the Ned Geref Kerk has decided.

After a four-hour debate yesterday the synod decided to ask the general synod to amend the paragraph on apartheid in the church's policy document, *Kerk en Samelewing* (Church and Society), and to insert a new paragraph.

The proposed paragraph, directly after the admission and rejection of earlier attempts to justify apartheid on biblical grounds, reads: "Where the principle of differentiation in a specific political, constitutional and social framework is voluntarily and mutually accepted by the communities concerned, the Ned Geref Kerk cannot object."

Narrow margin

The synod asked that the words "the application of" be scrapped from the paragraph: "The Ned Geref Kerk is convinced that the application of apartheid as a political and social system which causes injustice towards people and which unjustly advantages one group above another, cannot be accepted on Christian ethical grounds because this is in conflict with the principles of loving one's neighbour and justice, and unavoidably assails the dignity of all concerned."

By a narrow margin the synod rejected an amendment from Professor H J B Combrinck to insert "on account

of the racist foundation on which the policy is based" in this paragraph.

It also rejected another motion proposed by the Rev Herbert Brand of St Stephen's congregation which condemned apartheid without qualification or definition.

Professor Jan Hanekom, chairman of the temporary commission which formulated the adopted recommendations, said the problem with the existing paragraph in *Church and Society* was that it had been interpreted differently by people of different political convictions.

"Only bad"

Mr C F Spies of Knysna said apartheid was not bad in every respect. It depended on the application of the policy.

Dr Theo Badenhorst said the test of apartheid was in its result.

"Has it caused more love, more harmony? We must honestly answer 'No'."

Dr J D Loubser asked whether there was good and bad in apartheid or only bad.

He said: "Apartheid as it is defined in the world today is only bad. Apartheid per se must be rejected."

The Rev M Vosloo of Klaver said delegates were "raping the truth". He said no political system could be completely bad.

"Is it utopia to say apartheid can work? I don't believe it," he said.

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himself
capt. traps 23/10/87
**Group attacks
four dwellings**

PRETORIA — A group of people attacked four dwellings at Esikwadeni, near Maritzburg, this week, according to the police unrest report.

A youth was assaulted and slightly injured and a 10-year-old boy who was abducted was later found beheaded.

Most of the incidents in the report concerned unrest in the Maritzburg area.

At Taylor's Halt, also near the city, police found the bodies of two men after they had allegedly been abducted by a group on October 18. Both appeared to have died from stab wounds.

At Edendale a delivery vehicle was damaged by stoning. — Sapa

**Guards shot in
AK-47 ambush**

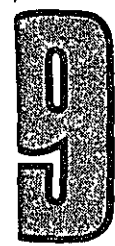
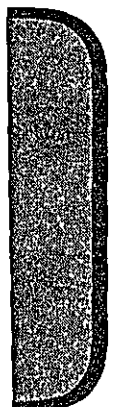
Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Suspected guerillas armed with AK-47s and Skorpion machine pistols seriously wounded two Fidelity guards and fled with R11 000 outside the First National Bank agency in Eldorado Park yesterday morning, a police spokesman said.

The two guards, in their twenties, are in a serious but stable condition after being hit by bullets in the lower parts of their bodies.

A reward of R20 000 is being offered for information leading to an arrest.

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to celebrate her 20th
**W Cape synod favours
unified 'NGK family'**

Apr. News 23/10/87
By RONNIE MORRIS

IN A historic decision yesterday, the Western Cape synod of the Ned Geref Kerk expressed itself in favour of a unified church.

In doing so the synod became the first of nine regional synods to accept a decision concerning the unity of churches in the family of the Ned Geref Kerk.

The synod accepted an amendment by the ad hoc commission on "the unity of the family of Ned Geref churches", to a section of the controversial policy document "Kerk en Samelewing" (Church and Society). The section calls for the Ned Geref Kerk "to strive for a greater expression of the unity of the family of Ned Geref churches".

"Kerk en Samelewing" was accepted at the general synod last year.

The amendment reads: "The synod is in favour of one religious denomination for the family of Ned Geref churches. One religious denomination, as it is understood in the synodal-presbyterial system of church government, comes about when separate congregations, with the same creed and church government, are grouped

together in superior church bodies (meerdere kerkvergaderings) to give expression to the intrinsic unity of the Church. Such a religious denomination can be structured in different ways.

"The question as to what form this visible unity should take will have to be determined through in-depth discussions among the different member churches, in the light of the demands of Scripture and present realities."

The Rev Herbert Brand of St Stephens — the only coloured congregation of the Ned Geref Kerk — said the suspension of congregational borders was a requirement for church unity and would not be forced on people. The Ned Geref Kerk should unite now and not "wait for the hereafter".

Dr Francois Hanekom of Melkbosstrand said that if the synod accepted the amendment, the Ned Geref Kerk would celebrate "Reform Day" this Sunday.

Dr Kosie Delpport said he supported the amendment for the sake of eventual peace in this country. Only the Church of Jesus Christ could bring about peace.

NGK pastoral letter on synod

By RONNIE MORRIS

THE overwhelming acceptance by the Ned Geref Kerk of the controversial policy document "Kerk en Samelewing", its stand on detention without trial, civil disobedience and the role of women in the church are among topics contained in a pastoral letter to be read out in member churches this Sunday.

The pastoral letter will set out decisions and recommendations of the Western Cape Synod.

The letter encourages members to react in a positive manner to the

government's call to conscription" and to distance themselves from churches opposing apartheid.

The synod also rejected the "application of apartheid as a political and social system by which human dignity is adversely affected, and whereby one particular group is suppressed by another".

The General Synod was asked by Western Cape synod to apply for observer status with the South African Council of Churches, while the Western Cape synod has decided to apply for observer status with the Western Province Council of Churches.

Synod accepts principle of church unity

48

AGCS 23/10/87

Religion Reporter

THE Western Cape synod of the Ned Geref Kerk has accepted the principle that the churches in the Ned Geref family should unite to become one church, but not necessarily at congregation level.

The synod yesterday endorsed the general synod's decision in the policy document, *Kerk en Samelewing*, that a clear expression must be given to the demand of visible unity of the family.

It accepted the principle that the Ned Geref family should become one denomination.

"One denomination, as understood in the synodical Presbyterian system of church government, comes into existence when separate congregations with the same confessions and church government are grouped together in additional church meetings to give expression to the unity of the church. Such denominations can be structured in various ways."

The synod said the question of how this visible unity should be structured would be decided in urgent discussions between member churches, taking into account scriptural demands and practical circumstances.

The synod rejected an amendment from the Rev Herbert Brand of St Stephen's congregation which called for one institutional denomination — one church from congregation level — to be formed as soon as possible.

Professor Jan Hanekom, chairman of the ad hoc commission which formulated the adopted proposals, said this was the most important decision which had come before the synod.

He said some delegates feared that

it would result in immediate forced integration, but this was not so.

● A Ned Geref Sendingkerk leader today welcomed the decision by the Western Cape synod of the white "sister" church to support unity of the Ned Geref family of churches.

Dr Andries Botha, a member of the Sendingkerk's moderature, said his church would not react officially until the moderature met next month, but he was personally thankful for this decision.

Dr Botha said this decision brought the Western Cape region more in line with the decision of the other member churches.

"Maybe they didn't say it in the same words, but this decision means that we are much more on the same wavelength.

"I hope their decision will influence talks between our churches now that we will not be told that it is not a final decision but still has to be ratified by the general synod."

He said the NGK's decision had been open-ended and allowed for several different models of implementation.

It did not exclude the model supported by the Sendingkerk, of unity from congregational level.

Dr. Botha said the Western Cape synod's decisions on apartheid and on detention without trial had brought the region a step closer to the Sendingkerk's position.

The synod rejected apartheid per se and not simply its practical application. They also asked the Government to use detention without trial only as an extreme measure and not to detain anyone without the intention of laying a charge.

AGCS 23/10/87

AGCS 23/10/87

Tutu hails synod, has reservations

By ANDREW DONALDSON

THE Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev Desmond Tutu, has welcomed — “although with reservations” — the “positive sounds” that came from the Western Cape Synod of the Ned Geref Kerk this week.

In a statement yesterday, Archbishop Tutu said several synod resolutions were encouraging. In particular the:

- Declaration that “apartheid, as a political and social system which causes injustice towards people and which unjustly favours one group above another, cannot be accepted on Christian ethical grounds...”.

- Resolution supporting a single NGK, united across racial barriers.

- Decision to seek observer membership of the Western Province Council of Churches and to urge the NGK's General Synod to do the same in respect of the

South African Council of Churches.

- Call to extend conscientious objector status to those who for moral reasons believe a particular military conflict to be unjust.

- Opposition to detaining people involved in peaceful protest and its condemnation of torture.

Qualifications

“These resolutions give cause for hope that the NGK may yet play a role in the establishment of justice in our country,” Archbishop Tutu said.

But he was disappointed at the “sometimes confusing qualifications evident in the synod's pronouncements — qualifications which regrettably make it impossible for us to welcome the synod's decisions unequivocally”.

It was of concern that the synod still found it necessary to speak of “differentiation” being acceptable “where the principle ... is

mutually and voluntarily accepted ...”, he said.

Also of concern was the synod allowing “in its resolution on church unity for a situation in which most church members would in practice be grouped in racially-separate church structures up to the level of an ‘umbrella’ or ‘ecumenical’ synod”, he said.

“I also deplore the synod's refusal to condemn the principle of banning and detention without trial and its approval of military service in support of an unjust system.”

Perhaps “most disappointing” was the synod's apparent failure to “clearly and explicitly” show penitence for the NGK's role of promoting apartheid in the past.

“The church played an instrumental role in the adoption of the political policy of apartheid and, not until the church expresses repentance fully and properly, will we be able to move forward with it.”

APK victims of 40 years of indoctrination — academic

SM 22/10/87
By Carina le Grange,
Religion Reporter

The biggest problem of the breakaway Ned Geref Kerk dissidents was that they had believed church teaching over the past 40 years, says Unisa theologian, Dr Adrio Konig.

The dissidents have formed their own church, the Afrikaanse Protestantse Kerk (APK) — open to whites only.

Dr Konig, writing in the latest issue of *Word and Action*, official organ of the Reformational Movement of South Africa, says the views of the APK are simply a continuation of the traditional apartheid policy, both in the church and in the community.

"In this sense they are indeed children of the NGK since this church, over the past 40 years, officially approved apartheid and justified it theologically."

He writes that the reversal of the NGK last year in deciding to open the church to all races and to reject aspects of the application

of the apartheid policy was a turning point which started in the previous decade. It was a change the APK could not accept.

"In this sense the NGK has to do with its own children — people who have accepted the apartheid theology and want to continue it. It can thus be expected of the NGK to act towards them with understanding and gentleness.

"On the other hand the APK is more than just innocent children of the NGK. In their manifesto 'Geloof en Protes' (Belief and Protest) there is a striking radicalisation of apartheid ... (which) stresses that people will live as separate groups even in the after-life".

Dr Konig says the APK "blindly" goes to extremes unknown earlier and for which there is "absolutely no basis in Scripture".

"We see in them how ashamed we must be about the history of apartheid in the NGK. It was a disgrace."

NGK church still intact despite row

By Carina le Grange, Religion Reporter

After 12 months of turmoil, the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk (NGK) is having a breather — all the regional synods have met and the church is, more or less, still intact since the June split.

Dire predictions that the church could find itself in tatters after the recently held regional synods, did not come to pass.

It is only a year ago since the NGK General Synod approved the document which gave rise to the turmoil.

The document, *Kerk en Samelewing* (Church and Society) contained the contentious decision that membership of the previously whites-only NGK would be opened to all races.

This started a chain of events which culminated in the formation of the new all-white Afrikaanse Protestantse Kerk and continuing divisions within the church.

Indications were that the 11 regional synods of the church would probably prove strong grassroots opposition to the decision.

Regional synods are intended to assess grassroots support for general synod decisions. Their resolutions are again forwarded to the next general synod — three years away.

Some people expected the majority of regional synods would reject the open membership decision out of hand. In the end, only the South West Africa synod totally rejected open membership.

The other synods did not vote for the repeal of the decision, although the wording of the original document was amended or re-formulated.

None of the alterations changed the essence of the decision, indicating there will be no reversal of the breakthrough in the NGK.

(48) SMM
28/10/87

Reformation movement 'must defuse political situation'

By Carina le Grange,
Religion Reporter

2/11/87
SR

The Reformational Movement of South Africa (Remsa) must defuse the "overheated political situation in South Africa" pervading all aspects of life, the moderator of the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk, says Professor Johan Héyns.

He was speaking at Remsa's annual congress, held in Johannesburg on Friday, on the task of Remsa in the present and future. He is a former chairman.

Professor Héyns identified six bonds binding society: marriage, the family, culture, the volk, the State and the church, in which Remsa could play a "reformational" role.

"South African society is in dire need of a body like Remsa, which can critically, and in a reformational way, highlight defective activities in these bonds.

"There must be a break from pre-programmed political thought processes.

"Remsa, rooted in God, is there to show that there is something wrong in society and that society is ill."

He said Remsa was "by definition" neither verlig nor verkrampt, right-wing nor left-wing, since this would enslave it to a certain ideology.

Remsa had to analyse and highlight bonds in society "affected by sin", and make certain concrete reformational suggestions.

It had, for example, to point out that there were severe problems in marriage — evidenced by the high divorce rate.

He asked whether, in the past, the movement had not been too involved with political problems.

New white church holds first synod

The Afrikaanse Protestantse Kerk (APK) is holding its first synod at Constantia Park near Naboomspruit today.

The APK was founded in July when dissatisfied members of the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk (NGK) broke away in protest over the general synod's decision last year to open the NGK to all races. The sub-title of the APK is "A church of Christ among white Afrikaners".

A number of ministers — many retired — have joined the APK, which says it has about 50 congregations countrywide.

Afrikaners feel safe

Sunday morning, the bells peal and *Dominee* Johan Roux, dark suit and white tie, stands outside his NG Kerk waiting to greet his flock. One by one they arrive, dressed as Afrikaner Calvinist tradition expects.

A familiar SA scene. Wrong. This is Harare, power seat of the Marxist Robert Mugabe, who before independence was accused by South Africans that he would scrap Christmas and turn churches into beer halls.

Roux and fellow pastor Mike Swart's congregation, one of the 16 in Zimbabwe which accommodate 2 000 Afrikaners, is typical of Mugabe's policy of reconciliation. "There is a lot of appreciation for the PM's policy after the war," says Roux.

"In general the Afrikaner in Zimbabwe has a positive relationship with his black fellow-Zimbabweans. But for the policy of reconciliation, it would not have been possible to stay on."

Roux for one has no intention to leave. He and his wife Rinamari with their four children are extremely happy. "I would be happy to become a Zimbabwean citizen," he says.

He is however no stranger to black governments. Two of his children were born outside SA — one in Zambia when he spread the *Gospel* in Lusaka, the other in Zimbabwe.

Accusations that health services and the standard of education have dropped are not true, says Roux. The reverse is true — especially, there is a good government hospital.

However, he may send his eldest daughter to Pretoria next year for her high school education. He would like her to go to an Afrikaans university and fears that the transition to Afrikaans education would be hard should she continue schooling in Harare.

"But I shudder to think how she will react to incidents like when they banned the black athlete at the high school in Menlo Park."

His children are blind to racial differences. That was highlighted when his son Johan asked to bring a friend home one night to sleep over. The friend turned out to be black — something Johan never even thought of mentioning. Not that he would have expected it, adds Roux.

It is not always easy to be an Afrikaner in Zimbabwe. Incidents back in SA like the AWB reception at Jan Smuts airport for the returning Dakar group are shown on TV. "That is how the Afrikaner is projected."

The mother church does not always alleviate pressure. "The strong rightwing reaction in the NGK over the new policy adopted at the general synod meeting last year became

an embarrassment to us.

"That is also our strongest criticism of the NGK. We believe the Synod has not yet totally condemned apartheid. It still believes there is good and bad apartheid. The ideology should be condemned."

Though these incidents are a constant embarrassment, Roux says none of them has ever been held against the Zimbabwean Afrikaner. "There has never been any pressure on us to dissolve the Afrikaans church. We are an open church."

Neither has there been moves from government to force the church to abandon its Afrikaans character. "Even our bank account is registered as the *Nederduits Gereformeerde Kerk in Zimbabwe*," says Roux.

There are three NGK congregations in Harare. One holds its services in English.

The church is serious about its role in Zimbabwe and tries to broaden its responsibilities towards the whole community. Roux says they often take part in welfare schemes with other churches — the latest being a city shelter for destitutes in co-operation with Catholics, Anglicans and Methodists.

Roux chairs the organisation, on whose board a member of government serves. His church often donates money to such organisations. "Recently we donated a stud bull to a black farming community. One of our elders led a course on the use of the bull.

"When the hospital at Kadoma was destroyed by fire we gave a large sum to have it rebuilt. At the same time we presented a government hospital with wheelchairs."

So while the NGK back home is still bickering in 1987 over the term "open churches," some 2 000 Afrikaners, most survivors of a bitter war, show the Christian way in a multiracial society. ■



The Rouxs ... happy in Harare

...last month when sidered.

Suspended NGK minister may go to Supreme Court

(18) SM 18/11/87 Religion Reporter

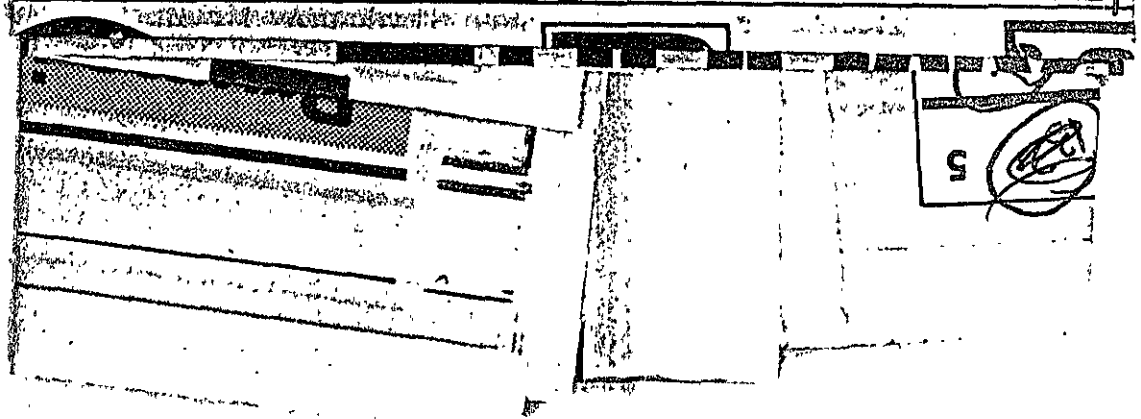
The Germiston Ned Geref Kerk minister who was suspended after he earlier this year appointed a coloured man to his church council, will fight the action in the Supreme Court, if necessary.

The suspended minister, the Rev Pieter Dumas, has been advised not to comment to the media until his appeal to the regional synod has been heard. If this appeal does not succeed, he said he will take the matter to the Supreme Court.

NGK officials, including the chairman of the local presbytery, the Rev Willie Badenhorst, have stressed that the suspension has nothing to do with the controversial move of accepting a coloured man, Mr Joseph Oudshoorn, as a member of the congregation and later as an elder.

The dispute arose because Mr Oudshoorn lives in Ou Lokasie — outside the geographical boundaries of the Germiston NGK congregation. This means he is not, according to reformed church law, allowed to join the congregation.

The moderator of the NGK, Professor Johan Heyns, last night said he could not comment on the matter as it was the business of the Southern Transvaal Regional Synod.



S (18)

Apartheid is immoral, say NGK academics

By Melanie Gosling

Four Afrikaans theologians, members of the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk (NGK) and the Gereformeerde Kerk, have published a booklet which slams apartheid as morally and theologically unacceptable and advocates an inclusive democracy for South Africa.

'REVOLUTIONARY'

The booklet, "The Option for Inclusive Democracy", which is likely to be regarded as revolutionary by the broad base of the NGK, "will make people like Treurnicht fulminate", according to one of the authors, Dr Johann Kinghorn, of the department of Bible studies

at the University of Stellenbosch.

"This is not a protest document. It is aimed at people who are looking for an alternative to apartheid and to a society based on race," Dr Kinghorn said.

The book calls for free and equal negotiation in moving towards a post-apartheid society and says it is "obvious that all who are imprisoned or in exile for political reasons must be given normal freedom of movement and access to such negotiations".

Admitting they offer no "instant solutions", they call for a free democracy in which:

- There are equal and just opportunities for all people to share in decision making.
- The government acts for the good of society and is accountable to all adult citizens.

● The human dignity of all is acknowledged and guaranteed by equal access to courts.

● There is universal adult suffrage.

● The rights of citizens are not determined on the grounds of race.

They have also called for a halt to violence — both from liberation movements and from the military "which props up the apartheid system".

The other authors are Professor Bernard Lategan of the Department of Bible Studies at the University of Stellenbosch; Dr D E de Villiers, senior lecturer in Theological Ethics at the Hugenot College of the NGK in Wellington and Professor Lourens du Plessis, head of legal philosophy at the University of Potchefstroom.

BLACK SASH
POLITICS & ~~BA~~

1988 - 1989

DDP 8-13/88

Bells toll while Sash protests

GRAHAMSTOWN — Muffled bells tolled from the cathedral tower at lunchtime yesterday as the Albany Black Sash held a half-hour protest against restrictions placed on 17 organisations by the government.

Among the placards displayed by single

members of the Sash at the entrance to the cathedral was one with a John Donne quotation — “for whom the bell tolls”.

The protest, which drew a mixed reaction, drew several groups of bystanders and was without incident. —
DDR

By Jo-Anne Collinge

What could put Mrs Jean Sinclair, Black Sash founder and veteran demonstrator, to flight?

The unlikely answer is her fellow members of the Black Sash — bent on celebrating her 80th birthday this year in a very public manner.

While Mrs Sinclair is tempted to escape to Scotland to avoid the fuss, Sash colleagues have pledged to make the occasion an event that will be remembered well into the future.

They have endowed a bursary which will bear her name. It will be tenable at the University of the Witwatersrand, which acknowledged Mrs Sinclair's contribution to human rights by awarding her an honorary doctorate in 1976, soon after she retired as president of the Sash.

The first recipient of the Jean Sinclair Bursary will be announced at the opening of the Sash annual conference in the Great Hall at Wits tonight.

The organisation is hoping for a large turn-out for the opening which takes the form of a public meeting.

The focus will be on human rights, a theme suggested by this year being the 40th anniversary of the signing of United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, and of South Africa's failure to endorse the declaration.

Speakers at the opening will be the Reverend Frank Chikane, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches,

Dr Nora Chase of the World Council of Churches who has special knowledge of Namibia, and current Black Sash president Mrs Mary Burton.

This year also marks the 10th anniversary of the United Nations' adoption of Resolution 435 on self-rule for Namibia. Dr Chase will speak on human rights in the territory, a decade after Resolution 435.

Human rights have always been the focus of the Black Sash — from its founding 33 years ago in reaction to the removal of coloured people from the common voters' roll to its more recent concentration on forced removals, the injustices of black local government, mass de-

attention without trial.

The Sash has no written creed or manifesto. But, says Mrs Sheena Duncan, a former president of the organisation, co-ordinator of its advice offices nationwide (and Jean Sinclair's daughter), the organisation's unwritten law has resulted in a remarkable consistency in the issues it has highlighted. Migrant labour, forced removals, pass law injustices have angered Sash members for well over two decades.



Leaders in the Black Sash struggle for human rights: Sash founder and former president Mrs Jean Sinclair (left) and her daughter, Mrs Sheena Duncan.

Black Sash to honour its founder at meeting

Mrs Sinclair remembers — as if it were yesterday — how the stalwarts of the Sash turned from their defeat over the representation of coloureds in Parliament to affirm their belief that they should continue to "fight injustice wherever it occurred".

"We had a meeting in the Skyline Hotel to decide whether to pack it up or carry on," she recalls. The decision was to continue. It was not a popular one. Overnight membership dropped

from 10 000 to about 1 100.

One of the greatest achievements of the Sash, Mrs Duncan reckons, was its ability to hold together and act with integrity in the 1960s, "the Dark Ages of anti-apartheid work" — after the first state of emergency, after Sharpeville, after the banning of the mass political organisations.

Mrs Duncan, who joined the Sash in 1963 "because there was nothing else to join at that

stage, unless you were a student and could be part of Nusas", believes that human rights have never been at a lower ebb in South Africa than they are at present.

Is this an indictment of the Sash, an indication of failure? Not necessarily, she says. "I think it's very hard to measure where South Africa would be if the Sash had not existed. How do you know what would have happened if we had not campaigned for years on the pass laws?"

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10/3/88

Focus is on human rights



The Black Sash national conference is being held at the University of the Witwatersrand this week. The focus is on human rights, an issue that has always been central to Black Sash activities. National President Mary Burton explains why it remains vitally important.

After the past 14 days, in which individual people and 17 organisations in SA were silenced and restricted by official decree, it might seem naively Utopian to propose a campaign about human rights.

Nevertheless, this 40th year since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (on December 10 1948) by the General Assembly (GA) of the United Nations is an appropriate time for South Africans to consider what we mean by human rights and how best such rights are to be recognised and protected.

In 1948, the Declaration was approved by 48 votes to nil with eight abstentions (including SA and the Soviet bloc). Since that time, a number of charters, covenants and conventions on human rights, not only personal and social, civil and political, but also economic

and cultural, have been adopted in various regions of the world, with varying degrees of influence and value.

In SA itself, the Freedom Charter, drawn up in 1956, has played a significant role in extra-parliamentary politics and is viewed by the many supporters of the charterist organisations as a sound basis on which to build a new and different society.

Declarations, charters and conventions about human rights are valuable guides to countries and organisations seeking governmental and legal structures which will allow the greatest possible degree of freedom, together with the maximum protection for all citizens alike.

However, such declarations do not have the power of enforceable legislation. In countries which have signed charters or treaties, it is possible to bring cases of violations of such agreements to the courts; but in others there are almost no channels which can be used to put forward legal argument against infringements of human rights.

There is a growing perception that the international conventions ought to constitute a legal obligation and, indeed, there are lawyers and academics who are prepared to argue that the Universal Declaration has become *in toto* a part of binding customary international law.

In SA, there has for a long time been debate about the merits of a Bill of Rights, possibly similar to the American model. Since the South African Law Commission was requested to make a study of the possibility of a Bill of Rights, the debate has once more become topical.

The difficulties of introducing such a Bill here are almost insurmountable, at a time when even such civil rights as used to be protected are now disregarded in terms of the State of Emergency. There is also widespread mistrust of the motives of those who now propose a Bill of Rights. The white, privileged sector of society is suspected of trying to ensure protection of its property, group and cultural rights in an increasingly uncertain future.

The Black Sash is concerned with many aspects of violations of the 30 articles of the Declaration of Human Rights which occur in SA: discrimination; repression of dissent; detention without trial; suppression of information; unequal and inferior education; forced removals; . . . the list seems endless.

It is, therefore, particularly appropriate that the March issue of *Sash*, our quarterly magazine, should have Human Rights as its principal theme and that the focus of our 1988 National Conference will be on this vital topic.

Sowetan 11/3/88

Focus on rights

11C

HUMAN' Rights, the theme for this year's annual conference of the Black Sash, coincides with the 40th anniversary of the coming to power of the National Party Government.

The conference which continues today at Koinonia, Judiths Paarl, was launched with a public meeting at the University of the Witwatersrand's Great Hall last night.

The general secretary of the World Council of Churches, Dr Nora Chase, spoke on human rights in Namibia — 10 years after the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (Resolution 435).

Tackle

The Rev Frank Chikane, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches — a

member of the WCC — addressed the meeting.

The conference will also tackle issues such as capital punishment, status of political prisoners, detainees and conditions of detention, regionalisation, the plight of children, education and homelessness.

A video presentation will include the violence

in Maritzburg and the Natal indaba.

Black Sash president Mrs Mary Burton will also give her state of the nation report.

Another highlight of the conference, which ends on Sunday, will be the honouring of Black Sash founder, Mrs Jean Sinclair, who celebrates her 80th birthday this year.

Go for the (white) gap

FRANK CHIKANE, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, minced no words in opening the Black Sash's national conference last weekend: "Those who are white ... still have space to cause change," he said. "If you do not use that space you are responsible for the deaths of the people."

The challenge to "fill the gap" left by the recent banning of 17 organisations — groups Chikane described as non-violent, open to negotiation and doing the work of the church — permeated the 33rd conference, held in Johannesburg, of the women's human rights organisation.

Events last weekend indicated the space for peaceful protest was still shrinking. Chikane had listed the white community, business representatives, church leaders and the international community as the groups which had "space to save this country". On Saturday the conference's programme was interrupted by an announcement that the Committee for the Defence of Democracy — formed by church leaders and others after the February 24 bannings — had been banned.

In an interview at the end of the conference,

The Black Sash escaped the government's most recent clampdown on extra-parliamentary groups — so whites must use the space left to them or bear some responsibility for activists' deaths, Frank Chikane tells the white human rights organisation.

JO-ANN BEKKER reports on the Black Sash's national conference

Mary Burton, who was elected for a third term of office as president, said the Black Sash had defined several ways to respond to Chikane's challenge.

On request, it would assist in filling the space for service and crisis work created by the bannings. But while the Sash would "be alert to the needs expressed, it would not go charging in", she said. Individuals who had been involved in silenced organisations would not merely "fold their hands".

In addition, the Sash would find avenues for the voices of banned organisations to be heard, using the Sash's publications and public platforms. This was already one of the Sash's aims, but it would examine the possibilities thoughtfully,

Cheap advice — priceless help

Without the birth certificate a person has no hope of obtaining an identity document.

And without the ID, people cannot obtain lawful accommodation, regular employment, a pension or a disability grant, nor could they enter most banking and commercial transactions.

Duncan said the Sash understood the concern of the Department of Home Affairs that illegal aliens from neighbouring countries should not be able to acquire South African citizenship by making false statements in applying for an ID. "But the victims of the system are usually *bona fide* South Africans whose citizenship can be established by careful questioning," she said.

Meanwhile, reports that the new IDs carry incorrect dates came from advice offices around the country.

The Pretoria office said it had spent much time assisting a man to get satisfactory proof of his birth date. When he eventually received his ID the date was entered incorrectly. He was told by a Home Affairs official to be satisfied it was "only two months out".

Duncan said the Sash had reported time and time again about "positively ancient people who have been told they are 'too young' to claim a pension because the computer says they were born several years after the true date of birth."

ly, Burton said.

She said many Sash members, particularly those in smaller areas, felt inadequate to meet the challenge. "Although there is a great anxiety about how we will cope, on the other hand there is a real commitment to facing the challenge as well as we can."

With this in mind the 1 800-member organisation would strive to increase its size and "to activate our membership so they are more involved in our work".

One of the dilemmas posed at the conference was whether the Black Sash should remain independent and non-aligned or whether it should affiliate to mass-based organisations.

The organisation's non-aligned stance has probably ensured its survival over three decades of Nationalist rule. But in an increasingly polarised society there is pressure from within the Sash for the organisation to leave the "ivory tower" of white privilege.

This debate, which was closed to the press, took place around the question of whether to affiliate to the Federation of South African Women, which is currently being revived — a move which would require an amendment to the Sash's constitution and could only occur after a year's notice.

In the end, the conference resolved to "encourage all our regions and members to take an active part in seeking and strengthening contact with Fedsaw". It urged members "to work in close association with Fedsaw on campaigns and projects so that the process of building trust and friendship may become a reality in practice as well as in principle". But it stopped short of affiliation.

In an interview, Burton said she felt strongly that alliance or affiliation ought to be organic and not be imposed by the 40 delegates to the conference. "We should build the process first," she said, "until it is something people want for themselves. They should not do it because it looks good."

However, towards the end of the conference, vice-president Rosemary van Wyk Smuth of the Cape Albany region urged that this "process" be speeded up. She agreed the space the Sash was working within was "fragile and has to be pro-



The passing parade ... onlookers at the SADF's 75th anniversary show

ected. But there is a danger if we use it as an ivory tower separate from mass-based organisations. We must use it to align ourselves with mass-based organisations," she said.

"While we have decided not to affiliate we must understand our commitment to using space. We must go back to our regions and work out how we can use space best. It may involve a constitutional change (to permit affiliation).

The ongoing debate over participation in state structures was another focus for discussion over the weekend, centred particularly on the October municipal elections.

Burton addressed the issue in her opening address. She outlined the reasons why opponents of participation believed the strategy was doomed to failure:

● Leaders of extra-parliamentary political

groups could not operate freely and consultation was impossible.

● There was widespread and profound distrust of the government's intentions. The government had a history of trying to provide a voice for black opinion without conceding any power.

● The system was loaded against a true democratic process. There was no clarity about the way the municipal elections were to take place.

In addition, Burton said, "There is the knowledge that the major battle which the government has lost is the struggle to win over the hearts and minds, the support of the majority of the population. That is a victory which has been achieved by the community-based extra-parliamentary opposition, and it is an achievement it is not willing to relinquish."

On the other hand, she said, groupings current-

ly acting within the overall system of government had a role to play "and this may be developed and expanded, particularly if the community-based organisations are immobilised for a period. This could be a useful development, especially if good communication can be maintained between those within and those outside the system."

In a discussion paper, Black Sash member Joyce Harris, a former vice-president, argued for participation in the October elections.

"Municipal elections will not take place in a vacuum," she said. "They will differ from previous elections in that all parties will be participating openly on a political basis fighting for municipal control."

Harris argued that if they represented the views of the majority, regional services councils might provide an opportunity for joint decision-making and generally-acceptable local government "which would make nonsense of the government's carefully devised plans to retain power".

The conference, as expected, did not take a position on the issue. It decided the Sash's role was analytical and informative: "We must look at the situation and how it is developing, what the options are and what room there is," Burton said. "Our decision was to equip people better to make the decision themselves."

Pending legislation to sever foreign funding of anti-apartheid organisations could severely hamper the Sash's work.

Burton said the Black Sash itself would survive on membership fees, but major projects such as the Transvaal Rural Action Committee, its advice office and rural fieldworkers were financed with overseas support and could be seriously affected. The Sash resolved to oppose this legislation.

Burton said the Sash had listed as priorities strengthening its "crisis work" — particularly in remote areas with few resources; gathering information about events in other countries in the Southern African region, with a view to building relations with women's groups in neighbouring countries; focusing on the multiracialisation of society; researching appropriate, community-based responses to increasing unemployment and poverty, and campaigning around the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"Our weakness is that we are a very small organisation based in one sector of the population and there are limits to what we can do," Burton said. "But it is also possibly one of our strengths because we are a very cohesive group."

She said being white-based, the Sash lacks close contact with the black community. "The State of Emergency and restrictions threaten to cut us off. But we are determined to strengthen our links, rather than let them get broken."

SA law 'on the brink of dying'

CRUCIAL 11/3/88 (11c)



AN EXTRACT from the presidential address by **MARY BURTON** delivered to the national conference of the Black Sash in Johannesburg last night.

IT IS the words, "terror" and "disorganization", that seem to me, more and more, to express what is happening in the country.

The government tries to convince the extreme right wing that the ongoing state of emergency is permitting it to restore "law and order"; instead the habitants of the towns and townships, the urban squatter settlements and the rural or semi-rural villages, are subjected to terror and disorganization by those very forces which ought to exist for their protection.

In Crossroads in 1986, in the Maritzburg area, in KTC in Cape Town, in so many towns in the eastern Cape there are violent confrontations between different groups. Time and time again we hear allegations that the security forces favour one group above the other, providing protection or even support.

The grip of terror replaces trust in the rule of law where emergency regulations are invoked to quell opposition to government policies, and when the courts seem to offer little or no protection against arbitrary detention and other official action. The approach of (then) Acting Chief Justice Rabie is not reassuring: "We must be realistic.

"We have strangers coming in across the borders with bombs and mines. There is nothing in the common law to deal with a situation like that. We must get information from people we arrest, especially when they are carrying weapons from the Soviet bloc, otherwise we can't defend ourselves. The situation in the country is pretty near that of a civil war. It is naive to think you can quell it by bringing people to court." (Sunday Star, May 3 1987).

Parliament may pass legislation, and the security forces may enforce regulations, but the South African legal system is "on the brink of dying", said Prof D Davis.

Degree of conflict

It is inevitable that there will be a degree of conflict in any society, particularly one which is in a process of

transition, about how to reconcile the protection of freedom with the need to maintain necessary restraints.

This is where there is a need for guarantees of basic human rights. But it is also essential for a legal code to have the acceptance of the majority of the population. That is the only way to ensure reverence for the body of the law. Laws which are passed by an unrepresentative government cannot command that kind of respect.

If the rule of law is to be respected, the laws must have the legitimacy that stems from the participation of all the citizenry in their formulation, and they must be seen to protect rights as well as ensuring that justice takes its course.

When, for example, "warlords" in areas surrounding Maritzburg are believed to act with impunity and to have the tacit approval of the police, the law is brought into disrepute. When laws allow discrimination on the basis of skin colour and ethnic origin, the law is brought into disrepute. And when this happens, when a legal system loses legitimacy, or does not meet the needs of the people, the people will formulate other systems of justice.

International outcry

On the other hand, when the courts uphold the appeal of the Universities of Cape Town and Western Cape against the Minister of Education's imposition of conditions for subsidies or when interdicts are granted to protect the residents of a township such as Hofmeyr or Bongoletu from assaults by "kitscops"; or when inquests lead to a proper investigation into the events resulting in a death; then the legal system gains in respect and legitimacy.

The events of the past year are somewhat overshadowed by the announcement on February 24 of the latest and most overt attack of recent times on opposition groups. Here indeed is disorganization at its most visible ...

Why should the government take such drastic action, immediately followed by the tabling of legislation to cut off funding for organizations opposing its policies?

Does it not care about the international outcry? The truth is that outcries are unpleasant but they don't hurt.

Does it not care about opposition within the country? The government has the might to contain that opposition. It must be hoping that there will be no more than a degree of public protest which will be confined to its known opponents and can be easily controlled.

In Parliament it has the majority, and outside it has the "kitscops" and the security system to cope with localized resistance.

Important for time

Does the government hope to win back Conservative Party supporters by demonstrating its ability to hold onto power and control? This has undoubtedly played some part in the decision to act so decisively, but the government is also determined to deal strongly with the right wing, and to emphasize the difference between its own policies and the blatant racism and aggressive stance of the CP and the AWB.

This will be important for the time when, having silenced opposition within the country, it can hope to turn back to the international community for support. That hope for future support makes it necessary to have silenced those organizations which have been particularly successful in disseminating information abroad about repression and detentions.

Could it even be that organizations like the UDF and Azapo have been restricted in order to prevent them from changing their non-participation policies and using the new structures to gain power within the system? This did not seem an option which would have the support of those bodies, but perhaps the government was taking no chances.

MARY BURTON ... government is subjecting the country to "terror" and "disorganization".

NOW! ... THE CAR THE NATION HAS WAITED FOR. TOUGHER THAN TOUGH, ROUGHER THAN ROUGH. SA'S OWN FAMILY SEDAN BY ARMSCOR.

THE theme of the Black Sash's 33rd national conference — Human Rights — became even more relevant last week when South Africans once again felt the effects of the Government's crackdown on anti-apartheid protests.

As the women discussed the state of the nation in Judith's Paarl, Johannesburg, on Friday, another drama unfolded a few kilometres away in Saratoga Avenue.

A group of Roman Catholic Church bishops, dressed in their ceremonial robes, stood outside the cathedral with placards protesting against the Government's restrictions on 18 organisations.

Hardly 24 hours later the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, announced in a special *Government Gazette* that the Committee for the Defence of Democracy was banned.

Mr Vlok justified the action by claiming that the African National Congress was attempting to use churches.

Black Sash president, Mrs Mary Burton, sombrely reflected on 500 years of South African history when she addressed a public meeting at the University of the Witwatersrand on Thursday night.

The meeting to launch the organisation's conference was addressed by the general secretary of the World Council of Churches, Dr Nora Chase, and the Rev Frank Chikane, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches.

"This year marks anniversaries of special significance for South Africans," said Mrs Burton.

These were, 500 years since Bartholomew Dias arrived on these shores; 300 years since the French Huguenots arrived and 40 years since the National Party came to power.

"In other circumstances there could be no harm in celebrating the achievements of those who have contributed to South Africa's history, and indeed the courage and determination and skills of the early travellers and settlers are worthy of praise," said Mrs Burton.

"Nevertheless, historical landmarks also remind us of the wrongs which were done in the name of exploration, colonisation and civilisation," she said.

Mrs Burton said indigenous people were often oppressed and exploited as their descendants are today.

Many people have, willy-nilly, criticised the Black Sash and labelled it as a group of white liberal women with a cosmetic concern for blacks.

However the organisa-

BLACK SASH: Keeping tabs on injustice

FOCUS

THEMBA MOLEFE reflects on the Black Sash's national conference which ended on a high note in Johannesburg yesterday.

tion, in its 33 years, has recorded vital history as illustrated by papers presented by various branches at the weekend.

As Mrs Burton put it, "This recording and publishing of information is a vital part of our work. It is often arduous, it is hedged about with legal pitfalls, and sometimes what we are to document is only a small

section of a larger role. "But it is an important contribution to understanding the whole."

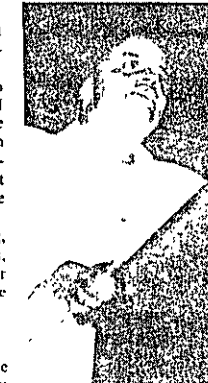
These words bring to mind the hundreds of people queuing at the Black Sash's offices in Khotso House, Johannesburg, in the hope that their problems would be solved.

Problems like housing, the influx control laws, birth certificates or identity documents are handled daily.

Objectives

To further illustrate the point, a report from the Western Cape region of Black Sash read in part, "The Government has used 1987 — a period of enforced silence — to achieve three main objectives. One of them is to continue to put into place their apartheid blueprint and to clean up the apartheid map.

"At the national level homelands have been consolidated and boundaries redrawn; at the local level residential Group Areas continue to be enforced (despite pre-



DR Nora Chase of the World Council of Churches... addressed Black Sash conference.

election hopes of this Act being abolished) ..."

On the question of identity documents, with specific reference to the Identification Act of 1986 which phased out the issuing of IDs on a racial basis, the Johannesburg Advice Office of the Black Sash noted "We have reported over and over again about



BLACK Sash national president, Mrs Mary Burton... fighter for rights of the underprivileged.

positively ancient people who have been told they are too young to claim pensions because the computer says they were born several years after the true date of birth.

"(The Department of Home Affairs blames all this on the fact that many people are illiterate. Illiteracy is not synonymous with stupidity.

"Illiterate people can very often pinpoint the year in which they were born with a little careful questioning about events — drought, locusts, the great 'flu epidemic, General Smuts, the first 'Dutch War,' the Boer War, the Bambata Rebellion, the visit of King George VI to South Africa and so forth.

Blamed

"Mistakes do matter. White people take it for granted that their names should be spelt correctly. Black people are blamed for the mistakes in their IDs and are supposed to just put up with it," says the Johannesburg office.

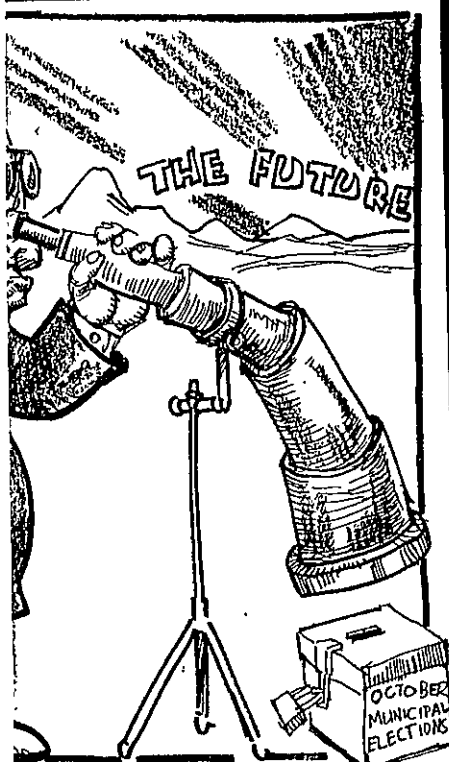
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"We believe him to be sincerely intent upon demonstrating to black South Africans that the pass laws have really gone but he is fighting a losing battle."

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Hence it was not surprising that the Sash tackled such topics as children in detention, militarisation, destabilisation, sanctions and SA's relations with the Frontline States.

December 10 is universally celebrated as Human Rights Day, a day which the Black Sash has resolved to observe. It would also campaign for the day to be observed as it is of "major relevance in Southern Africa."



Political comment in this issue by J Latakgomo and A Klaaste. Sub-editing, headlines and posters by S Matlhaku. All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg.

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SOBELMAN, MOUNDSBY
March 14, 1988

Some Jan 1988

GOVT'S 'DETENTION STRATEGY' SLATED

115



THE Black Sash yesterday said it was committed to monitoring and opposing the increasing repression in South Africa. It condemned "detention in the overall strategy of silencing opposition".

The organisation said at the end of its national conference held in Johannesburg that it noted an estimated 500 people were still detained for political reasons, many of them being held for 20 months.

"We also condemn the silencing of organisations which have had the courage to explore the scale and depth of inhumane treatment of the detention strategy."

The Black Sash said it also noted that the State was unlikely to relinquish its control of education which it described as the control of ideology.

"The sustained and venomous campaign directed against universities by the State and in much of the media in 1987 culminated in the promulgation of the De Klerk regulations. These regulations can be seen as a direct attack on those universities which are attempting to redress the historical injustices caused by Bantu Education."

Schools

"The Black Sash expresses its firm support to those universities which have rejected the conditions and urges them to continue to resist any interference," the organisation said.

The conference also urged its members to resist "the increasing militarisation" of schools, exercise their legal option for their sons not to participate in the cadet systems and encourage other parents to do the same.

• See Focus.

Black Sash: We promise to go on exposing Govt repression

The Black Sash, noting that about 1 500 people are still "incarcerated in political interment", tabled a resolution at its national conference in Johannesburg yesterday repeating its condemnation of the practice of detention "in the overall State strategy of silencing opposition".

"We also condemn the silencing of all organisations that have had the courage to explore the scale and depth of inhumane treatment of the detention strategy," the resolution said.

"We reaffirm our commitment to monitoring and opposing ever-increasing repression in South Africa."

The Black Sash also called on Brigadier Jac Buchner, of the SAP in Maritzburg, and on the Minister of Law and Order to release the estimated 800 to 1 000 detainees being held in Maritzburg's New Prison and Durban's Westville Prison.

The call was made in the wake of the conflict between Inkatha and non-Inkatha groupings in Natal, which had "severely affected the health, home life and education of thousands of people".

The resolution called on police and army members stationed in the Maritzburg townships and in townships across Natal "to do their duty to protect all residents from vigilante attacks".

The anti-apartheid organisation criticised the Government for continued forced removals, demolitions and evictions. It said there was no priority of State spending on housing for the poor and the very poor.

Housing for all could not be achieved until the Land Act and Group Areas Act were abolished.

The Black Sash also said it supported the stand taken by all conscientious objectors, and demanded the immediate release of Ivan Toms, who was jailed recently for refusing to serve in the defence force.

It reiterated its call for an end to conscription and "to the use of young men in an overt war in Angola and to their use in clandestine operations in South Africa and neighbouring states".

The "De Klerk regulations" on universities could be seen as a direct attack on "those universities which are attempting to redress the historical injustices caused by Bantu Education," the resolution added.

It urged universities to continue to resist any interference.

The "De Klerk regulations", by linking State subsidies to "freedom of expression and university autonomy", sought to "crush the climate of understanding" developing on certain campuses.

The State was unlikely to relinquish control of education because "control of education is control of ideology", the resolution said.

The "divisive strategies" of the different education departments "and the increasing use of police, security forces and the SADF in schools requires to be nationally monitored and exposed . . ."

The organisation urged its members to "identify and support progressive teachers. Members should resist the increasing militarisation of schools, exercise their legal option for their sons not to participate in the cadet system and encourage other parents to do the same." — Sapa.

THE theme of the Black Sash's 33rd national conference, Human Rights, became even more relevant last week when South Africans once again felt the effects of the Government's crackdown on anti-apartheid protests.

As the women discussed the state of the nation in Judith's Paarl, Johannesburg, on Friday, another drama unfolded a few kilometres away in Saratoga Avenue.

A group of Roman Catholic Church bishops, dressed in their ceremonial robes, stood outside the cathedral with placards protesting against the Government's restrictions on 18 organisations.

Hardly 24 hours later the Minister of Law and Order, Mr. Adriaan Vlok, announced in a special *Government Gazette* that the Committee for the Defence of Democracy was banned.

Mr Vlok justified the action by claiming that the African National Congress was attempting to use churches.

Black Sash president, Mrs Mary Burton, sombrely reflected on 500 years of South African history when she addressed a public meeting at the University of the Witwatersrand on Thursday night.

The meeting to launch the organisation's conference was addressed by the general secretary of the World Council of Churches, Dr Nora Chase, and the Rev. Frank Chikane, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches.

"This year marks anniversaries of special significance for South Africans," said Mrs Burton.

These were: 500 years since Bartholomeu Dias arrived on these shores; 300 years since the French Huguenots arrived and 40 years since the National Party came to power.

"In other circumstances there could be no harm in celebrating the achievements of those who have contributed to South Africa's history, and indeed the courage and determination and skills of the early travellers and settlers are worthy of praise," said Mrs Burton.

"Nevertheless, historical landmarks also remind us of the wrongs which were done in the name of exploration, colonisation and civilisation," she said.

Mrs Burton said indigenous people were often oppressed and exploited as their descendants are today.

Many people have, willy-nilly, criticised the Black Sash and labelled it as a group of white liberal women with a cosmetic concern for blacks.

However the organisation...



BLACK Sash national president, Mrs Mary Burton, fighter for rights of the underprivileged.

BLACK SASH: Keeping tabs on injustice

FOCUS

THEMBA MOLEFE reflects on the Black Sash's national conference which ended on a high note in Johannesburg yesterday.



DR Nora Chase of the World Council of Churches, addressed Black Sash conference.



section of a larger role. But it is an important contribution to understanding the whole.

These words bring to mind the hundreds of people queuing at the Black Sash's offices in Khotso's House, Johannesburg, in the hope that their problems would be solved.

Problems like housing, the influx control laws, birth certificates or identity documents are handled daily.

Objectives

To further illustrate the point, a report from the Western Cape region of Black Sash read in part: "The Government has used 1987 a period of enforced silence to achieve three main objectives. One of them is to continue to put into place their apartheid blueprint and to clean up the apartheid map."

At the national level, the 1986 which phased out the issuing of IDs on a racial basis, the Johannesburg Advice Office of the Black Sash noted: "We have reported over and over again about

positively ancient people who have been told they are too young to claim pensions, because the computer says they were born several years after the true date of birth.

(The Department of Home Affairs blames all this on the fact that many people are illiterate. Illiteracy is not synonymous with stupidity.

"Illiterate people can give very often pinpoint the year in which they were born with a little careful questioning about events — drought, locusts, the great flu epidemic, General Smuts, the first Dutch War, the Boer War, the Bambata Rebellion, the visit of King George VI to South Africa and so forth.

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Clampdown result of groups' effectiveness — Black Sash

JOHANNESBURG — The Black Sash said yesterday it would not allow the government to carry out its activities "under a cloak of secrecy," in the wake of the effective banings of 17 anti-apartheid organisations.

Mrs Mary Burton, Black Sash president, said in a statement the new emergency regulations and the clamp

on black dissent was a direct result of the organisations' effectiveness in "exposing the tactics of repression and detention used by the state against its opponents."



"Together with others throughout the country, we undertake to refuse to allow the government to carry out its activities under a cloak of secrecy."

she said.

11C

Mrs Burton said the National Detainees Day took on a "powerful significance this year, when the Detainees Parents Support Committee and other organisations have been prevented from voicing their concern for detainees."

It was estimated that there were 1 500 people in detention.

250 of whom were children, she said.

"We shall not allow them to be forgotten."

"We commit ourselves to continue to defend those who are voiceless and incarcerated."

The Black Sash supported the stand taken by all conscientious objectors, a resolution made at the group's national conference at the weekend said.

Over 40 on death row for political reasons

JOHANNESBURG. - Public interest in hangings had been heightened because more than 40 people currently on death row were political prisoners, the National Conference of the Black Sash in Johannesburg heard at the weekend.

Ms Sheena Duncan, National Advice Office director of the Black Sash, said the concern for these prisoners was "being translated into a wider concern for the many more people who are awaiting the day when they will be put to death".

More people than ever before were questioning capital punishment.

"We can push for an independent commission of inquiry. We can intensify efforts to persuade the State President to exercise his powers to grant clemency in all cases - not just in the case of political prisoners.

"We can do these things to get capital punishment abolished in our country," said Duncan.

If hangings were carried out in public the public would "at least know of the dreadful things that are done in their name".

"The citizens would see that death is not always instantaneous. They would know what the cold and deliberate taking of life means," she said.

Terror inflicted

Altogether 1 114 people had been hanged over the past ten years in South Africa. At the end of 1987 there had been 268 people on death row.

Those who are going to die are told seven days in advance of the date of their death.

"There can be no greater terror inflicted on any human being than knowing in advance the exact moment of one's death.

"The deliberate, planned killing of any person not only debases those who carry out the hanging and those who must witness it. It is the responsibility of all of us," said Duncan.

"To remain silent makes each of us a party to each judicial killing."

She pointed out that judges in South Africa and other countries had been divided on the issue of capital punishment. Some had spoken out against it while others had supported it.

Amnesty International asked the Black Sash in 1979 to "use all appropriate means to persuade members of the government and other relevant authorities of the need to achieve the total abolition of the death penalty in South Africa."

In 1969 MP Mrs Helen Suzman of the Progressive Party had introduced a motion in parliament asking the government to establish a commission of enquiry into capital punishment. The motion had been overwhelmingly defeated.

"The Minister of Justice argued that there was a negligible public demand for abolition," Duncan said.

More than 1 100 have been hanged in South Africa in the past 10 years.

The condemned on death row at Pretoria's Central Prison are told seven days in advance they are going to die.

"There can be no greater terror for any human being than knowing the exact moment of one's death", a conference was told at the weekend



Ms Sheena Duncan of the Black Sash

17-23/3/88 South

NEWS

The day I'll become a South African, by Black Sash chief



MARY BURTON

"Political situation has never looked so critical," she says.

Heading one of the most powerful women's anti-apartheid pressure groups in South Africa — with a membership of almost 2 000 — national Black Sash president Mrs Mary Burton says the political future is bleak.

Having dedicated more than 22 years of her life to working in the Sash — an all-absorbing interest — Mrs Burton (48) this week said that in her experience, the South African political situation had never looked as critical.

Closely involved in civil rights activities and based in Cape Town, Mary Burton is extremely concerned about South Africa's future. Under her leadership, the Sash has focused its latest campaign on the United Nations' universal declaration of Human Rights.

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and schooled in Brazil, Mary trained as a journalist.

After marrying a South African in Europe, she returned with him to this country in 1960 — the year of the Sharpeville shootings and the banning of the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress.

"Racial discrimination was glaringly evident. Brazil had problems, but only in South Africa were people sealed into poverty because of their skin colour," she explained.

Kept "baby bound" with four sons born in rapid succession, one of her first ventures into easing a political conscience was to run a soup kitchen on the Cape Flats. "I had never seen such poverty," Mary recalled.

But, she said, she felt she should be doing more than repair work — and wanted to tackle root causes.

Joining the Sash in the 1960s after membership was opened to all women (before that, it was for women voters only), she said she was catapulted into a view of society that white middle class women never saw.

And there was no turning back — the housewife who had "cooked while reading novels propped up on the stove" had found an outlet for her need to set right the injustices she saw around her.

In 1966 she was elected to the Western Cape regional council, she has served as treasurer and secretary and twice held the chair. In all

Star 19/3/88
Personality

MARY BURTON

Written by:
 PAT DEVEREAUX

her years of involvement she has only taken a four-year break — to study at university.

But an ambition to return to university to do an honours degree after her term as national president ends this year may be thwarted. She views "studying as too self-indulgent at this critical stage in South Africa's history".

"Yes, I am committed to Sash work," she said boldly, adding that her position was a full-time job. "When I get home in the evening I continue with political analysis — reading and researching for the organisation," she said.

Mary speaks Spanish, Portuguese and French fluently, and another

keen interest is the historical development of the novel. "I read anything and everything," she said.

"My family is very supportive of my work. I don't think I could have lived in South Africa for 27 years without belonging to the Black Sash," said Mary, who has kept her Argentinian passport.

This is not because she longs to escape this country's problems, but because she identifies with the many black South Africans who, she says, are refused their birth-right.

Asserting that she would never leave South Africa voluntarily, she said: "I will apply for South African citizenship the day black South Africans get their rights."

For Mrs Burton, the Black Sash is a vehicle for women not content to isolate themselves in white suburbia, protected from the realities of political life. It is for those who see dramatic changes coming and want to contribute.

"The type of membership is changing. We are attracting more and more career women and have

had to adapt our structures," she said.

Giving reasons for her continued involvement Mrs Burton said: "Black Sash is the first step to changing one's whole perception of what apartheid means to people in South Africa. The more one knows, the more impossible it is not to contribute".

As someone who helps administer an organisation which aids black South Africans navigate apartheid laws, Mrs Burton said: "There is a close link between the advice offices and our role as a pressuring body on the authorities.

"There are great fears in the white community, and we seem to be the non-racial bridge which can defuse those fears," she added. "One of our roles is to uphold justice and civil rights. It's not popular with the Government."

She advised all white South Africans who oppose the Government not to sit on the fence, but to "get involved in any organisation in which they feel comfortable — where they can use time, energy or money to promote what they believe in".

D/P 22/3/88
DV pensioners (11c)
go home empty
handed again (3)

EAST LONDON — A number of Duncan Village pensioners who were due to receive their pensions on March 8 have been told they will be paid out only on March 30.

The pensioners' last payout was in early January, as pensions are paid out every two months.

The pensioners, who had approached the Black Sash for help, said yesterday they had got up as early as 4 am on March 8 to join the queues at the paymaster's van.

At 4 pm, they were told that the paymaster had run out of money and that they should return on March 10.

The same thing happened on March 10, and they were told to return on March 30, more than three weeks after the original payout day.

Some of the pensioners were so desperate that they followed the paymaster's van to the paypoints in Wilsonia and Cambridge the next day, but they were told to wait until the end of March.

Twelve pensioners were at the Black Sash offices yesterday, but they said that more than 100 pensioners had been affected by the delay.

One of the women at the office said she was more than 100 years old and another gave her birth date as 1918.

The chairman of the Border Black Sash, Mrs Sue Power, said they appreciated the problems of the paymaster single-handedly having to pay out such vast numbers of pensions, but called on the Cape Provincial Administration immediately to increase the number of paymasters to ensure that pensioners were not forced to suffer delays.

A spokesman for the Department of Home Affairs said he was unable to get hold of the paymaster yesterday for comment but he would investigate the matter today. — DDR

JOURNALISTS and the Black Sash organisation mounted placard protests in Johannesburg yesterday demonstrating against the closure of *New Nation* by the Government.

New Nation, which publishes about 60 000 copies a week, read by

about 48 000 people, should have gone on sale yesterday. In terms of a Government Gazette notice, however, it will be closed until June.

More than 30 journalists held up protest notices on the pavements around the Bree, Sauer and

Simmonds Street intersections, up to Loveday Street. Thousands of people were headed to work at the time.

Many of the demonstrators tied handkerchiefs over their faces to ward off the concentrated vehicle exhaust fumes. Staff members of *New Nation*,

Weekly Mail and the *Star* took part on one side with the answer: "You're next" on the other.

The Black Sash also mounted a protest outside the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. Its placards read:

Demo in Joburg

15/3/88

Sheena Duncan: 'If the hangings were public . . .

If hangings were carried out in public at least the people would know of the dreadful things that are done in their name.

This was the opening statement by Mrs Sheena Duncan, former Black Sash president and a vice-president of the South African Council of Churches, in a working paper put to the recent Sash annual conference.

She continued: "The citizens would see that death is not always instantaneous. They would see that when men and women die in an extremity of fear their bowels may turn to water and they may defecate or urinate involuntarily.

"They would see that there are sometimes emissions of blood. They would know what the cold and deliberate taking of life means."

TEARGAS WAS USED

In a case reported in the Press in July 1981 it was disclosed that teargas was used to "calm down" four men who resisted when warders arrived to escort them to the gallows, Mrs Duncan recalled.

The prisons department statement on that occasion was: "It is of course always a possibility that a prisoner will refuse to leave his cell before his

delivery to the place of execution — but this occurs only as the rarest exception.

"Naturally verbal persuasion as a means of handling the situation will be used in the first place. Only when this fails will other measures, as dictated by the circumstances, be considered."

1 114 PEOPLE HANGED

In the last 10 years South Africa had hanged 1 114 people, Mrs Duncan calculated. At the end of 1987 there were 268 people on Death Row.

"There can be no greater terror inflicted on any human being than knowing in advance the exact moment of one's death," Mrs Duncan argued.

She added that when PFP MP Mr Dave Dalling raised questions about hangings in Parliament, the Minister of Justice appealed to him to withdraw the questions because the answers would be "too gruesome".

Mrs Duncan pointed out that even some judges hated the death penalty.

She quoted Mr Justice G. Coetzee, who retired in 1987, as saying: "I never counted how many people I sentenced to the death penalty. And I always felt awful when I did so. Usually I was unable to do anything else for the rest of that day."

An Easter weekend march down city streets

Weekly Mail Reporter

THE silencing of the voices of justice in South Africa through recent restrictions was a silencing of God, the director of Durban's ecumenical church agency, Diakonia, said this weekend.

Paddy Kearney was speaking at a dawn service on Good Friday organised by Diakonia, which included a procession of hundreds of people through the streets of the city centre.

The service focussed on the 18 organisations recently restricted and on the effective closure of *New Nation*, a newspaper published by the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference.

Linking the suffering theme of Good Friday with the suffering of people in South Africa for justice and freedom, Kearney said that just as "God was silenced on Good Friday", so the silencing of the voice of justice through detentions and restrictions could be called "a silencing of God."

"This is because the clamour for truth, justice and freedom is an expression of a God-given desire."

Kearney added, "Because this desire for truth, justice and freedom comes from God we rejoice that it cannot be permanently silenced."

During the service, 19 people stood gagged at the front of the Central Methodist Church, representing the 18 organisations and *New Nation*.

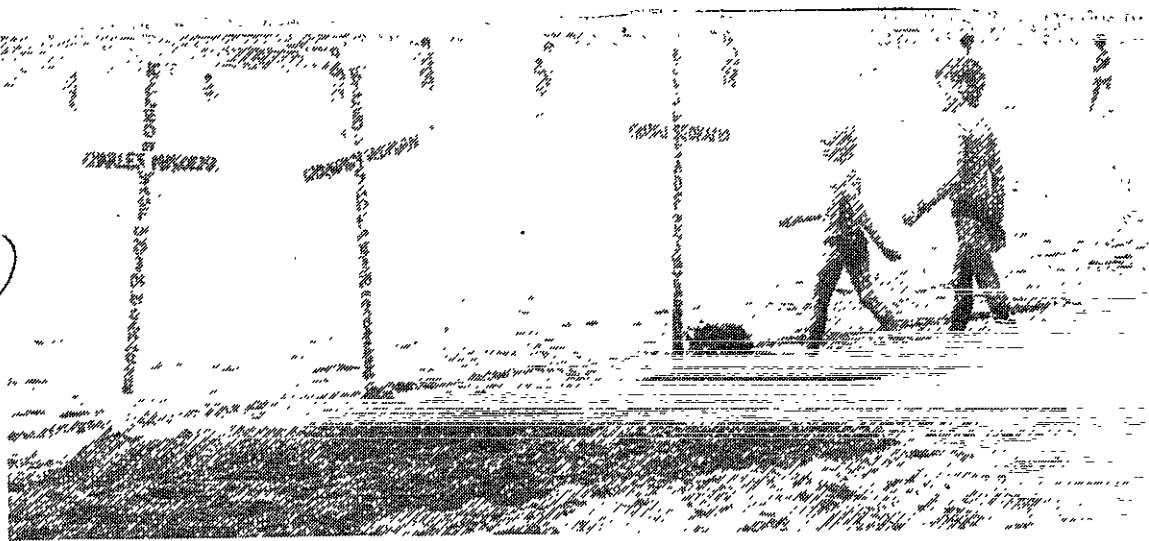
The 19, still gagged and carrying crosses, then joined a number of church leaders in leading a solemn procession through town.

After the service, Black Sash members staged a beach-front protest against the South African Defence Force raid into Gaborone last week.

The women built four mock grave mounds at Battery Beach One, in front of the SADF headquarters.

On each "grave" was a large cross inscribed with the name of one of the four, stating that he or she had been "killed by the SADF".

Members of the Black Sash said the protest was aimed at the raid which was "illegal under international law, ... would further isolate South Africa

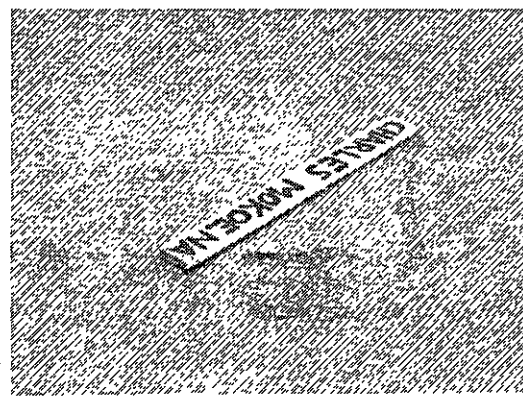


and (would) do nothing to encourage peaceful change."

After placing a wreath on one of the "graves" the Black Sash protesters held a brief, silent stand and then left the beach.

Less than half an hour later, after a number of curious bathers had read the cross inscriptions, a white man pulled up all four crosses and hurled them into the sea.

When the sea washed them back to shore, a group of other people helped him to jump on them, breaking the crosses into little pieces.



Black Sash protest crosses on Durban beach (top) are destroyed by an unknown man (above). All that remained was one raid victim's name lying in the sand (left)

Pictures: CARMEL RICKARD

w/m... 8-7-41-488

Daily Dispatch Reporter
EAST LONDON — An urgent appeal was made yesterday by the chairman of the Border region of the Black Sash, Mrs Sue Power, for measures to be taken to relieve the plight of the Cambridge squatters.

Mrs Power said living conditions were "pretty grim" for as many as 70 residents of the squatter camp who were squeezed into eight tents that did not keep out the rain.

"These people should be allowed to erect temporary shacks to house them satisfactorily dur-

DID 15/488 (11C) (1988)

Sash concerned about squatters' living conditions

ing the long wait for a more permanent solution," she said.

"We have even had offers from various concerned people to supply the necessary building materials."

Mrs Power said that although the city council had agreed, in principle, for an emergency camp to be set up while they looked into a suitable solution for the entire squatter problem in East London, she felt that the council had failed to recognise the urgency of the problem.

"Fortunately the council has rectified a problem with a sewerage overflow which had previously created a major health hazard," she said.

The MP for East Lon-

don North, Mr Calle Badenhorst, said yesterday that he was unaware of any progress so far.

"It is a difficult situation because an MP is accountable to the taxpayer as to how their money is spent.

"If I satisfy one group I would have to satisfy all the people with this problem and this would be too much of a burden for the taxpayer," he said.

Mr Badenhorst said that once a scheme had



MRS POWER

been worked out for East London's squatters then the group in question would be given preference.

'Wild rats' of the townships

W. H. H. 15-2114/88

A survey of municipal police tells of thefts and violence

A Black Sash study argues that the 'hidden agenda' of municipal police is to divide communities and disrupt political organisations, reports
FRANZ KRÜGER

MUNICIPAL police forces have brought "terror and disorganisation" into Eastern Cape communities, the Black Sash says in a new study.

Entitled "Greenflies: Municipal police in the Eastern Cape", the study is based on affidavits and statements collected by the Albany, Cape Eastern and Border regions of the Black Sash, supplemented by material from the archives of East Cape lawyers.

The title refers to a popular nickname for the force, which is also referred to by township residents as "the wild rats", "the opposers" or "amachaka" (Zulu boys).

The Sash says it embarked on the study as there was concern at the large number of complaints laid against the force, alleging thefts, assaults, evictions, beatings, torture and midnight arrests.

In one case cited, an unnamed resident of Kwazakhele was at home when six policemen kicked his door down and demanded to know where his gun was kept. He explained he did not own one and was accused of being a street committee member.

He was taken to a building where he was handcuffed to a chair and hit with rifle butts. After several hours, "the policemen placed a tyre around his neck and lit it, having poured methylated spirits around the rim".

The man, identified only as Mr MT, managed to throw the tyre on to the floor and put out the flames on his neck with his hands. After several more hours, he was released.

The "hidden agenda" behind the introduction of municipal police was revealed by the "pattern of abuses", the study says.

"They are intended to divide communities and disrupt organisation."

Although they are presented by the government as maintaining law and order, "the main thrust of their activities involve random acts of violence directed at political opponents of the government, both real and imagined. These actions help create a climate of fear," the study says.

By recruiting from within the communities, "the state is able to sow division and by creating another, cheaper police force it has increased its ability to deal with the unrest — using black faces instead of white ones. This distances white forces from the frontline and reinforces the handy myth of 'black-on-black vio-

A case which horrified a court

IN a case study from Port Elizabeth, the Black Sash report recounts the case of five policemen convicted of indecent assault and attempted rape.

The case prompted one of the presiding magistrates to express his outrage at the crimes, and to call for an "investigation into the system" of municipal police.

Three black constables, Leonard Nyamiso Puzi, Cobert Zwani, and Telson Madolo, and two white sergeants, Francois Swanepoel and Keith Hackart, were sentenced to terms of imprisonment between three and 13 years.

According to evidence by their victims, Princess Ntswaki Qaulana and Morris Vuyo Dingani, the two were arrested by council police in October 1986 and taken to the force's offices, where Qaulana was assaulted, smothered with a plastic bag, kicked, stripped naked and sexually as-

saulted. Dingani was similarly treated.

The couple were forced to perform indecent attacks and have sexual intercourse "while the police urged them on with kicks and burning cigarette ends".

"Sgt Swanepoel asked the black constables if they wanted to have intercourse with the victim. They all refused.

"Finally, Qaulana and Dingani were locked up in an outside room and kept without water or food until the following night. Before they were released, Sgt Hackart, Sgt Swanepoel and Const Zwani threatened they would be necklaced if they laid a complaint," the Sash report says.

The magistrates who heard the cases described the treatment they were subjected to as "barbarism of the Dark Ages" and called for an "investigation into the system" of municipal police. — Elnews

lence'."

From 260 incidents of municipal police activity brought to the attention of Black Sash branches, the study isolates three main trends:

Firstly, the municipal police are used to strengthen the power of the community councillors.

"Municipal policemen are used to guard the homes of councillors, to act as their personal bodyguards and to carry out some of their tasks such as the eviction of rent defaulters."

Secondly, they act as auxiliaries of the South African Police, "especially with regard to the work of the security police.

"A number of cases studied describe municipal police arresting and interrogating residents on suspicion of carrying out acts of political violence or of belonging to political organisations."

The third trend outlined involves co-operation between the force and rightwing vigilantes, and the induction of vigilantes themselves into the force.

In Uitenhage, for instance, the municipal police were drawn into the feud between United Democratic Front groups and the Ama-Afrika vigilante group, "and were soon seen to be acting alongside or as backup to these vigilantes".

In one instance cited, four young girls alleged they were abducted by Ama-Afrika and then handed over to the municipal police who "continued to beat them, abuse them and threaten their lives".

The force emerged in Eastern Cape townships in April 1986, although enabling legislation had been passed as far back as 1977. By July 1986,

there were 429 municipal police in the region in 19 townships.

They are not a wing of the SAP and therefore do not have full police powers. "However, they have 'a special relationship' with the SAP."

They are trained by the SAP, and a commander oversees their operations, but they remain responsible to black local authorities.

They receive training for three months in subjects ranging from criminal law and practical shooting to family planning.

Salaries of between R224 and R622 were offered when the force was first introduced. The Sash comments: "With unemployment running at an estimated 60 percent in some areas, and an average wage in Grahamstown in the region of R50 per month, the municipal police jobs must appear very tempting."

The individuals recruited were sometimes former "comrades" and generally held political attitudes that were "highly conservative and at times confused".

One policeman is quoted as saying: "This place is like Ouma's house, it is so peaceful since the Emergency. I see no problems that can be attributed to the State of Emergency. Except that children get arrested and their parents suffer a lot.

"But now everyone is afraid of going to jail without any reason, no-one is causing trouble."

Another policeman resigned after a month of service. He had joined because he thought "the work would be settling quarrels between people, helping people to find houses, pay rent. I did not know it would involve me in robbery and assault." — Elnews

Black Sash to play a new role in future

DURBAN — One of South Africa's most respected protest groups, the Black Sash, will extend its future role in the search for peaceful change in the country, said Natal chairman Mrs Ann Colvin yesterday.

She said that while the Black Sash was basically a protest organisation in the past, it was now going to play a wider role in seeking a non-racial democratic alternative.

The first Sash move in Durban will be a public meeting on April 22, when three leading democrats — former Progressive Federal Party MP Dr Alex Boraine, the Rev Wesley Mabusu of the South African Council of Churches and Professor Abraham Viljoen, who was part of the group who went to Dakar to meet the African National Congress — will give their views on an alternative government for South Africa.

Mrs Colvin said negotiations were under way to have Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, former leader of the Opposition in Parliament, to address the meeting.

Unless otherwise stated, political comment in this issue is by H W Tyson, content approved by R G Anderson and J M Patten, and political cartoons by D. Anderson, all of 47 Sauer Street, Johannesburg.

11C
SM
15/4/88

D/D 23/4/88 (112) 2/2

Black Sash report reveals complaints about police

JOHANNESBURG — Municipal police form part of the state's efforts to fill the vacuum left by the disruption of community organisations and to coerce support for "responsible" black local authorities.

According to a recent Black Sash publication, this is the "common thread" revealed in a detailed study of 260 incidents of municipal police activity brought to the attention of Black Sash branches in the Eastern Cape between April 1986 and July 1987.

Entitled *Greenflies, Municipal police in the*

Eastern Cape, the publication was compiled by members of the Black Sash in response to "concern by human rights campaigners over alleged municipal police attacks".

The report is based on affidavits and statements and is supplemented by material from lawyers archives.

The Sash says that besides the imposition of the states of emergency, the state developed other strategies to disrupt the pattern of black community loyalties.

Early in 1986, alongside vigilante groupings, municipal policemen

and the hastily-recruited black police auxiliaries known as "kitskonstabels" began to emerge.

"By mid-1987, reports from township residents were alleging that municipal police were guilty of large-scale abuses of power."

In Duncan Village, the Sash says the use of legal strategies has paid off for residents.

No fewer than 63 complaints had been made to the South African Police in Duncan Village between November 1986 and June 1987.

It was also revealed

that 195 complaints had been made about municipal police activity throughout the Eastern Cape, while none had been made in the other three provinces.

The Sash says township residents use various names of their own for the force: "magodolos" (the opposers), "amangundwane" (the wild rats), amachaka (Zulu boys) and "impukane eluhlaza" (greenfly).

"Reactions in the various townships range from suspicion to open hatred and violent reprisal," the report said.

Capr Times 30/7/88 (11C (1600) 107)

Black Sash member in court

A BLACK SASH field worker, Ms Annemarie Hendriks, appeared in the George Magistrate's Courts yesterday after she was arrested in the Lawaai kamp area after a planned demonstration by residents, against President P W Botha, was dispersed.

Ms Hendriks was not asked to plead and her case has been postponed until July 1.

A charge of refusing to obey an instruction by a member of the police force in terms of the emergency regulations is being investigated against her.

Another member of the Black Sash, Mrs Lu Harding, was questioned yesterday by the police.

Police headquarters in Pretoria said members of the riot unit saw about 60 men and women displaying placards in the Lawaai kamp area and they were warned to disperse.

● President Botha was scheduled to pass by the area during his visit to George to open a new section of the N2 freeway.

Pretoria Correspondent

The defence counsel for the 19 people accused of treason in the so-called Delmas trial yesterday called on Mrs. Sheena Duncan, a former president of the Black Sash, to give evidence.

The trial, in which some of the accused are former United Democratic Front executive members and trade unionists, asked Mrs. Duncan to testify on the Black Sash's opposition to constitutional development in South Africa.

She told Mr. Justice van Dijkhorst she had been a member of the Black Sash since 1963 and

Sheena Duncan testifies in Delmas trial

was currently national co-ordinator of the Black Sash's advice office.

She said that in the beginning the Black Sash was "purely a protest movement" with 10 000 members. It later became a smaller organisation fighting for human and civil rights in South Africa.

"The main objective of the Black Sash is to work for justice and democracy in South Africa. We are a political pressure group and we took an active part in opposing constitutional development

in the country." She told the court she was at a meeting during

July 1977 of the organisation's then vice-president, Mrs. Joyce Harris.

The meeting dealt with the constitutional proposals and was attended by members of churches, trade unions and the Urban Foundation.

A copy of Mrs. Harris's introductory speech was handed to the court.

An ad hoc committee was founded at this meeting and existed until November 1983. The committee explored ways of

taking united action and seeking unity.

Mrs. Duncan said it never became a large movement. She said these meetings were not secret and, as it called for united action, members of the various organisations were asked to discuss issues discussed in the ad hoc committee with their organisations.

HOMELANDS POLICY

The ad hoc committee concerned itself with constitutional structures in South Africa, she said.

Mrs. Duncan told the

court the Black Sash took an active part in voicing its opposition to the homelands policy and the black local authorities legislation.

A document she wrote, entitled "You and the New Pass Laws", was handed to the court.

A copy of this document was found in one of the accused's possession. She said this document suggested to people what they could do to oppose the new legislation.

Mrs. Duncan told the court that statements, such as "violent conflict

is inevitable", which she had made at various meetings, were not meant to incite violence.

Mrs. Duncan told the court that a personal and major concern of hers was the way the Government and the authorities created an image of the enemy.

"It is a recurring theme in my speeches. It is important to realise who we are fighting against. We are fighting brothers, sons and fathers — all part of our people.

"The enemy is not an anonymous mass coming from abroad to attack our borders," she said.

The case is proceeding.

By Jo-Anne Collinge

How do you house more than 800 000 homeless families when only about 25 out of every 100 blacks are in a financial position to contribute towards the costs of housing?

Star 4/5/88
Housing prospect is bleak for homeless

11C

This is the question posed in a joint paper by the Agency for Industrial Mission (AIM), the Black Sash (Transvaal) and the Urbanisation Working Group.

The paper, "Homes for the Have-nots: How?", highlights the huge gap between supply and demand in respect of land, housing and finance for housing.

It points out that the National Building Research Institute's Dr DT de Vos has put the housing backlog, excluding the homelands, at 832 000 units.

The paper contrasts the cost of housing with the income of the homeless.

Estimates by the NBRI put the proportion of black people who could afford a building society bond of R20 000 or more at only 12 percent, it says.

The majority of shack-dwellers in the PWV area, who form a large proportion of the homeless in the region, fall into the R101 to R400 household-income bracket, research by the Black Sash, AIM and the Urbanisation Working Group has shown.

The South African Housing Trust, servicing sites at a cost of less than R4 000 a stand and providing a 50 sq m house on it, could offer a home at R14 000. Because the SAHT subsidises interest rates, the repayments would be about R17 a month, the authors of the paper calculate.

Even if the SAHT succeeds in its quest to develop

housing units at below R5 000 each, massive problems exist in areas other than cost, it is argued.

The shortage of land is one of these. Amendments to the Group Areas Act have allowed land in "buffer zones" separating "black" and "white" areas to be used for housing, if the provincial authorities approve.

But, the paper points out, this provision has not been used swiftly, and, while 3 900 ha has been made available for black housing construction in the PWV in the past two years, more than 26 000 ha are still needed in that area.

Limited construction capacity is another restraining factor, the authors argue. To eliminate the backlog, about 200 000 new homes are needed annually and the SAHT estimates that the building industry could cater for about 70 000 units a year outside of the homelands.

Finally, the paper claims, Government policy remains a major stumbling block.

Pretoria retains its policy of "deconcentration" of population — and aims to develop huge "commuter" towns to prevent the drift of workseekers to the PWV. In line with this policy, allocation of land for black housing in the PWV is restricted by laws such as the Group Areas Act and Black Communities Development Act.

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Professor Marinus Wiechen

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Powersharing plans

Sowetan
19/15/88

113

THE implementation of the proposals in the KwaZulu/Natal Indaba are not for independence or sovereign self-rule, Dr Oscar Dhlomo, KwaZulu Minister of Education and Culture said last night.

Dr Dhlomo, who is also co-convenor of the KwaZulu/Natal Indaba, was addressing members

of the East London Chamber of Commerce.

The theme of the meeting was: "What the KwaZulu/Natal Indaba offers for a future dispensation in South Africa."

He said: "The proposals are for powersharing and provincial government for the region in limited areas of jurisdiction.

"The control of certain crucial areas of government such as the military, the police, economic and foreign affairs would remain vested in central government, to which the region would continue to owe full allegiance," said Dr Dhlomo.

He added that the region will decide for itself on education, health and housing matters.

Charges laid

FOURTEEN Black Sash members received court summonses on the eve of their planned protest against apartheid at Durban's City Hall yesterday, marking the organisation's 33rd anniversary.

They are to appear in the Durban Regional Court on June 6 charged with attending an illegal gathering on February 26 this year when they stood along Berea Road protesting against the banning of 17 organisations, including the UDF and Cosatu.

Sowetan 20/5/88

(11C)

Own Correspondent
DURBAN — Progressive
Federal Party MP Mr
Peter Soal is angry at the
"different" treatment
meted out by police to
Black Sash demonstra-
tors recently and to anti-
Archbishop Desmond
Tutu protesters at air-
ports this week.

The Johannesburg
North MP said last
week's anti-Tutu protests,
which went off almost
without incident, con-
trasted sharply with the
demonstration in which
armed police moved in
on 28 Black Sash mem-
bers staging a peaceful
demonstration in Cape
Town.

Soal questions police treatment of demos

110 (15) SKV 23/5788

He wanted to know
why police had demanded
that the anti-Tutu plac-
ards, held at airports in
Johannesburg and Cape
Town on his arrival back
from abroad, be removed
only "after SABC-TV had
conveniently been al-
lowed to film them".

Mr Soal said he was
not opposed to demon-
strations but was against
police acting selectively.

A police spokesman in

Pretoria said the holding
of placards was against
the law, and police had
asked those holding them
to leave.

An eye-witness at Jan
Smuts Airport said the
demonstrators, said to be
unemployed members of
the Inkatha-affiliated
United Workers Union of
South Africa, walked into
the airport building "and
sat down quietly".

They had placards and

a banner, which they had
kept hidden until Arch-
bishop Tutu arrived.

Then they suddenly un-
furled them and stood
holding them as he en-
tered the arrivals hall.

Police "had no time" to
prevent them from doing
so, the witness said.

At Cape Town's DF
Malan Airport Archbish-
op Tutu was met by a
group of about 20 plac-
ard-waving students

from the National Stu-
dents Federation.

There was also a
crowd of cheering well
wishers from the Angli-
can church.

The placards used in
the demonstrations in-
cluded the slogans "Tutu,
are your children hun-
gry?" and "Sanctions kill
the poor, not the rich".

Mr Soal said the recent
protest by 28 Black Sash
members in Cape Town
resulted in a large squad
of armed police closing
in on the demonstrators
in a "mad over-reaction".

"The two demonstra-
tions seem to have been
treated very differently
indeed," he said.

Black Sash members in court

DURBAN — Fourteen Black Sash members appeared in the Durban Regional Court yesterday on charges of holding an illegal gathering. (11)

They are Ms Patricia Clark (42) of Berea, Mr Dalles Harris (19) of Durban North, Mr Graham Barber (18) of the University of Natal, Durban, Ms Bridgette Engelbrecht (27) of Berea, Ms Olga Potgieter (36) of Glenwood, Ms Christina Lucia (40) of Manor Gardens, Ms Janice Mary Moon (30) of Glenwood, Ms Ann Claude (20) of Berea, Ms Laura Washington (26) of Overport, Mr Dorion Mark Cameron (19) of Glenwood, Mr Shawn van Wyk (18) of Amanzimtoti, Ms Penelope McKenzie (21) of Overport, Ms Elizabeth Mary Ardington (45) of Mandini, and Ms Patricia Steele of Greyville (58).

They will be tried on August 2. — Sapa.

Black Sash director detained

The director of a Black Sash advice office in Grahamstown, Miss Janet Small, was taken into custody in the early hours yesterday, a Sash spokesman in Johannesburg said.

She said Miss Small's parents had been informed their daughter was being held in terms of the emergency regulations.

Her duties for the Sash centre were on developing advice facilities in towns around Grahamstown. The work was mainly para-legal, involving the organisation of legal aid, the making of unemployment and pension claims and the solving of problems with personal documentation.

June 16: important for SA's whites as well

Star 15/6/76 (B) (11C)

June 16 is not just another day, writes the Black Sash Education Committee.

Black schools are closed. Private schools have their half-term break. The liberal universities hold no classes. White schools enforce extra security measures. June 16 is not just another day in the education calendar.

On June 16 1976, police shot demonstrating Soweto students. Hector Peterson, a 13-year-old primary school pupil, was the first child killed by police action.

Flashpoint for the Soweto rebellion was the State's decision to implement the 50-50 rule in the final year of primary school. What this meant in practice was that black school children would have to learn half their subjects through the medium of English and the other half through the medium of Afrikaans.

This was rejected by the black community. But it was only one aspect of the dissatisfaction with Bantu Education.

Bantu Education, imposed in 1955, aimed to perpetuate a rigid racial segregation in education and to ensure that the "native who attends . . . school will know that to a great extent he must be the labourer in the country." (Eiselen report 1951). Dr Verwoerd in a speech delivered to the Senate on June 7 1954, said, "there is no place for the Bantu in the European community above the level of certain forms of labour".

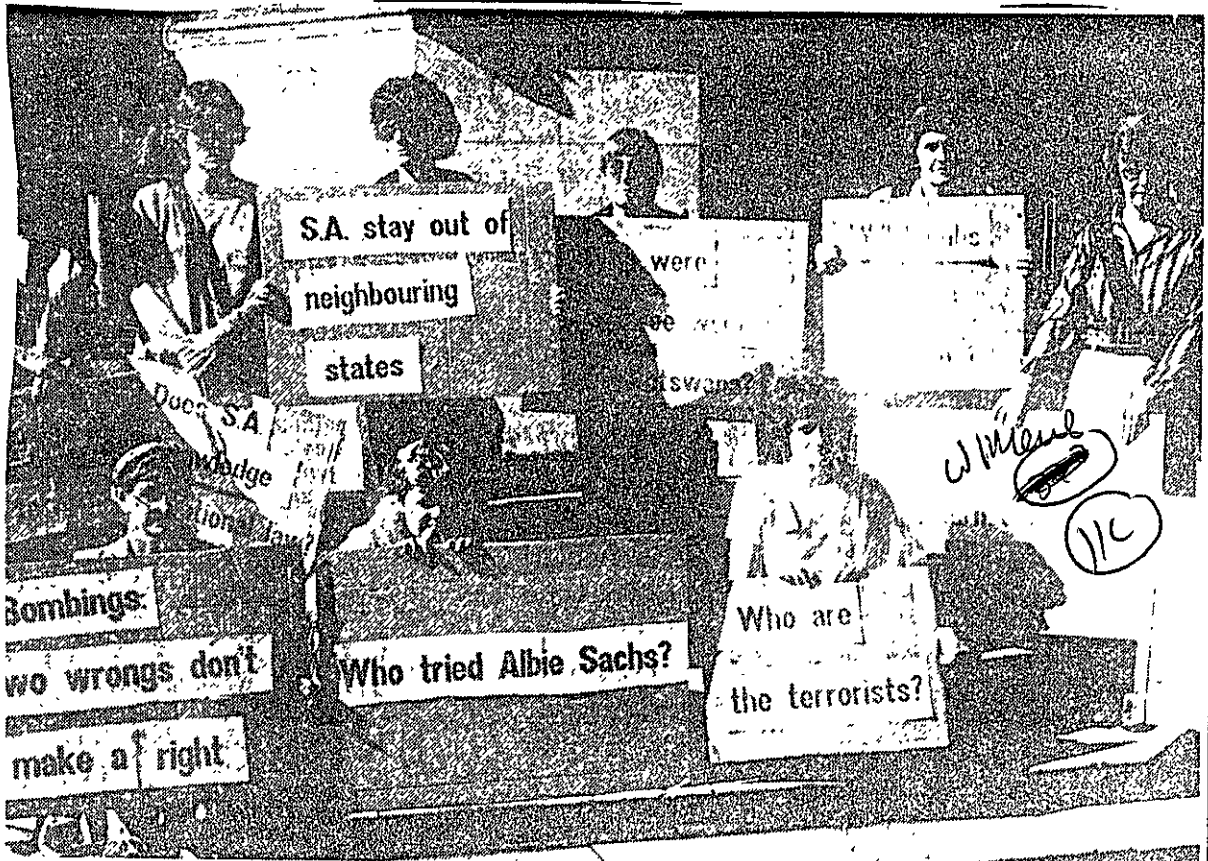
The material provisions of black schooling have been directed towards the achievement of these aims. Where white schools have media centres, school halls, swimming pools and gymnasia, black schools in contrast lack electricity, duplicating facilities and books. In addition there are huge disparities in staff-student ratios and in the number of qualified teachers.

Can students be blamed for rebelling against such an education system? Given the effectiveness of state repression, the continued resistance to "Bantu education" is a testimony to the strength and determination of people to resist domination.

For the majority of South Africans, June 16, Soweto Day, is a national day of remembrance. June 16 is a day on which to remember that critical questions about education need to be asked. It reminds us that black children have been perceptive enough to ask such questions.

Some white South Africans see June 16 as part of an "alternative" calendar which has nothing to do with them. It is time for them to recognise that white education is in no less need of serious challenge. It too serves the interests of the State and by fostering racism, sexism and elitism, bolsters apartheid.

June 16 is an important day for us all.



This photograph has led to Internal Security Act charges against Maritzburg's Black Sash protestors. They had permission to hold their monthly picket — but not to pose for a photograph beforehand. They are being charged for gathering illegally. *30-24-301688*

Picture: JONATHAN KAPLAN

Black Sash pamphlet ban

CAPE TOWN — A pamphlet produced by the Black Sash, Mowbray, titled "Remember Namibia, Remember Kassinga," has been banned for distribution, the Directorate of Publications announced yesterday.

Fourteen issues of Muslim News (Muslim News Publications, Athlone), were declared not undesirable provided they were confined and made available in the normal manner in legal deposit and university libraries only.

The issues are Vol 18 No 17, 15 September 1978; Vol 18 No 23, 15 Dec 1978; Vol 19 No 11, 15 June 1978; Vol 19 No 18, 5 Oct 1979; Vol 19, No 19, 19 Oct 1979; Vol 20 No 6, 25 April 1980; Vol 20 No 8, 9 May 1980; Vol 20 No 9, 23 May 1980; Vol 20 No 10, 6 June 1980; Vol 20 No 12, 4 July 1980; Vol 20 No 15, 22 Au-

gust 1980; Vol 21 No 12, 19 June 1981; Vol 21 No 23, 11 Dec 1981; and Vol 18 No 16, 1 Sept 1978.

The same conditions applied to "Southern Africa Report, Vol 3 No 5 May 1988" (TCLSAC).

A Publications Committee has, on review, ruled David McLellan's "Marx's Grundrisse" was not undesirable, while possession of "Leninism" by Joseph Stalin, and Muslim News, Vol 18 No 16, Friday 1 Sept 1978 (Muslim News Publications, Athlone) were no longer prohibited.

During the past week 11 films were submitted for examination of which five were unconditionally and four conditionally approved. Two films, "Secrets of Naughty Susan," and "The Boys in Company C" (review), were rejected.

From yesterday it was an offence to

import and/or distribute the following (author/producer in brackets)

"C" stimulation, his and her series; and "P" stimulation, his and her series (both produced by David Anthony)

Jalousien (Ane Schmidt)
Die Foto-Falle; and Die Nymphe (both produced by Gustaf Valentin)
Erregende Stille (Olympia Press, Deutschland)

Elternabend, and Die Parfumerte Falle (both produced by Kirsten Weinreut).

Ein Sommer Auf Dem Lande (Gustave Droz).

Des Guten Zuviel, erotische kriminal stories (Bastei-Lubbe-Taschenbuch, Western Germany).

Scharfe Katzen, Wilde Kater Orgas 63 (Terry Shaffer).

Beau Valley and Country Club — nine photos of nude girls (Beau Valley Country Club, Warmbaths)

Frank: Vol 1 No 118 (Sonskyn Uitgewers (Pty) Ltd, Jeppe, Johannesburg)

Human figure in motion postcards (General Publishing Co Ltd, Toronto).

AWEPAA News Bulletin No 18 April 1988 (AWEPAA, Netherlands).

Historic tours of Alexandra township — pamphlet (not stated).

International Viewpoint, issue No 141 May 16, 1988 (Press-Edition-Communication, Montreal)

Justice and Service No 4 Vol 3 April 1983 (Justice and Service, Harare).

New Perspectives 3/88 Vol 18 (Information Centre of the World Peace Council, Helsinki).

10 Years of Heroic Struggle (Nanso, UWC).

Youth in Exile 1-5 March 1988 (World Alliance of YMCAs Geneva, Switzerland). — Saga

Squatters will be even worse off

Star 27/6/81

Black Sash hits

out at new Bill

extension of black areas will meet the need

"It is a current and politically expedient myth that the spill of people into all the 'wrong' places is the result of abolishing influx control."

It pointed out that the numbers of black people living in the metropolitan areas of South Africa had been grossly underestimated because their presence in the urban areas was unlawful.

"Hundreds of thousands of black people are homeless on the Witwatersrand. Millions more are in the same sad situation throughout the country."

The Transvaal region of the Black Sash has endorsed the views of the Urbanisation Working Group, saying that it was hard to believe that South Africans were willing to endorse such vicious actions against their fellow citizens for a situation which was not of their creation.

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The Prevention of Illegal Squatting Bill is a punitive and negative response to a situation beyond the control of those the new measure seeks to punish, says the Urbanisation Working Group of the Black Sash.

The group predicts that people will be worse off under the Bill, which was tabled in Parliament 10 days ago, than they were under influx control.

It considers that the proposed law is a negation of the White Paper outlining the Government's stance on urbanisation.

Such coercive legislation was only necessary because of the authorities' failure to put into practice the positive aspects of the "orderly urbanisation" policy, it stated.

"We said in 1986 that unless affordable, good land was urgently made available in large quantities, so that people could make their homes close to where they find work, the policy would fail.

"This was not done. It is doubtful whether the land now allocated for



The Tshabalala family stand on the ground that was their home until it was demolished by Germiston City Council employees on Friday. Picture by Jacob Rykloff.

Helping people fight apartheid laws

5 Feb 11/7/86

110



The hot seat . . . trainee Mr Nicholas Matsepe (22) listens to a query while other people wait their turn.

The Johannesburg advice office of the Black Sash, on the first floor of Khotso House in De Villiers Street, is a sorting place for issues relating to harsh and discriminatory legislation which black South Africans face under apartheid, says chief case worker Mrs Beulah Rollnick.

The office is run mainly by a small group of white, middle-class, middle-aged women working on a voluntary, unpaid basis.

A total of 12 067 people came for advice at the office last year. Of these, 4 013 of those people returned for further advice, totalling 16 090 visits.

These figures do not include the large number of queries received by post or telephone, nor letters from prisoners.

The Johannesburg branch, which opened in 1962, dealt mainly with the pass laws until they were repealed two years ago.

It now deals with subsequent legislation affecting blacks.

Problems with identity documents, especially the difficulty in obtaining one and the mistakes that are made when they are issued, have been high on their list of priorities over the past two years.

Other queries include people who do not have

THE BLACK SASH

JANET HEARD reports on those in the forefront of the struggle for justice. JOHN HOGG took the pictures

birth certificates and therefore cannot prove they were born in Johannesburg and have thus found it difficult to obtain an ID book.

The most common queries, however, are labour-related. The office is open all day every weekday and is inundated with people not knowing what to do when they are fired, retrenched, dismissed, or have received no pension or unemployment insurance.

A case worker said people know money is owed to them, but due to the vagueness of their terms of employment and the red tape involved, they do not know how to go about receiving it.

The office deals with up to 120 cases a day, each worker speaking to up to 18 people a day.

The Star visited the offices for a day this week. There were 12 workers giving advice in three overcrowded rooms.

The reception area was packed to capacity and there was a queue outside the doors. People arrive early in the morning to ensure assistance.

Apart from advice work, the cases form a research basis upon which people do studies on homelessness and urbanisation.

There are 10 advice offices around the country. Last year, 44 people received advice office training.

"We no longer intend to list the places where they come from as advice offices in many places have become targets of the security forces and vigilantes," advice office director Mrs Sheena Duncan said in last year's annual report.

She said one office had been burnt down, several had been closed as a consequence of detentions of the workers, one worker was murdered soon after being released from detention and one office was closed by order of the local magistrate.

The women have different motivations as to why they offer their time to a cause such as this.

A trainee, Mrs Joyce Smith, who has been working for three weeks, said: "A person cannot sit and be a lady when there are people in need. This is why I do this voluntary work."

"There is so much one needs to know. You help the people where you can, the objective being to try and send them away happier than when they came in," she said.

Unravelling tragedy tangled in red tape

Chief case worker at the Johannesburg Black Sash advice office, Mrs Beulah Rollnick, sat calmly at her desk questioning a man who had come from Sebokeng to seek advice.

He had cerebral palsy and sat next to her in a wheelchair which had no tyres.

He wanted a wheelchair. The broken one he had was borrowed and he had nowhere else to go for help.

He handed her a piece of paper with his name, "Richard", written on it. Names are confidential.

Richard came out of prison in November after spending 18 months inside after being found guilty of possession of dagga.

"How can anybody put a man in this condition in jail?" Mrs Rollnick said.

Mrs Rollnick immediately telephoned Cripple Care and other centres. She wanted to clear the issue up without him having to travel to the office a second time.

Richard was nervous. He could not get to the toilet and was forced to relieve himself in an orange juice carton.

Mrs Rollnick (61), the only fulltime case worker, is committed to helping those in need to help themselves.

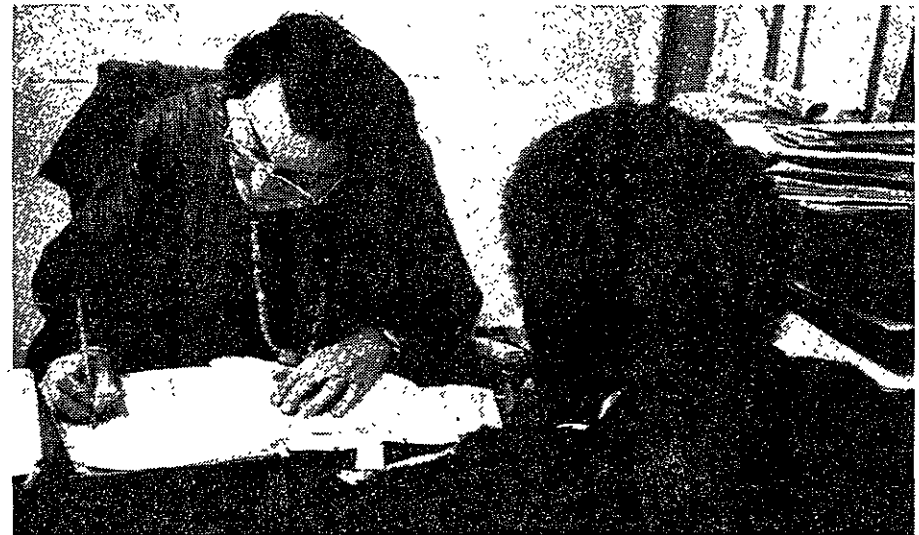
Most of the everyday issues dealt with by the Sash go unreported.

Mrs Rollnick gave advice to many people the day The Star team spent with her, in between assisting voluntary advice trainees and answering the telephone.

"What is your problem? Are you a citizen of the TBVC states? Are you a permanent resident in South Africa? Are you eligible for South African citizenship? Have you been to the Department of Home Affairs?" These are just some of the questions she asks those seeking help.

"The law is vague and continually changing, especially with regard to citizenship issues.

"There is so much bureaucracy. People do



A helping hand . . . Mrs Beulah Rollnick aids a woman with identity document problems.

not know where to go, who to see, or what to do, especially in the labour field.

"I prefer people to stand up and fight the cases themselves, which they are usually capable of doing. It is important for people to understand the issues involved.

"The problem is that people don't know how to stand up to officialdom.

"I will sometimes write letters to government departments, especially Home Affairs regarding citizenship and Manpower regarding employment, but the people must take the letters themselves and deal with the issues from there," she said.

Mrs Rollnick knows the names and addresses of all the relevant government departments people must visit off by heart.

She said anger at the "system" is what motivated her most.

Other issues Mrs Rollnick dealt with that day were:

● A woman from Diepkloof who wished to get a court order against her son-in-law who had not paid maintenance for his two children since November 1986.

● "Emmanuel" from Mohlakeng, who was retrenched in 1987 from the Transvaal Provincial Administration after working there for nearly 10 years. He was paid out R704 in total. He received R302 a month until he was retrenched.

Mrs Rollnick was particularly perturbed at his case.

"Employers behave appallingly, but we can do nothing in this case. The law is on the employer's side. Morally it is disgusting, but legally it is correct. We are not in a position to fight the law," she said.

● Ten people who were retrenched from Pearson Manufacturing Company in Industria West, Johannesburg, came to inquire why they received such low compensation. One worker received R600 after working for 20 years.

Acts of terrorism against ECC workers

CAT 7/1/88 *(S)* *(S)* *(11c)*

From B RUNCIMAN, Regional
Chair, The Black Sash
(Mowbray):

THE Black Sash has always
been very proud of its close
association with the End Con-
scription Campaign.

We heard recently that cer-
tain of the members of the End
Conscription Campaign have
been severely harassed.

During the recent "know
your rights" campaign, posters

were pulled down, two venues
of meetings were teargassed
beforehand and were there-
fore unusable and one of the
venues had signs put up false-
ly announcing that the meet-
ing was cancelled.

Various individuals have
had obscene phone calls —
several of them calls threaten-
ing death and "blood baths".
Obscene graffiti has been
sprayed on their walls at home
and one couple had the bolts
removed from a wheel of
their car.

They were not hurt,
fortunately, when the
wheel fell off, but at the
bottom of their street
was a graffiti message
saying: "Have your
wheels fallen off recent-
ly?"

The latest acts of van-
dalism have been to two
cars belonging to ECC
members; the cars had
petrol poured over them
and tyres slashed and a
windscreen smashed.

These are not acts of
random vandalism but
are clearly part of a con-
certed attack.

The Black Sash calls
on all caring citizens of
Cape Town to join us in
condemning these acts
of "terrorism" and to
support the End Con-
scription Campaign in
the difficult task they
have in the face of such
odds.

Govt 'is compounding plight of the homeless'

Homelessness is arguably the most serious problem in South Africa, says the Black Sash, yet the Government is proposing to make even more people homeless by evicting them from farms or for being in the "wrong" group areas.

The group says this is the likely effect of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill, the Group Areas Amendment Bill and the Slums Bill, all of which could become law by the end of August.

All the Bills provide for the removal of people from their homes without regard to the availability of alternative accommodation.

In a special pamphlet, the Black Sash says the measures have certain

other things in common:

- They make homelessness a crime.
- They punish the condition of being homeless with penalties more suited to crimes of violence.
- They remove judicial consideration of justice and human rights and substitute the opinions of functionaries and a compulsion on judicial officers to make orders.

All this is about to become law in a situation where "one out of six South Africans is without proper shelter or is living 'illegally'".

The Black Sash says the new measures will result in more human suffering and chaos.

"Laws such as these bring law in disrespect," the group concludes.

Sash demo 'impressed no-one', says court

11c

W/Hahn

11c

By CARMEL RICKARD,
Durban

A JUDGEMENT in the Durban magistrate's court has raised questions about the legality of the traditional placard protest stand, and the Supreme court is being asked to settle the controversy.

Since open-air gatherings were prohibited under security laws, small protest groups have continued to stand with placards. However, protestors have spread themselves out in the belief that if they stood well apart and did not communicate, they would not constitute a "gathering".

This has been the practice country-wide, but it has not previously been tested in court.

In February this year, a group of students and Black Sash members stood along Durban's Berea Road, holding placards protesting at the effective banning of a number of organisations, including the United Democratic Front and the Detainees' Support Committee. They were arrested

and charged with attending an illegal gathering.

They told the court they were standing varying distances — between 35 and 120m — apart.

This was disputed by the police, who said in their estimation it was more like 25m.

In his judgement last Friday, Magistrate W H Hahn accepted the police distance and said the 14, standing this far apart, were in "relatively close quarters" to each other.

He also ruled they had "common purpose" in their stand.

Hahn was not impressed by the protestors' argument that they lacked the necessary intention to commit an offence, because they had asked a lawyer for a professional legal opinion on the legality of the stand.

Hahn said the court was satisfied

that the accused were aware the UDF and Descom were prohibited organisations and "their alleged seeking and obtaining of legal advice does not cancel their fundamental knowledge of the unlawfulness of their action".

Hahn said he took into consideration that their stand "did not impress anyone". However, they must have irritated some members of the public since "that is why you were arrested".

In their favour, he said they did not obstruct the traffic or interfere with any member of the public and they cooperated with the police.

All 14 were cautioned and discharged.

They are to take the matter to the Supreme Court on appeal.

Human rights lawyers, commenting on the case, said while the ruling appeared to be a blow to the right to protest, it was not binding on any other court.

268-119/88

(11c) 8/day

Sash protests against new group areas Bills

DIANNA GAMES

THE Black Sash was to stage a public protest against the group areas legislation now before Parliament along Jan Smuts Avenue, Johannesburg, this morning.

As part of the protest, they were to erect a symbolic shelter as "a reminder of the fundamental human need for and right to shelter".

In a statement, Ethel Walt, Black Sash co-chairman of the Transvaal Region, said the legislation did not make homes for the homeless; nor would it promote the security and safety of society in its property ownership.

"Instead they place five-million people, many living in the only homes they have ever known, in immediate danger of jail, separation from their families, of losing their belongings and of having nowhere to stay in privacy and security."

"Furthermore, our legal system is diminished by these laws which remove people's right of access to impartial and independent courts, and provide for obligatory demolition and ejection and unreasonably excessive fines and sentences."

She said the crisis of homelessness was the consequence of decades of "bad law", including influx control and removals and not the result of the removal of influx control.

Walt's statement said that with every shack demolished, a home was destroyed; with every eviction a family rendered homeless; and with every arrest and imprisonment for homelessness, a family was broken up.

AVIS Weather

Walvis Bay 13/16	Windhoek 12/31	Pietersburg 11/22
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Pretoria

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Black Sash stages shack demo in northern suburbs

A group of women this morning erected and briefly occupied a shack in the heart of Johannesburg's northern suburbs to remind commuters of the crucial housing legislation before Parliament.

The protesters, members of the Black Sash, said their aim was to draw attention to the need for shelter.

"With every shack demolished a home is destroyed; with every eviction a family is rendered

homeless; with every arrest and imprisonment for homelessness a family is broken."

The symbolic shack occupation outside the Zoo was accompanied by a placard demonstration along Jan Smuts Avenue.

The pieces of legislation against which the Sash, like several other extra-parliamentary organisations, has raised a protest are the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill, the

Group Areas Amendment Bill and two associated Bills on free settlement areas, and the Slums Bill.

The Sash argues that these laws do not provide homes for the homeless and fail to contribute to the security of society.

"Instead, the laws place 5 million people, many living in the only homes they have ever known, in immediate danger of losing their belonging, of having nowhere to stay in privacy and security.

"Furthermore, our legal system is diminished by these laws.

The Sash has called for an alternative housing strategy embracing the upgrading of existing accommodation and based on an idea that development should be founded on the contribution that communities themselves are able to make.

110

Black Sash call on hangings

THE Black Sash has called for a moratorium on executions pending an investigation into capital punishment, as part of growing opposition to the death penalty in SA.

Michael Mnisi, 26, was hanged yesterday after being convicted in March of murdering a Warmbaths farmer. He was the 97th person to be hanged in SA this year.

Another death row prisoner, Raymond Shozi, 30, was granted an indefinite stay of execution by Justice Minister Kobie Coetzee, hours before he was to be hanged.

Seven men were hanged on Friday. The so-called Addo Four, convicted of the murder of an elderly Kirkwood couple, were

PETER DELMAR

granted a stay of execution last week.

Two members of the National Union of Mineworkers, Solomon Nongwati and Paulos Tshehlane, had their death sentences set aside after a successful appeal last week.

Black Sash former president Sheena Duncan said a moratorium on executions, until an independent commission of inquiry had completed its investigation, was "the only reasonable thing one can expect right now".

Black Sash
office is
open again

11C

Star 3/10/88

The Black Sash's Johannesburg advice office is back in business despite its premises being wiped out in the Khotso House bomb blast.

The Sash has found temporary premises on the second floor of Daragh House in Wanderers Street, behind St Mary's Anglican Cathedral.

Mrs Sheena Duncan, national advice office coordinator for the Sash, stressed that the present accommodation was temporary.

The Soweto advice office at the Niéro Centre in Rockville continues to operate from Tuesdays to Saturdays. Those people who live within easy travelling distance of this office are urged to use it to relieve overcrowding in the temporary Johannesburg premises.

Dead youths feature in UCT sculpture

Spokesman
30/11/84
M/C

VICTOR METSOAMERE

NINETEEN Boys Running, a sculptural installation by UCT Fine Art graduate Kevin Brand, is on display at the Market Theatre Art gallery in Newtown until January.

Based on a picture of the Uitenhage massacre, the installation comprises 19 torsos on painted resin. In 1985, 19 black youths were shot dead in Uitenhage and this was the trigger for Brand's installation.

Each cut-out figure is mounted on a rough wooden crate, which simultaneously resembles a sculpture stand and a sepulchre.

A spokesman for the Market said in a press release, that: "This powerful work serves as a reminder that the deaths of 19 boys running, as with other human rights defilements in this country (South Africa), must not be forgotten."

The shooting led to the Kannemeyer Commission

of Inquiry.

Another exhibition, which will also come to an end in January, is called *Human Rights*. It is a project of Afrapix and the Black Sash.

The exhibition is part of the Black Sash's *Human Rights Focus* to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Black Sash has also planned a film festival for December, which would coincide with Human Rights Day — December 10. The theme of the film festival would be *Capital Punishment*.

The third exhibition, which will run concurrently with *Nineteen Boys Running* and *Human Rights*, also at the Market, is *Modderfontein* — a collection of photographs by Ivan Muller, which captures the "banality and contrasts" of the small town in the Transvaal, which is the property of AECI Limited.

Black Sash protest

ABOUT 50 members of the Black Sash staged a placard protest along Jan Smuts Avenue in Johannesburg Friday morning, denouncing the Government's banning of the *Weekly Mail* last week.

Placards read "We stand by the *Weekly Mail*" and "Save the *Weekly Mail*" — Stop Stoffel".

Transvaal co-chairman of the Black Sash, Mrs Audrey Coleman, said her organisation believed everybody was entitled to his opinion and the *Weekly Mail*, which has been banned for a month, had a right to exist.

"We don't even know what is going on in this country and the *Weekly Mail* served an important function."

Handwritten notes: 11/11/87, 11/11/87, 11/11/87, 11/11/87

machineguns into the United States.

the Times Herald
Sash protests at Mail ban

JOHANNESBURG. — About 50 members of the Black Sash staged a placard protest along Jan Smuts Avenue yesterday morning, denouncing the banning of the Weekly Mail this week.

(15)

Heunis man's wife member of Black Sash

CAPE TOWN 3/11/88
Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The wife of one of Mr Chris Heunis's aides is a member of the Black Sash.

She is Ms Marianne Hölscher, wife of Dr Fanie Cloete, the chief director of constitutional planning.

Dr Cloete was recently shifted sideways in Mr Heunis's Department of Constitutional Development and Planning.

Dr Cloete defended his wife's involvement in the Black Sash after it emerged yesterday that his demotion may have been linked to her membership.

Ms Hölscher yesterday described herself as "an ordinary member" of the Black Sash's Pretoria branch who was involved in the branch's "normal activities" including attending committee meetings.

Dr Cloete said his wife had never been accused of breaking the law as a member of the Sash. Government officials and their spouses could often have a difference of opinion, but their work and home situations should be separated, he said.

"As a member of the Black Sash, which is a legal organisation, my wife has been very discreet and maintained a low profile. She has never been accused of any contravention of any law in her capacity as a member of the Black Sash, nor has she been involved in any activity which has endangered the national interest."

● CP demands explanation — Page 3

PETER DELMAR

CONSTITUTIONAL Planning chief director Fanie Cloete yesterday defended his wife's involvement in the Black Sash after it emerged his effective demotion may have been linked to his wife's membership of the organisation.

His wife, Marianne Hölscher, yesterday described herself as an ordinary member of the Black Sash's Pretoria branch who was involved in the branch's normal activities, including attending committee meetings.

Cloete said his wife had never been accused of breaking the law as a member of the Sash. Government officials and their spouses could often have a difference of opinion, but their work and

Ousted official defends wife's Black Sash ties

home situations should be separated, he said.

"As a member of the Black Sash, which is a legal organisation, my wife has been very discreet and maintained a low profile."

Meanwhile, IP leader Denis Worrall said yesterday the sideways transfer of

● To Page 2

3/11/88

Official defends wife's Black Sash ties

two top Constitutional Development and Planning officials could seriously undermine Minister Chris Heunis's credibility with reputable black leaders in his efforts to promote constitutional reform.

He was referring to reports that the men had been moved because of contacts they had made with extra-parliamentary groups, including the ANC.

Worrall said all evidence indicated the officials had been moved at the instigation of the National Intelligence Service (NIS). "In that case there was very little Heunis could do about it," he said.

"The situation is a particularly grave one and raises questions about who is calling the shots on constitutional matters," Worrall said.

Meanwhile it was speculated yesterday

day that the NP-supporting media were attempting to boost Heunis's image after the drama surrounding the officials and reports that he might be involved in a major Cabinet reshuffle.

SABC TV's Network programme included a lengthy interview with Heunis on Tuesday night and Nasionale Pers newspapers yesterday carried front-page stories on Heunis's efforts to promote negotiation with black leaders.

A spokesman for President P W Botha flatly denied the President was involved in the officials' transfer. "The Commission for Administration is responsible for the placement of officials. It has nothing to do with the State President."

● From Page 1

Black Sash 3/11/88

Black Sash link to axing of official?

By David Braun,
Political Correspondent

Was one of the senior Government constitutional negotiators axed last week removed because of his marriage to a member of the Black Sash?

Government sources last night revealed that Dr Fanie Cloete, one of the two senior officials in the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning, who have become embroiled in a row relating to their security clearance, is married to Mrs Marianne Cloete, a member of the Black Sash.

According to reports, confirmed unofficially by numerous Government sources, Dr Cloete and another senior official of the Department are unable to continue their work as negotiators to bring various community leaders to the Government's conference table.

The reason has something to do with their security status and the fact they are no longer in a position to continue their current jobs because they may not have access to certain documents and information.

The sources last night revealed Dr Cloete's position had been affected by his wife's Black Sash activities.

The two officials have so far maintained their silence on the matter.

Festival focuses on hanging

11C
2/12/88

South African
2/12/88

By JOE MDHLELA

THE Black Sash in conjunction with *Weekly Mail* has organised a film festival under the theme, *Hanging: Right or Wrong*, as part of a campaign against death penalty.

The campaign will also mark the 40th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights with a variety of programmes culminating in the observance of Human Rights Day on December 10.

The programmes start at the Market Theatre on Monday.

It was on December 10, 1948, that the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the document on human rights as a direct result of atrocities by the German Nazis before and during World War II.

Other films to be screened are: *Five Last Days*; *In The Ox-Bow Incident*; *Joe Hill*; *The Ribbon*; *Sacco and Vanzetti*; *The Mothers of Plaza Del Mayo*; *Daniel*; *Ten Rillington Place*.

Forty Eight nations voted in favour of the document and there was none against it. South Africa abstained from voting.

The campaign, according to Black Sash, is to raise the consciousness of the inhumanity of the death penalty. The organisation believes that the feature films that will be shown for five days will be able to raise the level of awareness to the barbaric and archaic system of hanging.

The festival will include films seen in South Africa before and a number which have not been screened previously.

The highlights of the film festival should be the screening of the film, *Twelve Angry Men* and



SIDNEY POITIER of *Cry, The Beloved Country* fame.

Cry, the Beloved Country, starring Sidney Poitier and Canada Lee.

Twelve Angry Men is about a Puerto Rican who is seemingly guilty of the murder of his father. Only Henry Fonda as a juror number eight is unhappy about the evidence.

Twelve Angry Men praises Fonda for daring to stand against the 11 jurors and for flatly disagreeing with them.

Cry, the Beloved Country is based on Alan Paton's book. A poor black priest learns that his son has murdered the son of his wealthy white neighbour. The dead man had been working for racial harmony. The priest's son is sentenced to death.

the same building which houses the South African Council of Churches.

Their new offices are at House. Their new offices are at second floor at Khoiso offices were on the in Johannesburg. Their tion at various buildings temporary accommodation Sash had to contend with

House blast — the Black after the Khoiso Since August last year Bramfontein. THE Black Sash has Bertha Streets in the corner of Jura and

Queensbridge building at Their new offices are at finally found a home. THE Black Sash has

BY ALI MPHAKI

a new home

Black Sash gets

110

South Africa 24/11/89

Friday January 31 1989

Hunger strikers are desperate for attention — Sash

Hundreds of detainees countrywide are on hunger strike and those at Johannesburg Prison are participating in a desperate attempt to draw attention to their plight, the Black Sash says in a statement.

"Many of them have been behind bars since June 1986, their presence there, or the original reason for their incarceration, quite possibly forgotten by now," says the statement.

Infringed

The Sash describes detention without trial as an "iniquitous form of political internment, injurious to health and well-being and incompatible with Western legal principles".

"If these people have infringed many of the thousands of laws and regulations which govern our lives, they must be charged and tried in open court without delay."

The organisation says it "strongly condemns a system which permits the arbitrary detention of persons with no explanation, their indefinite incarceration, and their equally arbitrary release, again with no explanation, no apology and no compensation.

"We call on all South Africans to join them in their call for immediate charge or release."

In response to the Black Sash statement, the Prisons Service said: "It does happen from time to time that prisoners refuse to take their meals. However, in most cases they have food-stuffs acquired from the prison tuckshop in their possession.

"The SA Prisons Service deals responsibly with such situations in line with internationally accepted standards, *inter alia*, by warning prisoners of the health dangers that may result from their behaviour and ensuring that food is still served at each mealtime."

Black Sash highlights plight of detainees

By Kaizer Nyatumba

The plight of the 300-odd emergency detainees — some of whom today entered their 21st day of a national hunger strike to protest against their continued detention — was forcefully brought to the attention of the public in Johannesburg today.

In an attempt to "highlight the plight of the detainees", members of the Black Sash held a placard demonstration along Jan Smuts Avenue and Oxford Road between 7.15 am and 8.15 am. Posters read: "Detainees: Must they die for Justice?" and "Hunger Strike: Dying for Freedom".

The hunger strike began 21 days ago at the Diepkloof Prison, where about 170 detainees are now refusing meals. Twelve of them have already been admitted to hospitals.

ORCHESTRATED

Law and Order Minister Mr Adriaan Vlok was last week reported as saying the national hunger strike was "orchestrated from outside".

The Black Sash said Mr Vlok's response to "the serious attempt by the detainees to draw attention to their continued internment reveals a callous indifference".

● See Page 3.



A Black Sash member braves the chilly, damp Johannesburg morning to take part in a poster demonstration highlighting the plight of detainees on hunger strike.

● Picture by Ken Oosterbroek.

increased by 8% in November and all other tariffs by about 9% in December. — Sapa.

executive expenses and travel.

At the end of the financial year, Nusas had a surplus of R13 656,37.

B/Dum Political Staff *2/3/87*

CAPE TOWN — The Disclosure of Foreign Funding Bill was "more subtle" but "just as dangerous" as its predecessor, the Promotion of Orderly Internal Politics Bill, said Black Sash former president Sheena Duncan in the latest Sash magazine.

She said while the new Bill was being hailed in some quarters as a vast improvement on the earlier Bill, it should be opposed "as vehemently" as its predecessor.

Duncan said: "If one has any doubts about government's motives in introducing the legislation one only has to look at the powers given to yet another set of officials to enter premises without notice and without warrant to search and seize, and the outrageously severe penalties which may be imposed on persons violating the provisions of the Bill." *(11)* *(12)* *(13)*

Bill 'is subtle, but dangerous'

The Bill enabled government to have access to the most detailed (and possibly privileged) information about organisations and persons, she said.

She said the Bill implied that "innocent" people and organisations could have no objection to the full disclosure of all their activities and that the state was entitled to collect information in this way.

"It also implies that the state is entitled to control the lawful activities of organisations and creates a mechanism where that control can be exercised without drama or newsworthiness."

PRETORIA — Lawyers for Human Rights have commended the acting State President and the Minister of Justice for the fact that 16 Death Row prisoners had been granted clemency from execution.

Ministers lauded over stay-of-execution move

had been executed, he said, noting that the average number of executions performed each month for the preceeding four years exceeded 10.

This meant that so far this year there had been a 1 000 percent decline in monthly executions.

"These statistics, viewed with the 16 clemencies, give us hope that the state is beginning to appreciate the need to review those laws in South Africa that have resulted in the execution of so many people."

The Black Sash Transvaal Region said that although it was saddened by the fact that two people had been hanged this year, it was encouraged to hear that 16 people had been granted clemency.

"We feel, however, that even better than this would have been an announcement of a moratorium on all hangings pending a commission of inquiry," a statement said.

"The Black Sash remains totally opposed to the death penalty."

National director of Lawyers for Human Rights, Brian Currin, said in a statement from Pretoria that one of the 16 in the group granted clemency was Paul Setlaba. Setlaba's last-minute application for a stay of execution was rejected by Mr Justice Eloff on the basis that any further application or petition to the State President had no prospect of success.

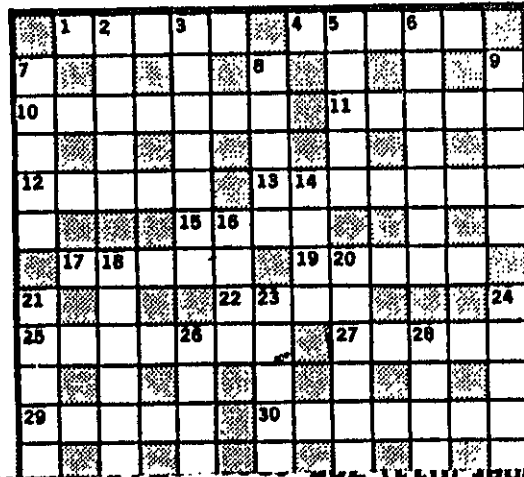
Executions

"Literally hours before he was to hang, joint efforts by his attorney, Lawyers for Human Rights, and the Society for the Abolition of the Death Penalty succeeded in persuading the Minister of Justice to order the stay of execution," Currin said yesterday.

In the past two months only two people

10 MINUTE X-WORD 7286

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|---------------------------|----------------------|
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| 4 Steeple (5) | 3 Biper (7) |
| 10 Aged (7) | 5 Less colourful (5) |
| 11 Hungarian composer (5) | 6 Breathe (7) |
| 12 Courage (5) | 7 Intended (5) |
| 13 Twisting (7) | 8 Japanese city (5) |
| 15 MIDDAY (4) | 9 Expiate (5) |
| 17 Soup (5) | 14 Formerly (4) |
| 19 Alcoholic drink (5) | 16 US State (4) |
| 22 Detail (4) | 18 Take back (7) |
| 25 Bull-fighter (7) | 20 Get better (7) |
| 27 Musical instrument (5) | 21 Fishing-boat (5) |
| 29 Stop (5) | 23 Rubbish (5) |
| 30 Zodiac sign (7) | 24 Giver (5) |
| 31 Read carefully (5) | 26 Fear (5) |
| 32 Cut (5) | 28 Fruit (5) |



SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE No 7285
 — Across: 1 Doubled, 5 Hutch, 8 Press, 9 Oarsman, 10 Hurricane, 12 Ass, 13 Engage, 14 Eiffly, 17 Cos

fact Lance Kaplan at

SA's future is dismal' 11C

DURBAN — The prognosis for South Africa was dismal, far outweighing any reform process, Mrs Mary Burton, national president of the Black Sash, said in Durban last night.

Addressing the 33rd annual national conference of the organisation at the Durban City Hall, Mrs Burton said the needs of the South African population could not be met by "following where the Government would take us".

"We look back over the past dozen years, and see waves of popular resistance countered with ever stronger measures. The strategies of those in power become more sophisticated, and the bitter pill of bondage is sweetened by a coating of reform," Mrs Burton said.

"The temptation then is to acquiesce, to swallow the pill." —
Own Correspondent

to declare portions of the emergency regula-
tions invalid. *Cape Times 7/3/79* (11C)

Black Sash chief re-elected

DURBAN. — Mrs Mary Burton was re-elected president of the Black Sash at the weekend. Ms Rosemary van Wyk Smith of Albany, and Ms Jenny de Tolly and Ms Sue Philcox (both Cape Western), were voted vice-presidents.



Black Sash study provides chilling insight into Pretoria's death row Star 10/3/89 Profile of the condemned ones 11C

Esau Jabulani Nkosi is not one of the high-profile political figures on Pretoria's death row. He is one of those "ordinary" murder convicts whose life is likely to be ended without protest from the world beyond his prison.

He has been lifted from obscurity by the researchers of the Black Sash report on capital punishment, "Inside South Africa's Death Factory". The report tells the following story.

Nkosi is 30 years old. His criminal record started at the age of eight, when he was sentenced to five cuts with a light cane for stealing R20.

By the time he was 17 he had accumulated four convictions, for theft and assault, and been subjected to 22 strokes with a light cane.

He was never defended on any of these charges. He was the child of a single mother — a domestic worker — and there was no money for lawyers.

Although he was a juvenile, there was no attempt to send him to a school of industries or a reformatory. . . . On reaching the age of 18 — adulthood in the eyes of the

court — he was sentenced to 45 months for stealing goods valued at R2 000.

He was freed on parole after two years and soon convicted on six charges of housebreaking. His total sentence was 12 years, of which he served six before being released unconditionally in June 1985.

Head wounds

Four months later, at the age of 29, he was back in the dock facing murder charges with two other men. They all pleaded not guilty.

The charges related to the killing of an 84-year-old man, Mr Arthur Boshier, who died from head wounds after being attacked in his East Rand flat during a robbery.

There were no eyewitnesses to the attack. The three men were convicted of murder by Mr Justice Strydom on the basis of his reconstruction of events from statements made by two of the accused, testimony of the third, and medical and police evidence.

Nkosi's lawyer argued in extenuation that the men had gone to rob — not to kill — and had acted in the heat of the moment when they surprised the owner



JO-ANNE COLLINGE reports on a Black Sash study on capital punishment, entitled "Inside South Africa's Death Factory". It takes its name from an observation by human rights lawyer Mr Brian Currin: "Death row is like a factory. I find the whole place has been brutalised, dehumanised. It's a factory which produces corpses . . . To produce that product, a system is developed. The whole place is serviced. They provide food. They make gardens. They give notice of execution. They hang. And they bury."

in his darkened flat. The judge found no extenuating circumstances for any of the three and sentenced them to hang.

Nkosi was refused leave to appeal against the murder conviction and has now spent 20 months on death row.

"Today the rigid distinctions between 'political' and 'ordinary' death row prisoners is being questioned," the report notes.

"The vast majority of death row prisoners are black — 97 percent of the 1 070 people hanged between 1980 and 1988 — and in many cases 'ordinary criminals' can also be seen as victims of apartheid," it states.

"In the first place, there is a general acceptance that crime has strong roots in poverty and social deprivation. Many black South Africans, like Jabulani Nkosi, grow up in overcrowded, under-serviced, segregated black townships; they receive an

inferior education to white South Africans and experience job segregation.

"The second sense in which most death row prisoners are victims of apartheid is that they have been processed by a legal system which many — rightly or wrongly — regard as being slanted against blacks. For example, there is not a single black judge in South Africa."

The report attempts to draw a biographical profile of the typical prisoner on Pretoria's death row. And it examines the legal process which ended up on death row.

To construct the profiles, interviews were conducted with families, friends and lawyers of 26 death row prisoners. To assess the legal process, records of 40 condemned persons were examined.

The disadvantaged background of the average death row prisoner is clear and can be put

succinctly. "In summary, 85 percent grew up in families which struggled financially; only 42 percent were raised by both parents; 92 percent did not complete school; 62 percent had no further education or training and 85 percent were unskilled or semi-skilled labourers.

"In addition, of the 42 percent who had previous convictions, 47 percent had been prosecuted for the first time when they were juveniles."

Several features of the legal history of those facing death give cause for concern, the researchers state.

● The heavy reliance on pro deo counsel. A total of 32 percent of the sample were represented in this fashion. The report points out that this means the advocate has no attorney to assist him, that he is paid only about R100 a day and that his fees do not allow him the expense of calling expert witnesses for life-

saving evidence in mitigation. It also means he is likely to be represented by an inexperienced advocate or by one whose practice has not been successful enough to render him too busy to do pro deo work.

● The brevity of the cases. One-third of these trials took less than a week to complete. One in 12 lasted just one day.

● The nature of the evidence on which conviction was passed. The evidence of a single witness was enough for a murder conviction in 10 percent of cases; circumstantial evidence sufficed in 5 percent; and a further 5 percent were found guilty solely on the basis of their own confessions — confessions which most claimed had been made under duress.

Common purpose

● The common refusal of leave to appeal. More than half the sample were refused leave to appeal by the trial court. Of those known to have petitioned the Chief Justice for leave to appeal, only 17 percent were successful and 35 percent had been refused.

● The prevalence of the doctrine of common purpose in murder convictions. Half the

sample were convicted on grounds of their association and identification with the actual killers and were not shown to have done the deed themselves.

"Death Factory" also records the less quantifiable affronts of the process of awaiting-death imprisonment and of execution.

"The bodies of those executed are the property of the State. Families are not allowed to see inside the coffins. They are not permitted to accompany the coffin in order to say prayers as the body is laid to rest."

While death row prisoners can have an unlimited number of visits, not once — even on the day before their hanging — do they get a "contact visit", one that would allow a last touch or embrace.

The horror induced by the death penalty is reflected in the fact that no death row inmates' family members wished death on Wit Wolf Barend Strydom, who is charged with last year's massacre of eight black people in Pretoria. "I can't say Strydom must be killed, because he is also a human being. I hate the death penalty," said Mr NS Sonamzi whose brother, Bennet, has spent more than a year on death row.

Regulations 'an inappropriate response' to education crisis

Here is a summary of the new Department of Education and Training regulations, gazetted on November 25

- The Minister may permanently close a school if the number of pupils expelled or boycotting "justifies" this.
- The Minister may temporarily close a school if pupils boycott the school, effective teaching is not possible; pupils contravene the provisions of the Act, there is 'riotous or disorderly behaviour'
- Parents must accompany children when applying for admission and must undertake in writing to ensure they attend school regularly.
- The director-general can make admission conditional on pupils returning or compensating the department for textbooks issued the previous year; refraining from "out-of-school" activities detrimental to their studies; receiving additional tuition.
- Students who have failed the same standard twice require the director-general's permission to re-register.

New regulations for black schools are worsening the crisis in black schools, says the BLACK SASH education committee in this article which has been sent to business leaders.

- Pupils may be expelled if absent for more than 10 consecutive school days or more than 20 days in a year without a valid reason.
- Pupils may be expelled or suspended if, after one warning, they prejudice "the maintenance of order or discipline, or the effective provision of education"; destroy school or personal property; disobey instructions of principals or teachers, or give false information, incite other pupils to contravene regulations or rules; participate in boycotts, protest marches, sit-ins or "other riotous action"; are making unsatisfactory scholastic progress as a result of participating in "unapproved" activities
- Pupils have the right of appeal if suspended, ex-

pelled or refused admission.

The gazetting of yet more amendments and additions to regulations made in terms of the 1979 Education and Training Act is an inappropriate response to the crises in black education.

The new provisions address the symptoms of the crises, rather than their causes, and, as is already evident, they are exacerbating rather than ameliorating these symptoms

After the decades of Bantu Education and the deeply troubled years since 1976, there is no doubt that the DET is confronted with serious difficulties — severely disaffected students, demoralised teachers (themselves mostly products of the system), and distanced parents.

Why not address the *real* problem — Bantu Education itself.

Changing names — "Education and Training" for "Bantu Education", "public" for "government" schools — has not helped.

The reality remains — a school system that is hopelessly under-resourced, both in terms of physical amenities and the education and training that has been provided for its teachers.

In contrast with the over-provision for white education, the deprivation suffered by black education is stark.

"Deprived" in a different sense, many white South Africans continue to be oblivious to the consequences of the crisis situation for *every* South African.

Leaving aside the (very real) possibility of another '76-type explosion, what is the future for our country if the majority of the population is uneducated?

What is likely to happen to the young people who are refused readmission to schools because they have failed a standard twice or participated in "unapproved" activities; those who are expelled on one of the many grounds provided for expulsion, or to those who are deprived of schooling by the Minister closing schools following large-scale expulsions or

absenteeism?

It is imperative that the State provide equal primary and secondary education for all its children by means of a single education department.

South Africa can and *must* afford a decent State-run education system.

The private sector cannot be expected to provide an alternative to this. However, leaders of commerce and industry can use their influence by calling on the Government to address this grave situation

An immediate response would be the withdrawal of the regulations and the unbanning of student organisations. Students, parents and the community are obviously very concerned and enlisting their support would be a start in resolving some of the most urgent issues.

Bantu Education is one of the cornerstones of apartheid. Building a healthy post-apartheid society will depend on providing a sound educational foundation — for all South Africans

Bestockinged
man grabs

Sash placard

110
Staff Reporter

A MAN with a stocking pulled over his head allegedly grabbed a picket poster from a member of the Black Sash in Somerset West yesterday morning.

Mrs Lyn Helme — who was standing in front of Southey's Vine on the Main Road with a poster reading "Charge or release all detainees" — said the man grabbed the poster from her hands before making a quick getaway in a waiting car.

The stand was being held in observance of tomorrow's International Detainees Day.

Mrs Helme, who took down the registration number of the car, has laid a charge of theft, police confirmed.

5/11/89

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Too little done and Rand squatter legions growing — Black Sash

By Winnie Graham

South Africa's "shadow people" — the homeless — are growing in number and virtually nothing has been done to house them.

This is the finding of the Black Sash Transvaal Region Urban Removals and Homelessness Group and the Community Research and Information Network who have published an "A-Z Guide to Homelessness on the Witwatersrand."

The report looks at the squatter "problem" and finds that two years into the orderly urbanisation policy there are more poor people without homes than ever and they are still living in shacks and informal settlements.

The report adds that there has been a "flurry of activity" from developers — but they are interested only in building homes for people who can afford to pay R20 000 or more for houses.

Northern suburbs

It points out that even the South African Housing Trust and the Family Housing Association can only manage to provide housing in the R20 000 range and low-level serviced sites at round R6 000.

"It is estimated that at least 60 percent of the region's population cannot afford these houses," the report reads.

The homeless squat not only in the townships but in all the white areas of the north where urbanised domestic workers, many of whom now have their families with them, have no place to live.

Municipalities north of Johannesburg have taken care not to allow squatting, as a result of which there are few of the larger settlements found on unguarded Government land in the south.

Home crisis among poor getting worse

Johannesburg's two northern neighbours, Randburg and Sandton, are condemned for their complete lack of action in helping to solve the problem.

According to the report, Randburg has maintained excellent vigilance and reports the successful demolition of shacks to its council.

A recommendation by a TPA official that Sandton establish an emergency camp as a temporary solution has not been acted upon, and the homeless are under threat of removal to Orange Farm south of Johannesburg.



The report points out that the Sandton Municipality and the police have been involved in different efforts to get shackdwellers off two business sites in Wynberg where informal settlements have been sprung up.

The town councils of Randburg, Sandton and Midrand, the report continues, appear to place responsibility for homeless blacks on other authorities: Sandton on the adjacent black council of Alexandra, and Randburg and Midrand on the regional/provincial/central government.

"They are not legally competent to deal with urbanisation," the report says. "They are only legally competent to eradicate squatters."

According to statistics published in the report, more than 60 percent of the squatters have been on the Witwatersrand for more than 15 years, 19 percent between six and 14 years and the rest up to five years.

The report says there is expressed resistance on the part of black local authorities to make provision for controlled site and service to accommodate poor people.

These local authorities are resisting the settlement of low income residents within their boundaries because they see them as a drain on their resources.

The report adds: "The combined but contradictory notions of upgraded areas and 'viable but separate' may prove to be the Achilles heel of the orderly urbanisation policy . . .

"The policy must be accepted that the community at large is responsible for ensuring that land and resources are equitably re-allocated so that the poorer residents (who are the majority) are included."

Depressing shacks like this one are the only home for growing thousands of the poorest. Black Sash suggests that some white councils are part of the problem.



De Klerk's speech on education welcomed

By Sue Valentine

The Black Sash education committee has welcomed Mr. F W de Klerk's call for "cost effective, quality education", but warned that it could not be implemented by the Government from the top.

Commenting on Mr de Klerk's address at the opening of the new campus of the Pretoria Teachers Training College recently, Ms Judith Hawarden, education co-ordinator and Transvaal regional chairman of the Black Sash, said genuine participation by all interested parties including professional educators, parents, students, teachers and civic organisations was needed.

RESTRICTIONS

"The first step is to unban the National Education Crisis Committee and other organisations involved in education, to lift the restrictions on NECC leaders and to allow them to start participating.

"Schools should be open and non-racial so that children can prepare for a new South Africa."

General secretary of the Transvaal Teachers' Association, Mr Hugo Ackerman said the TTA was very concerned about the availability of finance for education — and in the country generally.

Mr Joe Muller, co-ordinator of the education policy unit at Wits University, said the speech seemed to be too full of generalities to speculate on the NP leader's intentions.

"Although they've increased the education budget, it is nowhere near close to providing enough to cope with the growth of black student numbers in the education system."

Henderson dies

MRS. MOIRA Henderson, a founder member of the Black Sash and the Progressive Party and a member of the South African Council of Churches Dependents Conference, died of cancer at the weekend. She was 66.

No funeral details are available.

23/11/87
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Star 2-3/89
23/5/89 11c Star

SA: Arbitrary power is 'now terminal disease'

As the month of June approaches it seems that even the Government is pondering on whether or not to re-impose the state of emergency for the third time. That is encouraging because it is a salutary lesson to re-read the conditions of the state of emergency.

The full impact of the losses entailed is experienced like the blow of a sledgehammer.

A state of emergency is the imposition of a tyranny that is increasingly less recognised with the passage of time. Let us therefore be reminded that:

- Any member of the security forces may arrest and detain any person if he is "of the opinion" that that person poses a threat to public safety or the maintenance of law and order.

- Such a person, and it could be you or me, can then be detained indefinitely without trial, possibly to be interrogated, denied access to family or lawyers, held in solitary confinement, and no-one is entitled to information regarding that person.

Total indemnity

If or when released, such a man or woman may be and often is subjected to exceedingly harsh restrictions. For all this there is no redress. Since June 1986 approximately 30 000 people have been detained.

- The State President, members of the Government and the security forces enjoy total indemnity. They need only "act in good faith". Habeas corpus is non-existent. No interdict is possible.

- Organisations and people can be restricted if the Minister is "of the opinion" that it is necessary. In June 1988, 18 organisations were prohibited from performing any activities whatsoever, all non-violent anti-apartheid organisations. Cosatu was prohibited from performing listed activities.

- The Commissioner of Police has the power to close off areas or public or private places, to prohibit

JOYCE HARRIS (right) of the Black Sash recounts just what the state of emergency means.

entry or departure, to prohibit gatherings or control their venue, size and scope and to prevent certain people from attending them. Penalties for contravention are R20 000 or 10 years' imprisonment.

- No journalist may be at the scene of unrest and no-one may publish anything regarding security action, restricted gatherings, speeches of restricted people or members of a restricted organisation or the circumstances or treatment of detainees.

Also forbidden is publication of subversive statements, the scope of which ranges from unrest and resistance, through boycotts, civil disobedience, staying away from work and taking part in restricted gatherings, to compulsory military service.

Nor is it permissible to publish blank spaces to indicate that a report has been censored, nor even with a statement, sign or symbol, or in the context.

- If the Minister "is of the opinion" that it is "necessary", he has power to prohibit the production of a periodical for not more than three months at a time. He has already taken such action against *Weekly Mail*, *Grassroots*, *Out Of Step*, *Saamstaan*, *Work in Progress* and *New Era*. Penalties for contravention are a maximum of R20 000 or 10 years.

- Attention and participation at and use of school property, syllabi and what is worn by pupils is controlled.

- People in general are even prohibited from wearing certain clothes or performing any act or types of acts.

- The Commissioner can control how many people may attend a funeral, how and by which route they get there, who may address it and how long it may take.



Freedom is subject to government whim. There is no access to due legal process. People are pawns at the mercy of "good faith" and "opinions".

They, their organisations, their newspapers and periodicals can be destroyed at the stroke of a pen.

Access to information is so restricted that it is impossible even to estimate the degree of ignorance in which the public is being held.

Under such conditions the Government has already conducted one election. If the state of emergency is re-imposed it will again conduct a general election, while it exercises total power over the media, meetings and anti-government political

activity.

We need to guard against accommodation to the restrictions to which we have for so long been subjected, and take note of the dire loss of freedom, human rights, security under the rule of law, the liberty to see hear, read and say what we like and meet with whomever we like.

The state of emergency has contributed to the collapse of the economy, the imposition of sanctions and the destruction of our country. Total control has become a habit of this Government. The arbitrary exercise of power has become a terminal disease.

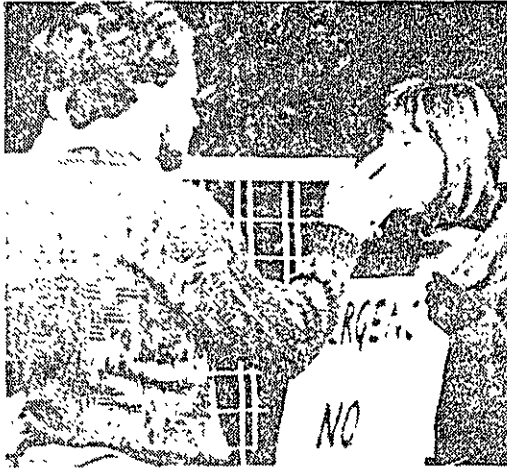
The state of emergency must go.



LATE EDITION

PHILIPS E180
3 HOUR
BLANK VIDEO TAPE
17⁹⁵
STAX PRICE

D489033



Please leave your name and number ... a policeman tapes a protestor's details.

Police tape Sash

Plainclothes policemen today asked members of the Black Sash protesting against the reimposition of the state of emergency to give their particulars on tape.

Members of the anti-apartheid group were staging a picket along Empire Road.

The women were asked to read their names, addresses, identity and telephone numbers into a policeman's recorder. (IC) (S)

In a statement the Black Sash said the introduction of the state of emergency had made it easier for the Government to maintain its unjust laws.

"A government which uses reform rhetoric but silences legitimate opposition is a government which should not be in power. A government which requires repressive measures in order to govern should not be in power," the statement said. SW 9/6/89

Flak flies as mixed group of pupils tackles human rights issues

By Winnie Graham

Can freedom of speech be abused and result in a violation of other more important rights?

This is one of many points 145 pupils of all races from 30 high schools on the Witwatersrand and Pretoria debated at length recently at a workshop organised by the Black Sash Education Committee. They met at a Johannesburg school to discuss the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights.

The main aim of the workshop was to bring together pupils from different backgrounds to exchange ideas on human rights.

DEBATE

A spokesperson for the Black Sash said article 19 of the declaration, which states that "everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, in-

cluding the freedom to hold opinions without interference, and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas" prompted lots of debate.

The pupils were divided into heterogeneous groups of five (some boys, some girls, some black, some white) and asked to make a list of what they would expect to find in the declaration. Once they had done this, they were given a copy of the declaration in its

original form for comparison.

A leading lawyer discussed the implications of South Africa's decision not to sign it.

The workshop included a lively question time and an evaluation session.

Educationists and youth leaders who would like to organise similar workshops should contact the Black Sash Education Committee.

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School prefects 'detain' woman over pamphlets

DURBAN — A member of the Black Sash handing out pamphlets at Durban High School this week was flabbergasted when she was "detained" — not by the police, but by school prefects.

On Thursday morning Professor Christene Lucia was handing out the pamphlets — promoting awareness of the plight of black schoolchildren and the significance of Soweto Day — to boys arriving for school.

She said: "I had been there about 15 minutes and the pamphlets were being received with great interest. Then three prefects approached me and asked me to stop and leave."

Their attitude was "aggressive, but polite", she said.

"They said I was trying to brainwash the boys. They objected especially to a page containing newspaper headlines referring to black education.

Stew
17/6/89

OWN CORRESPONDENT

11C

"When I asked why they objected, they said the pupils did not need to read newspapers and did not need to know what was going on.

"But when I asked what it was in the pamphlet that they felt was brainwashing material, they seemed confused.

"They then asked me again to leave.

"When I told them that I was not standing in school property and did not intend to leave, they insisted that I accompany them to the headmaster's office.

"When we got to his office, the prefects explained to the headmaster, Mr Ken Tomlinson, what had been going on.

"I gave him the a pamphlet, which he didn't appear to even read — but he was immediately angry and told me to leave.

"When I told him that I had not been standing on school property and asked him what he intended to do if I did not leave, he did not answer."

Professor Lucia said pamphlets were also distributed at Durban Girls' High School — without incident.

Professor Lucia, who is the head of the music department at the University of Durban-Westville, said there was nothing subversive about the pamphlet.

"We are trying to raise awareness of the very real way in which the effects of the Soweto uprising still affect black pupils today.

"Through a picture in the pamphlet of a teacher speaking to a class of children of mixed races, we are trying to promote the idea that nonracial classrooms are perfectly acceptable and normal."

The pamphlet also features two poems written in

● TO PAGE 2.

Prefects 'detain' Sash protester

● FROM PAGE 1.

memory of Hector Peterson, the first pupil shot by police in Soweto on June 16 1976.

Mr Mike Ellis, MP, said the action of the three prefects exposed the need for political education in white schools.

Mr Ellis, Democratic Party MP for Durban North, said that because of the lack of political education among children, he understood why the prefects had reacted as they did.

Political organisations on the Left and Right were aware that white schoolchildren "are totally politically naive", said Mr Ellis.

There was tremendous need for white children to be exposed to a complete range of feelings and attitudes — "and at the end of the day make up their minds where they stand".

But he did point out that the Conservative Party tried to hand out pamphlets at a school in the Transvaal recently. "and we criticised them".

"We must be consistent in this regard. I do not believe any political organisation should use schoolchildren as a means of easy distribution of pamphlets."

Stew 17/6/89

11C

Union claims workers were attacked by SAP

Stw 11/7/89
By Mike Siluma, Labour Reporter

About 19 workers were injured, one seriously, when police took action against workers locked out of Dunlop Industrial Products' Benoni factory yesterday, says the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union (CWIU).

A union statement claimed that the police, called by management, had dispersed about 500 workers outside the factory gates by beating them with sjamboks. Nineteen workers were injured and one was taken to hospital.

The CWIU said the "illegal" lock-out appeared to be connected to a dispute over worker demands for the dismissal of a white worker who allegedly assaulted a union shop steward. Management allegedly refused to take disciplinary action against the white worker.

"CWIU members believe this to be racist and discriminatory treatment as many black workers have been subjected to tough disciplinary action for much lesser crimes," said the union.

Comment from Dunlop and the police was unavailable at the time of going to press.

● The union said a strike by about 150 members at Gillette (SA) in Springs had entered its second week. The dispute centred on the alleged unfair dismissal of a shop steward.

Gillette managing director Mr John Ford said only 50 workers were on strike and that the dismissal of the shop steward last October had not been unfair. Mr Ford alleged that strikers had been threatening people on company premises.

2 Sash workers get threats

Stw 11/7/89. By Dawn Barkhuizen

Death threats from an anonymous "Wit Wolf" have been received by Black Sash workers in the southern Cape.

Mrs Lu Harding of Knysna and Mrs Jill Dugmore of George recently received letters saying "Death awaits you next" signed by and a depicting a "Wit Wolf".

Both letters were postmarked Mossel Bay.

The women are active Black Sash workers and have been involved in the fight against the relocation of squatters of Lawaakamp, George.

Mrs Harding will report the matter to the police today.

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Identity crisis'

Stu 11/17/89 (11C)

Swoop on six Sash women at festival

Own Correspondent

GRAHAMSTOWN — Security Branch and uniformed police swooped on six women from the Black Sash at the Grahamstown Arts Festival yesterday.

They ordered them to remove placards calling for an end to apartheid, group areas, the death penalty, conscription, house arrest and detention.

Police have maintained a high profile here since the festival began last Thursday.

However, residents and visitors alike are aware that bag-snatching and mugging have been rife during the festival.

Two young women, attacked outside the 1820 Settlers Monument, were told by the police they were not the first mugging victims.

They were also told, they said, that police were too busy to patrol the unlit road between the nearby Settlers Motel and the monument.

2 Sash workers get threats

By Dawn Barkhuizen

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11/7/89
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'Bannings will not stop opposition'

By Mckeed Kotlolo,
Pretoria Bureau

The banning of the Black Sash and the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac) in Bophuthatswana does not mean the end of opposition to the violation of human rights.

This was said by the two South African-based human rights organisations yesterday after hearing that they had been banned from operating in Bophuthatswana.

The banning order under the Internal Security Act of 1979 was published in the homeland's Government Gazette on Friday.

Both organisations said in the statement they saw the banning as "a measure of how desperate the Bophuthatswana authorities are to sweep all grievances under the carpet and stop people from seeking help".

"The Black Sash is a non-violent human rights organisation responding to requests from people seeking justice and a fair hearing of their grievances. Our work in Bophuthatswana has involved supporting people and

communities suffering in a climate of oppression, particularly as a result of their opposition to enforced incorporation into the homeland," the statement said.

The statement said the organisations were not responsible for the creation of the conditions in the homeland but merely exposed them.

"In the final analysis it is the South African government which is the culprit in its failure to recognise the human worth of the black people and its persistence in treating them as pawns on a ridiculous checkerboard of its own design.

"Those who still believe that the homeland system is a success, particularly in Bophuthatswana which boasts a bill of rights, should take a closer look at the homeland's record of human rights violations. The events in Braklaagte and Leeuwfontein had demonstrated this amply."

According to the banning order, the two organisations endangered or calculated to endanger the national security of the homeland.

Homeland bans Black Sash project

JOHANNESBURG. — The ban imposed yesterday morning on the Black Sash and the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac), a project of the Black Sash, by the Bophuthatswana administration "is a measure of how desperate the homeland authorities are to sweep all grievances under the carpet and stop people seeking help", the organisation said.

In a Government Gazette, Chief Lucas Mangope's administration outlawed Trac and the Black Sash on the grounds that they "endangered national security and public safety". All organisations linked to the two bodies are also affected by the ban.

Saying that they were a non-violent organisation, Trac said their work in the area, particularly in Braklaagte and Leeuwfontein, involved supporting people who suffered "under a pervasive climate of oppression, particularly as a result of their opposition to enforced incorporation into the homeland".

Ultimately, Trac continued, the culprit in the whole scenario was the South African government which failed "to recognise the human worth of black people, and persisted in treating them like pawns on a ridiculous checker board of its own design".

The ban on Trac is the latest in a series of bitter wrangles between Trac and the two communities on one hand, and the Bophuthatswana authorities on the other. The crisis was sparked off by Pretoria's decision to incorporate the two territories into Bophuthatswana on December 31 last year.

Since then, both communities have resisted incorporation with sporadic clashes between security forces and the communities. On July 1 an orgy of violence erupted at a mass meeting during which nine policemen and two civilians were killed. — Sapa

Black Sash rejects Bop govt's accusations



By Kaizer Nyatumba

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Star

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The Black Sash — which, together with its sub-committee, the Transvaal Rural Action Committee, was banned in Bophuthatswana this week — has rejected the Bophuthatswana government's latest accusation that it had instigated the resistance of residents of Leeuwfontein and Braklaagte to incorporation into the homeland.

In a statement issued to The Star, the Bophuthatswana government's Secretary for Information justified the homeland's banning of the Black Sash and Trac, and said their activities at Leeuwfontein and Braklaagte were meant to endanger the homeland's security.

UNKNOWN ORGANISATIONS

The Black Sash and Trac were "unknown organisations in Bophuthatswana" and had never approached the Bophuthatswana government "to introduce themselves and to offer assistance to settle the grievances of the people of Leeuwfontein and Braklaagte", the statement said.

Since the Black Sash was aware of the incorporation of the two villages into Bophuthatswana "for quite some time", it

would have been proper for the organisation to approach the Bophuthatswana government and offer assistance to solve the people's "grievances" there, the statement said.

"Instead, they have been working behind closed doors to instigate revolt by the villagers of the two villages against the government."

The refusal by Braklaagte and Leeuwfontein residents to be incorporated into Bophuthatswana emanated from a question of chieftainship which had now been resolved, the statement said.

"The government of Bophuthatswana is satisfied that the steps it has taken to ban the two organisations (the Black Sash and its sub-committee) in Bophuthatswana are in the best interests of not only the re-establishment of a peaceful climate in the area, but also those of the state in curbing the activities which were calculated to endanger the security of Bophuthatswana."

In her response, Black Sash vice-chairman Mrs Ethel Walt said the Black Sash — including Trac — was a human rights organisation committed to seeking non-violent solutions to problems.

The organisation, she said, acted only in response to requests for help from people seeking redress of their grievances.

Said Mrs Walt. "In this instance the grievance was the enforced incorporation into Bophuthatswana which had been vigorously and repeatedly opposed by the people (there) by every peaceful and lawful means available to them.

"As in all cases of this nature, we place the matter in the hands of legal representatives whom we then assist, while continuing to act as a support group for the community.

ACTED OPENLY

"Any approaches to government, either South African or Bophuthatswana, have been made by the lawyers or the communities themselves. We have acted quite openly and have never attempted to conceal our involvement.

"In this context we emphatically reject the accusation that this organisation has been 'working behind closed doors to instigate revolt by the villagers of the two villages against the government."

Only a little time left to talk

BY JOYCE HARRIS
of the Black Sash

11C

I cry for our land. What can be done about a country whose heterogeneous, unbalanced, prejudiced, exploitative, fear-ridden history has produced a situation where, on the same day, the press can report furious letters from a Nationalist and two English-speaking South Africans reviling the Five Freedoms Forum meeting with the ANC; thugs threatening to break up a meeting of Jews for Social Justice to hear a report-back of that same meeting; a meeting between the Head of State and his long-term prisoner, Mr Nelson Mandela; and the Conservative Party leader warning of a white uprising if whites and blacks are encouraged to get together?

There are so many crazy anomalies. A reform-spouting Government destroys shacks and possessions in Thokozza, leaving their inmates in the cold; incorporates communities into homelands against their will, provoking them beyond endurance into violent reaction; breaks up peaceful meetings and detains and restricts community leaders who are seeking to restore peace.

It harasses those who have spoken to the ANC by searching their premises even while it is reading the writing on the wall and is itself seeking contact with other African states.

The National Party has destroyed the economy, befouled race relations with its policy of divide and rule and, worst of all, brutalised whole generations of our young people, black and white, by

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its determination to retain power.

It has produced the likes of Barend Strydom, who killed blacks so indiscriminately and wildly in Pretoria, reared as he was on a diet of racial hatred.

How many more are there like him and what will they do to wreck any hopes there may be for peaceful reconciliation in our country?

The white backlash warned of by Dr Treurnicht is a very real danger, given the generations of indoctrination of white supremacy and "swart gevaar".

Now the National Party is hoist with its own petard. It recognises the need for change, but even its own limited prescriptions — strictly within its own framework of separation and ethnicity — find themselves on a collision course with its own teachings.

Those who rail against contact with the ANC on the precept that it is a terrorist organisation fail to recognise decades of structural violence perpetrated by the State.

I do not believe that this excuses violence, though it does explain it. I do not believe that good ends can be achieved by bad means.

But to castigate the ANC and at the same time to support the National Party is totally illogical. The National Party cannot protect the people from a danger it has itself created.

It is not the NP that is offering salvation. Neither is it the far right white backlash. Incredibly, it is the measured tones of jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela calling for dialogue between the Government and the ANC together

with the mass democratic movement as "the only way of ending violence and bringing peace to our country".

He said: "I only would like to contribute to the creation of a climate which would promote peace in South Africa."

It is truly amazing that a man who has spent the better part of his life in jail, and who has been denied the opportunity to interact with his fellow-men or to use his undoubted talents in the interests of his people, should show the statesmanship and tolerance so sadly lacking in the leadership of our country and its privileged voters.

There is still time for whites to reassess the situation, to realise that they can expect no salvation from the Nationalists and even less from the far right, and to use the privilege of their votes to give a clear indication that they support the process of negotiation, the creation of a climate to make it possible and a just society.

However, this prospect seems remote while they continue to revile contact with the ANC whose violence, though unacceptable, has been relatively disciplined when compared with that of the State.

Perhaps all we can do is cry for our country, even though we ourselves still have the space at least to try to put things right.

It is the motivation that is lacking, plus the capacity to see through the apartheid-created confusion to the fundamental truth that we are all the same, we are all South Africans, and we all need each other.

(Written by J Harris, 4 North Avenue, Riviera, Johannesburg)

on segregated hospitals

TWELVE members of the Black Sash were arrested today as members of the Mass Democratic Movement actively defied apartheid laws in a campaign against segregated hospitals.

Among those arrested during a placard demonstration was Johannesburg city councillor Mrs Judith Briggs.

Police public relations officer, Captain Ruben Bloomberg, confirmed the arrests saying they were released on their own recognisances.

Ms Judith Hawarden, chairman of the Black Sash Transvaal region, said the women were standing out of sight of one another holding posters calling for an end to segregated health facilities.

Ms Hawarden was adamant that the protest did not constitute an illegal gathering, saying it was a lawful picket.

"This was an unnecessary show of force and a blatant attempt at intimidation. We will not be intimidated and will continue to expose apartheid practices," she said.

In Durban leading members of the Mass Democratic Movement assembled outside Addington Hospital today to lead 13 busloads of protesting people.

Among those who arrived soon after 9am were representatives from the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the United Democratic Front, the National Medical and Dental Association, the United Committee for Concern and the Natal Indian Congress.

The Black Sash members were arrested in the Parkview suburb of Johannesburg on the first day of protests called by the MDM against segregated facilities.

No other incidents were reported, with Captain Bloomberg saying hospital officials were going about their duties as usual.

Senior Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) officials have, meanwhile, begun tours of specific areas to gauge the effect of the protest call.

Among them were Mr Cyril Ndevu, chairman of the UDF, Dr Farouk Meer, spokesman for the MDM, Mr Mewa Ramgobin, Mr Paul David of the Release Mandela Campaign, Mr George Sewpersadh, president of the NIC, and Dr D. Mji, chairman of Namda.

The leaders started gathering before buses began arriving from townships including Umlazi, Lamontville, KwaMashu, Inanda, Kwadabeka, Clermont, Kwamakuta and Chesterville.

The leaders said the "patients" would enter the hospital through the whites only entrance on the beachfront and would seek treatment in an orderly fashion.

Mrs Mariam Jagga, who is in her late sixties and confined to a wheelchair, was pushed through the doors of the emergency registration wing by Mr Ramgobin.

While he pushed her in he spoke to television cameras and said: "I am now pushing her through the doors which I have been told are for whites only."

Mrs Jagga, who has a chronic bone condition, was calm as Press representatives surrounded her and Mr Ramgobin had to virtually push his way through.

Admission card

She was then examined and an admission card was being processed without any incident.

The security guards at the door did not try to stop them and ushered in Mrs Jagga with Mr Ramgobin and marshals, who wore red bands around their right arms, to the examination rooms.

From early today security guards at the hospital took their stations, some of them with guns, while police and the reaction unit patrolled the beachfront in front of the hospital every 15 minutes while plainclothes policemen kept watch from across the street.

In the Peninsula hospitals were on alert today but the situation was quiet this morning.

Senior police sources said they did not expect more than

(Turn to page 3, col 8)

Apartheid defied

Arrests after protests

4/11/89

2/8/89

11/11/89

11/11/89

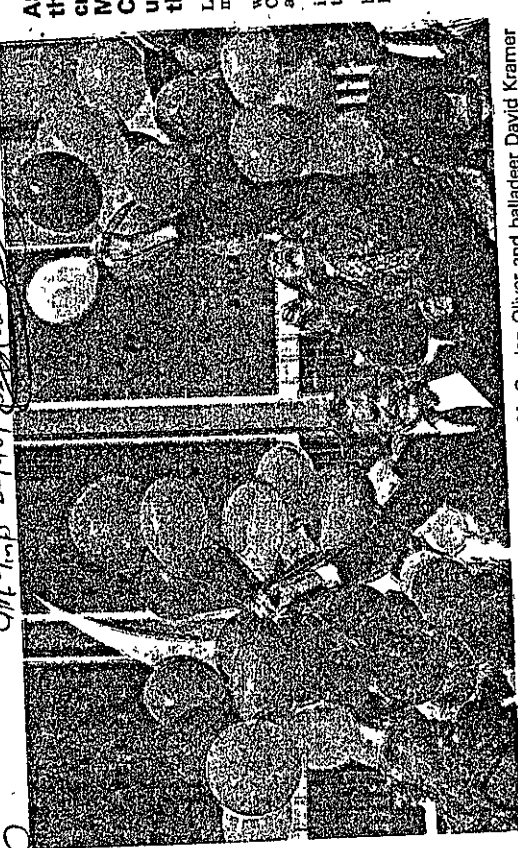
11/11/89

defied

Unrest:

Call to Vlok

CME Timp 25/10/89



COLOURFUL SYMBOLISM... Deputy Mayor Mr Gordon Oliver and balladeer David Kramer released balloons outside the Civic Centre yesterday in sympathy with children in detention or otherwise suffering under apartheid. Balloons are used by the Free the Children Alliance as a symbol. ● Report — Page 2.

DL VLOK

CME Timp 25/10/89

Staff Reporters

AS protests and unrest again swept the Peninsula yesterday, the Democratic Party called on Law and Order Minister Mr Adriaan Vlok to visit Cape Town to "make a personal evaluation of the tension building up in the city"

In an open letter to Mr Vlok, the DP spokesman on Law and Order, Mr Tian van der Merwe, said the minister should visit Cape Town "without delay". The letter was made public yesterday and on the Cape flats. Several private vehicles were stoned and a bus was set alight. A number of schools on the Flats closed early and in Elsie's River teachers staged a march to demand the right of pupils to protest peacefully. Police acted in several suburbs yesterday where burning barricades had been erected and groups had gathered.

Created tension

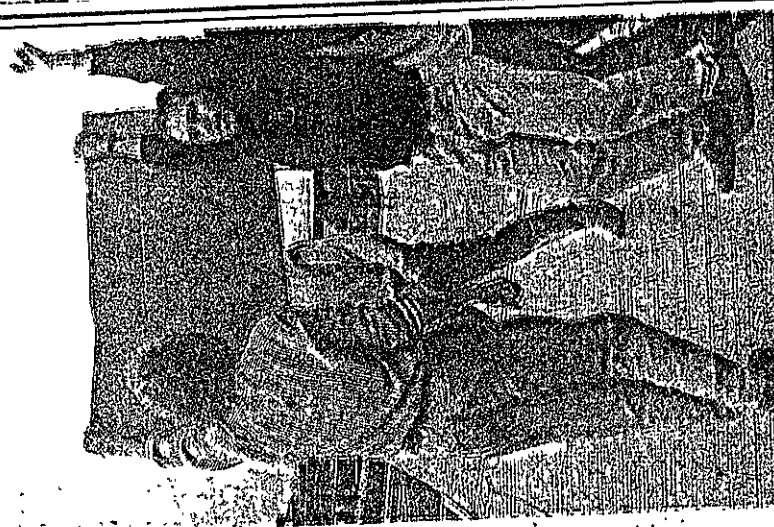
Mr Van der Merwe recommended "in the strongest possible terms" that Mr Vlok receive information from independent observers about the reaction of his department to black political activities in the area. He said tension had been created in black neighbourhoods as a result of the actions of certain police elements against protest campaigns. The impression was being created by elements of Mr Vlok's department that "peaceful protest will not be tolerated" and this played into the hands of more militant and violent elements.

Meanwhile speaking in Pretoria, Mr Vlok said the police would not hesitate to act against people or "instances" trying to disrupt the general election through violent means. Opening the 25th annual conference of the Security Association of South Africa, Mr Vlok said police had a duty of responsibility towards all South Africans and the safety of whom they regarded as precious. At a luncheon protest at Greenmarket Square, 22 Black Sash picketers lined up three-deep behind a banner saying "Defiance is the right to peaceful protest". They stood impassively as a police colonel ordered them to disperse in 10 minutes.

Citing emergency regulations, the officer used a loudhailer to declare the gathering illegal. About 400 bystanders clapped rhythmically as policemen confiscated the banner and picketers led the women away to an armour-meshed police bus. Members of the crowd shouted "Viva Black Sash" as the organisation's national president, Mrs Mary Burton, was arrested. A Black Sash spokeswoman, Mrs Beva Runciman, said those arrested were released in the afternoon.

● To page 2

P.T.O.



DEFIANCE... Protesting UCT students wave a placard at a police helicopter buzzing the middle campus yesterday. Picture: KEITH WOODMAN

Unrest in Cape hits rugby visitors

By MIKE McGRATH

SECURITY arrangements for the touring international rugby side were thrown into disarray yesterday afternoon when stone-throwing and an overturned bus in Manenberg forced the cancellation of a coaching clinic outside Cape Town. Tour coach Bob Templeton was furious after being forced to return to the hotel and claimed "the security should have been checked out that way before we left the hotel".

- On Page 2
- US urges restraint
- Young Tory heckled at Wits
- Rugby sponsors meet
- anti-race groups
- Tutu to demand apology from police
- Council against defaming peasant
- Constable's death: 12 in court

Birdbrain blaze

NEW YORK — A bird that carried a burning cigarette butt back to its nest has been blamed for a fire that caused \$2 500 (R6 750) damage to a house in Pennsylvania. The butt ignited the nest in the eaves of a house and the flames spread. Firemen found the butt.

Unita at war again: Pik pleads for peace

Own Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG — The Angolan peace initiative appeared on the verge of breakdown last night, adding urgency to President F W de Klerk's meeting with Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko today. Salvaging the fragile peace process is the key item on the meeting agenda. Foreign Minister Mr. Pik Botha, who is accompanying Mr De Klerk, last night appeared to all eyes to be in a state of great tension. Mr Botha said he had been in contact with a representative of Unita who had denied that Unita had adopted an offensive position. The breakdown in the Angolan peace process is not just linked to the numerous violations of the ceasefire. Unita is insisting it be given an opportunity to test its support by popular opinion, while the MPLA says that as its government is recognised throughout the world, Unita members should merely be absorbed into existing structures.

● De Klerk on trial — Page 3

Women lambast police action

By Dawn Barkhuizen

disperse people" (11C)

Strong action by police against women who congregated to march for peace in Pretoria on Saturday has come under heavy fire from women's movements to the left of the Government.

Women were reacting yesterday following violence which erupted at the Union Buildings and in Church and Bloed streets.

The women, members of 29 movements under the umbrella of Women Against Repression (War), decided to march after a banning order had been obtained in court.

A Pretoria police spokesman said at the weekend that on "one occasion police used batons to

A Black Sash veteran, Mrs Sheena Duncan, was adamant that it was the democratic right of each individual to protest and said women would not apply for permission for similar marches in the future.

Ms Joyce Hawarden, Black Sash spokesman for the Transvaal Region who was present in Pretoria, said: "The aggressive attitude towards us by the police was quite extraordinary in the light of the fact that they banned the march because they did not want us to be hurt."

"The police were the people who hurt us. It was disgraceful to baton-charge a group of peaceful unarmed women."

5/10/89

BLACK POLITICS — BLACK SASH

1990.

Black Sash is forging ahead

By LULAMA LUTI

11c

IT never rains but it pours for Sheena Duncan, the Black Sash national co-ordinator of its advice offices.

She has seen the repealing of pass laws and influx control. But for the hard-as-nails Duncan another problem has emerged: black homelessness.

"It's a carry-over from the pass laws," says Duncan, who will have an honorary Doctor of Laws degree conferred on her this year by Wits University in recognition of her outstanding work for the elimination of racial injustice and for constructive change in South Africa.

She says since the government repealed pass laws and influx control four years ago, black housing has become a pressing problem. She estimates between six and eight-million blacks are homeless.

"A lot of the Black Sash focus has switched to this area. In that way our work has developed in another direction. It's just a different way of doing things," she adds.

She thinks back on the work of the 35-year-old Black Sash, which she joined in 1963. She became a member at a critical time when the ANC, PAC and much of black protest had been silenced.

Homeless millions are the challenge of the new decade

"The '60s were bad," she says. "It was those years when people like Helen Suzman and bodies like the Institute of Race Relations were fighting the government in their limited ways."

That was the time that saw her actively involved in the political fight waged by the Black Sash action and pressure group. She held various offices within the organisation. Those were the years they were seen in certain government and white quarters as communists or mad, silly women.

At the time the Press did not take the Black Sash seriously. Duncan smiles when she recalls how Rand Daily Mail editor Laurence Gandar told her mother Jean Sinclair, also Black Sash, to shut up shop.

The first breakthrough in the Black Sash's fight against pass laws came after the 1976-1977 nationwide disturbances with the birth of the Urban Foundation; Duncan points out.

Then there is the story she tells about June 30, 1986, when the government abolished pass laws. It was in one of the Black Sash advice offices that she made this government announcement to scores of blacks who had come to the office to seek help.

"There was hardly any response. The problem, of course, at the time was that the State of Emergency had been declared. And that was one thing that concerned those people . . ."

And there are heartbreaking incidents Duncan recalls when pass laws and influx control were harsh. For instance, the story of the Alexandra township mother of three who was arrested and told to leave Johannesburg with her children and was dumped in Venda. That was in 1978 when the government was intent on demolishing the township.

Forced removals of black communities is another example of what damage the pass laws have done, she says, though government strategy has shifted to incorporating black communities into homelands.

There have been significant victories. Duncan remembers the Rikotho and Komane landmark cases which ended in the Supreme Court.

Duncan is modest when she talks about Black Sash successes. "You can't claim success until apartheid is abolished."



Sheena Duncan . . . the Black Sash can't claim success until apartheid is finally abolished.



SOUTH AFRICA

LONG WAY TO GO . . . The Black Sash held a placard protest at St George's Cathedral at lunchtime yesterday. They stated that while President F W de Klerk had initiated the politics of negotiation, they were very concerned about existing apartheid laws.

CPM Times 21/2/90

11c

Picture: BENNY GOOL

Black Sash to reconsider its role in new SA

THE Black Sash's 30th annual conference, to be held at Grahamstown this weekend, will see delegates taking a long, hard look at the organisation and its role in the light of current political changes sweeping the country. *wlman 2/3-8/3/90*

A representative of the Black Sash said the Sash has always been a humanitarian organisation, but that current developments may mean this role will have to be revised.

She also said there will be discussion on whether the Sash, traditionally an organisation primarily of white middle-class women, should broaden its base.

Another source said there might be a strong feminist input at the conference that could push for more women's issues to be addressed.

A statement of principles, known as the "draft mission statement", which was drawn up at the last conference, held at Marian Hill in Durban last year, will also be redé debated.

At the weekend conference, four papers will be delivered from reports compiled from all the regions.

This conference will also see the election of a new Black Sash president, a post which comes up for election every four years. Mary Burton, the present president, will not be standing for re-election.

Annual elections of other office-bearers will also take place. — Albany News Agency

Pro deo system not perfect

A major problem identified during our campaign against the death penalty was that of *pro deo* legal representation.

Twenty-six people on death row in 1988 were selected as a sample for research. Of these, 35 percent had *pro deo* counsel.

Pro deo (for God) counsel is appointed where a person facing a death penalty cannot afford a lawyer. The Bar organises advocates on a roster basis. They are paid by the State (about R200 a day).

The research showed in trials where *pro deo* counsel was used that the length of the trial was drastically shorter than in those where private lawyers were hired. The time, often indicative of the legal team's interest, was considerably longer in political trials, with 90 percent of the funded political trials lasting more than a month. In comparison, most of the *pro deo* trials in the sample lasted less than four days and 2 percent lasted a day.

It is also relevant that 77 percent of the families of those in the sample believed their relatives' trials had been unfair.

When asked: "Do you believe that judges make mistakes and that, despite our system of legal appeals to the State President, an innocent man can be sentenced to death?", more than 91 percent of coloured and black people and 87 percent of Indians said "yes".

A similar result was obtained when asked: "Do you think black people are more likely to be sentenced to death than white people for the same crime?"

Mr Brian Currin, national director of Lawyers for Human Rights,

LAURA POLLECUTT, vice-chairman of the Transvaal Black Sash, discusses the need to eliminate problems inherent in the present *pro deo* system. The following are excerpts from a speech at the Black Sash national conference in Grahamstown.

says the handicaps the advocate faces include sometimes meeting the client for the first time the day before the trial, having to cope with suspicion from the accused, who tends to regard the *pro deo* counsel as a State advocate, and poor communication between client and counsel with regard to the proceedings in general.

Argument

Mr Currin says: "Each bar has a *pro deo* committee, which is obliged to provide the State with counsel when an accused in an appropriate case requests legal representation. In practice, only the most junior advocates put their names forward.

"This has almost developed into an ethic. After a couple of years' experience, sometimes at the expense of people who have hanged, his name is removed from the list."

The argument put forward for not asking senior advocates to handle *pro deo* cases is that it is difficult to ask someone who is earning considerable remuneration for his hard-earned experience at the Bar to work for the limited amount the Government is prepared to pay.

Mr Currin, citing the service ethos of the legal profession, does not find this argument acceptable. Nor does he find the excuse that

these people are tied up in other cases from which they cannot be released a good one.

It seems there is consensus among the legal fraternity that *pro deo* representation should be extended to those facing long prison sentences as well.

Another disadvantage to the *pro deo* advocate is the lack of assistance from an attorney.

Mr John Myburgh, SC, chairman of the Pro Deo Committee of the Johannesburg Bar Council, says until recently an advocate's responsibility for a client ended after the trial and this sometimes resulted in the appeal and clemency application being neglected.

This was a particular concern of organisations working on the death penalty, because in the past it had resulted in people going to the gallows without exhausting every legal avenue. It was therefore good news to learn that from now on the *pro deo* advocate will assume responsibility for the entire procedure.

The Bar has made representations on numerous occasions in the hope of extending the service that the State-funded Legal Aid Board provides to *pro deo* cases. Recent developments indicate their persistence may be rewarded.

The proposed extension of the service will also ensure that attorneys will be paid to assist advocates on capital crime cases.

It is rewarding to see that many of the problems associated with *pro deo* counsel are being addressed. The system, however, is anything but perfect and a commitment from the State to assist would be a major breakthrough.

Reform or not, the Sash still has plenty of work

W/M and 9/3-15/3/90

THE Black Sash ended its annual conference in Grahamstown with a clear commitment to continuing its independent role regardless of political changes in South Africa.

According to newly-elected president Jenny de Tolly, there had been members who had asked whether the prospect of political change would mean that the Sash would disband.

"But listening day after day to the accounts of advice offices, and things like pensions, there is a massive amount of work to be done," she said.

"We are living in quite difficult and dangerous times." De Tolly said the conference had been "optimistic about a possible political resolution, but very cautious about the tremendous amount of work that needs to be done to construct a new South Africa.

"The legacy that South Africa is inheriting, of so many years of dispossession, and particularly the last 40 years of apartheid, is going to take a long time to unravel."

One of the campaigns to be embarked on will be one looking at what dismantling apartheid really means. It would aim at educating members, and the white public as a whole, what change would mean, and what was involved in "redressing injustice".

By FRANZ KRÜGER

Outgoing president Mary Burton, in her opening address, set the tone for the conference by looking at length at the Sash's own role in the light of political changes.

She said the Sash's commitment to non-racialism made the mass democratic movement "our natural allies", but its "commitment to democracy and freedom makes us recognise too the value and the rights of other groupings."

The task of monitoring and protecting human rights made absolute independence essential. Members might decide to belong to the African National Congress, but the Sash itself should remain independent, supporting issues rather than parties, Burton said.

There was a need not only for "first generation civil and political rights", but also "second generation rights" like social security, education and adequate wages, as well as "third generation rights" to peace, a healthy environment and opportunities for development.

The conference also decided to launch a campaign around black pensions. — Albany News Agency

BY LULAMA LUTI

FEDERATION of Transvaal Women (Fed-traw) president Sister Bernard Ncube has urged all women to unite to change the country.

At a service celebrating International Women's Day this week, Ncube called on SA's women to re-dedicate themselves to eroding oppression.

The ANC was called upon to include women in all structures which would decide the country's future.

Should the ANC exclude women from its delegation to President F W de Klerk for talks about the country's future, its stance on non-sexism would be attacked.

Ncube referred to the turmoil within the country and lashed out at the killing of children.

"Mothers, let us march to Katlehong and other areas and stop those senseless killings.

"Let us put our energies to making this country a better place to live in today, not tomorrow."

It was time women woke up to the reality that "it's not men who are going to make it happen for us but ourselves".

Ailing Black Sash member Helen Joseph was among the estimated 2 000 people at the service held at Wits Great Hall.

SACP stalwart and trade unionist Ray Alex-

Women 'must unite to erode oppression and aim energies at improvements in SA'

ander, who returned from exile last week, said women were the most exploited of the exploited, and liberation lay in their hands.

Women were the fore-runners of the struggle for a non-racial, non-sexist democratic South Africa, and should step up protest against injustices, she said.

She and husband Prof Jack Simon had hopped from one place to another in exile because of constant threats to their lives

posed by agents of the government.

"We know we have not come back to a free South Africa, and we must start mobilising the people towards achieving freedom in our lifetime.

"The country's economic crisis will not improve unless our people are totally free."

Black Sash Transvaal president Judith Hawarden said South Africa's women had a tradition of resistance, and should ensure that they spoke with a united voice and participated fully in all future decision-making structures.

The origin of International Women's Day can be traced back to the 15 000-strong women's march through New York in March 1909.

The women were demanding shorter working hours, safe working conditions, equal pay and the right to vote.

A police attempt to disperse the demonstrators turned into a violent attack.



Unite and change SA - Sister Bernard Ncube

Women's role in a new South Africa in the spotlight

Sowetan
13/3/90

11C



Ray Alexander



Sister Bernard Ncube



Judith Howarden

By SIZA KOOMA

THE role of women both in the present situation, at the negotiation table and in the future South Africa was under the spotlight at an International Woman's Day rally held at the Wits Great Hall in Johannesburg.

All speakers called on women to "commit themselves to finally achieving the vision" they had longed to see become reality all their lives.

The rally was attended by about 500 people among them veteran political activist Helen Joseph, Barbara Hogan, the first woman political prisoner to be released from prison, Pauline Moloise, Benjamin Moloise's mother and Caroline Motsoaledi, wife of Rivonia trialist Elias Motsoaledi.

Ray Alexander, returned exile and guest speaker at the rally, after dedicating a moment's silence to "all comrades who have fought for us to have a democratic South Africa" said she wanted to see, in

future, half the executive of the ANC and all political organisations being made up of women.

Women, she said, were the first to form a non-racial organisation for a non-racial and democratic society in the country.

The Women's Charter which was formulated by the organisation, Fed saw, was later adapted into the ANC's Freedom Charter when it drafted its constitution.

Their role in a future South Africa should be as symbolic and unifying as it was with the formation of the organisation.

"Women should continue to fight for jobs, homes and schools for their children. They must demand that all schools be open for children of all races", Alexander said.

She said the march by American women in New York in 1909, to protest long working hours and unfair salaries, was also a march to protest war.

She urged women to

fight violence as the struggle in the country was part of the struggle for world peace. It was the mothers who gave birth to children and no mother wanted to see her child die, she said.

The Transvaal regional chairman for Black Sash, Judith Howarden, said women should make sure their voice would be heard in the formation of new policies and a constitution for the country.

She said they should start first by insisting that women representatives be included in the delegation that would sit for negotiations with the State President.

"Women should ensure that issues like maternity benefits, shelter and security, child care, health and education, which are all fundamental to the growth of a healthy society, are addressed in the laws that are going to be made," Howarden said.

Strong emphasis was also put on the role that women should play in the present violence that has unsettled homelands and some townships in the country.

Sister Bernard Ncube said it was urgent that women take a resolution to address the problems in the community and not wait for more lives to be wasted.

"Women should put their energies together to correct the wrongs in the country today, not tomorrow. Mothers should be marked for their difference as compassionate people who help in times of trouble," she Ncube.

She suggested that women march to trouble-torn areas and plead with the communities there to stop the violence.

idgeville near Pretoria in nearly all black townships commemorative marches, rallies and prayer services were organised.

Black Sash wants troops returned to Mpumalanga

THEO RAWANA (IIC)

THE Black Sash had asked President F W de Klerk to redeploy troops in the Mpumalanga area near Durban to act as a buffer between the warring Inkatha and UDF factions, his office said yesterday.

Durban chairman of the Black Sash Wendy Annecker said last night the Black Sash had sent a fax, in conjunction with its Maritzburg branch, in support of local people's requests after troops camped between the factions had been pulled out without warning about two weeks ago. *Blouay 22/2/90*

Liaison deputy director in the President's Office Kobus Pieterse said a fax had been received from the Durban branch, but there had been no reaction yet as De Klerk was still attending the Namibian independence celebrations.

Annecker said locals saw the SADF as a better entity than the SAP, which had a "foul" reputation in the area.

The Black Sash also requested the appointment of an independent commission of inquiry into events in the region.

The Black Sash took the step after community leaders had visited its offices last Wednesday, with reports of the community's concern over the troops' pullout.

□ Sapa reports five men were stabbed to death and one man was injured in unrest-related incidents throughout the country during the past 24 hours.

The SAP said in yesterday's report from Pretoria that a mob attacked and stabbed four men to death at Ezakheni near Ladysmith in Natal. Their bodies were then doused with paraffin and set alight.

In another incident in Natal, a man was stabbed to death and another sustained a head injury at Mpumalanga when a mob attacked them, stabbing the 50-year-old man to death and later injuring a second person when stones were thrown and shots were fired at a private vehicle.

● Comment: Page 8

... direct effect of making sure

FIM 2313190
New Black Sash president Jenny de Tolly (46) got involved in fighting for human rights when she lived in Toronto from 1969 to 1981. She was part of a small island community which fought a long battle against eviction. On her return to



SA, commitment to the Sash seemed a natural extension of this concern. (110)

Born and educated in Kimberley, Jenny met her husband, Peter, at UCT where both qualified as architects. They have two adult children. The move to Canada was to allow Peter to study further. The couple also wanted to see what alternatives the world had to offer.

Before being elected president, during the past four years she served two years as regional chair for the western Cape and two as national vice-president.

De Tolly stresses that the Sash is primarily a human rights pressure group. The issue of political affiliation arises periodically, but De Tolly is adamant that the Sash wants to stay independent.

De Tolly sees her strengths as not being afraid of change and the ability to get people involved and motivated. She says the Sash has always had two main functions: to act as a political pressure group and to provide services (its work relating to pass laws made it famous).

While these remain core activities, the Sash has to think a little harder about its function. Says De Tolly: "Apartheid was a very easy thing to be against. Now we have to explore what we are for."

Bring in black soldiers - Sash

BLACK SADF troops should return to Mpumalanga township in war-torn Natal, the Black Sash said yesterday. *Sowetan 27/3/90*

Backing a call from its Natal Coastal Division for the return of black soldiers, the Sash said their presence would provide desperately-needed protection, mainly to scholars.

'Black troops were believed by residents of Mpumalanga to be more impartial than white SADF soldiers, the Sash added.



Trustworthy



'Residents also know them to be more trustworthy than the SAP and KwaZulu Police - whom they believe support the vigilantes.'

There was also widespread dissatisfaction with the KwaZulu Police, and the Sash believed Natal should have an 'impartial peacekeeping force'.

The organisation said an independent commission of inquiry into the Natal conflict was also called for, 'with the possibility of declaring Natal a disaster area, which may draw the required attention to the problems'. - Sapa

Role for Sash in post-apartheid society

New fighter for rights takes over

AKGUS
27/3/90
HC

By GILL TURNBULL
Staff Reporter

THE Black Sash's role in defending human rights will be as vital as ever — even after apartheid is dismantled, says Mrs Jenny de Tolly, new national president.

Mrs De Tolly took office recently when her predecessor, Mrs Mary Burton, stepped down after having served the maximum period of four years.

Speaking on the eve of a trip to the United States to deliver a paper at a two-day conference in Boston, Mrs De Tolly emphasised that "in a post-apartheid society, as a human rights monitoring organisation, we will be as relevant as ever."

"The legacy of over 300 years of discrimination, impoverishment and dispossession of resources and land cannot be unravelled overnight," she said.

"Despite the fact that the political logjam is now breaking down, the difference between the haves and the have-nots in South Africa is the greatest in the world — this is still very much the reality in peoples' lives.

"It would be very nice to believe we will soon be a country where human rights are no longer violated — and if that happened we'd happily close down."

MORE UNDERSTANDING

Mrs De Tolly said that at a recent national Black Sash conference in Grahamstown considerable time was spent discussing the dismantling of apartheid.

"When you have 19 departments for pensions and 17 departments for education how do you streamline all that and channel the money to make it work?", she asked.

Other matters that were given attention were the redressing of injustices and the Sash's future alignments and affiliations with related organisations such as the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) and the Federation of South African

Women (Fedsaw) and the detainees support groups.

Another important aspect discussed was the question: Is the Black Sash a women's organisation or an organisation of women?

"Traditionally we have not focussed on women specifically but on the broader rights of the community and there is quite a strong thrust in the movement now to look at issues that specifically affect women.

"This could give a greater degree of understanding of how South African women are discriminated against.

"South African women do need to discover their own potential, for instance, how does the land issue affect women because it is very seldom South African women have land rights?"

The Black Sash, which turns 35 this year, has about 2 200 members, and runs nine advice offices in the main centres.

"At first the organisation dealt mainly with influx control problems.

"Now that organisations like the Legal Resources Centre and the DPSC (Detainees Parents' Support Committee) offer a fairly wide range of assistance our advice offices handle problems relating to old age and disability pensions, unfair dismissals among unorganised labour, unemployment and the struggle for enough money to survive.

Mrs De Tolly says Black Sash workers witness at first hand the pain apartheid laws inflict on Black people.

"The Transvaal branch, for instance, is dealing with communities' resistance to forced incorporation into Bophuthatswana, although now that the homelands are collapsing we hope this will stop."

"In Pietermaritzburg the Imbali Support Group was formed after families in Imbali asked white members to sleep in their homes overnight as a form of protection against both



Picture: DION TROMP, The Argus.

Jenny de Tolly ... a witness of pain

attackers and the police."

"In Natal, where the level of violence is very worrying we are monitoring funerals and attending vigils every weekend.

SEEK ROOT CAUSE

Mrs De Tolly said the churches were attempting to play the role of facilitators in the Natal conflict.

"We see our role as monitors. Peace initiatives can only come from the warring factions," said Mrs De Tolly.

To the criticism from some quarters that while Black Sash pickets are commendable, they are also "one-eyed" in lashing out only at the government and not at violence in the community, Mrs De Tolly said the organisation's focus had been "to get at the root cause of the violence — the unjust laws that cause the violence".

Mrs De Tolly said the Black Sash condemned every form of violence.

"And necklacing, which after

all is the outward expression of intense frustration and very real grievances, has done more to harm the liberation movement than anything else."

Historically Black Sash members have been housewives and retired women who volunteered their time.

"This is now changing. During the political uprising in 1985 we had a tremendous increase in membership, particularly younger, working, women."

At home Mrs de Tolly is mother of a son and daughter, both students at UCT, and a "lapsed" architect.

She is the wife of Cape Town city planner, Mr Peter de Tolly, also an architect, and has been a passionate Black Sasher since 1981.

"In 1969, when we left (to live in Canada) this country was incredibly repressive and like most English-speaking whites I felt irrelevant and frustrated."

Stk 28/3/90 (11C) (2/10)

Nats' dismal record remains

The Black Sash is an organisation born 35 years ago out of protest against this Government's destructive and retrogressive constitutional engineering — the removal of the coloured people from the common voters' roll.

Those Black Sash pioneers were well aware of how this de-democratising process would pave the way for the Nationalist regime to enforce an ideology repugnant to more than 90 percent of its citizens.

The Nationalists' reign of racial oppression has continued almost unabated for more than 40 years and, while recognising and commending the important changes President F W de Klerk has introduced and the process of negotiation upon which he has embarked, South Africans perhaps need to be reminded of his party's dismal track record.

Spying allegations

We welcome the decision to investigate the Johannesburg City Council spy allegations and though obviously pleased with it and other investigations which are exposing the manner in which South African citizens' lives were being monitored by secret bureaux and the like, we are amazed at the manner in which all those in Government and many of its supporters are feigning surprise and disbelief at the existence of such organisations and activities.

It was not surprising for the Black Sash to discover that it was being monitored by the Johannesburg City Council. It, and many other organisations, were well aware of the State Security System which ran parallel to all forms of Government for many years. This

Laura Pollecutt, vice-chairman of the Transvaal region of the Black Sash, writes that the National Party must bear responsibility for its past.

system, which Mr de Klerk last year ordered to be dismantled, was structured to ensure spying could be done on all levels.

Consisting of about 20 tiers, there was one tier which defined its area of operation as that of the local municipality. Apart from paid informers, we have no doubt there were others who were encouraged to spy in "the interests of State security".

Close examination of the method of operation of the State Security System reveals it would seem to have relied on co-opting civilians into structures such as Joint Management Centres, Local Management Centres and Community Liaison Forums.

Sowing seeds of hatred and distrust through propaganda at all levels (wives of Johannesburg City Councillors were invited to a security briefing at which a policewoman lectured and videos of township violence were screened, for example) the then militarised State encouraged and possibly we suspect applauded the actions of individuals who would do their dirty work for them.

In fact, the whole State Security System smacked of McCarthyism at its worst.

In November 1987 the then PFP Councillor Mr Tony Leon attempted to get the National Security Management System debated in the Johannesburg council. The debate

was refused on grounds that security was a highly secretive issue. Mr Leon, however, did not accept this and sought legal opinion on the matter.

Race superiority

Finally, after a long battle, a debate did take place in April 1988. Not much more was revealed and the council's answer to Mr Leon's protestations to the system were counteracted with the argument that it was an alternative to Marxism.

Mr Leon says the opposition knew the budget for security was high, but could not get access to the breakdown.

A minority regime intent on preserving the superiority of one race above all others could not and cannot contribute to an open and free society. The reporting of contraventions of the Group Areas Act is an excellent example of how this State is not only encouraging the spying on and reporting of neighbours but actually endorsing it.

Once again we in the Black Sash applaud the different moves President de Klerk's Government are initiating in the interests of a demilitarised and open society.

However, if we sound a little cynical, it is because we remember it is these very same people who are wringing their hands in horror right now and calling for inquiries left right and centre, who implemented National Party policy for 40 years and collaborated on every level to maintain the status quo.

Their supporters generally must also carry some of this collective responsibility.

Big row in Civic Centre

Sowetan 28/3/90

THE Johannesburg Civic Centre became a hive of conflict yesterday as councillors threw insults at each other and picketers protested against the recently exposed city council spy ring.

About 30 members of the Black Sash gathered outside the building at 1pm to greet councillors arriving for the council meeting with placards reading: "We didn't elect you to spy on us," "Rates are for roads, not

for spying" and "Venter must resign."

Some councillors drove past expressionless, while others shouted out their support for the picket.

Inside the council chamber, two members of Idasa unfurled posters reading "What are you afraid of?"

They were immediately ushered out of the chamber by security officials, but an argument ensued outside over

whether they could remain in the chamber without the posters. The two were let back in.

Minutes later, another argument arose between a Black Sash member and security officials over whether the group of women could come into the chamber. They were also allowed in after giving assurance they would behave in an "orderly" manner.

Representatives of the Five Freedoms Forum

distributed an open letter among the media in the chamber, reading: "We, the Five Freedoms Forum express our strongest disapproval and anger at the City Council's secret investigations into our affairs." ~~28/3/90~~ HC

"We demand a full explanation of why ratepayers' money was misused in this way and why we were singled out for investigation," the letter read.

'Poverty, joblessness behind rural violence'

BLOEMFONTEIN — The degree of violence that had spread to the rural areas was a violence caused by the frustration of poverty and unemployment, Professor Francis Wilson of the department of economics at the University of Cape Town told the 54th conference of the National Council of Women of South Africa in Bloemfontein yesterday.

The sheer degree of armed robbery, assault, rape, wife and child-battering and incest were part of the product of an intolerable position.

Sickness in society

What was being witnessed at present was the degree to which this violence was manifesting itself in the rural areas of South Africa.

Professor Wilson said one could not point to cultural differences in this respect. This was the visible manifestation of a deep and underlying sickness in South African society. These were the realities with which black South Africans were faced, particularly if they were poor.

Poverty could not be reduced to a single number or statistic. The consequences of the migrant labour system also had the effect of impoverishing the rural areas. There had not always

been terrible poverty in the rural areas.

The anti-black urbanisation policy had had two consequences. It had the effect of freezing housing in the urban areas when the natural population growth required more houses. The other, more serious, consequence was that those who were pushed off the farms by improved technology were not allowed into the cities. The only places they could go to were the reserves, which were already overpopulated.

Professor Wilson said poverty was not only a South African problem. However, the rate at which people were coming on to the labour market was greater than that at which jobs were being created. This was a new phenomenon in SA.

Since 1975, South Africa had, as a result of population growth, lost its capacity to generate sufficient jobs.

There was a need for economic growth, but SA did not have the type of political stability that the rest of the world required for investment.

Professor Wilson said the new motto should be "Growth through redistribution".

It was a process that required political legitimacy. If South Africans were concerned about poverty, then a necessary condition to deal with it was a redistribution of political power. — Sapa.



Professor Wilson ... The poor must get a real share in South Africa's political process.

Women told

Sta 4/4/90 By Winnie Graham

South Africans have been told to view of the "setbacks and mass movements" which are inherent in any the rebuilding of a divided country.

Miss Isabel Direko, first woman elected as principal of a high school, delivered the Bertha Solo Lecture on "From Fear to Hope

Challenge" at the National Council of Women's 54th annual conference in Bloemfontein last week.

"Let us face the future in a spirit of difference," Miss Direko told the delegates. "We must accept there are differences between

Star 4/4/90

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Professor Wilson ... The poor must get a real share in South Africa's political process.

'Get together with other races, religions'

BLOEMFONTEIN — A national survey into informal education and how it can be extended should be undertaken by the National Council of Women of South Africa, the organisation's vice-president, Mrs Daphne Hansen, told the 54th conference in Bloemfontein yesterday.

More emphasis should also be placed on "getting together" with other race, language and religious groups to discuss fears and problems.

Mrs Hansen said race problems should be worked out of people's thinking so there could

be a better understanding.

In the investigation into informal education, information should be obtained as to where schools were not used to full advantage and NCWSA branches should become involved in literacy training and the teaching of practical skills.

Mrs D Hohne of Bloemfontein said education had been rejected by black and white children.

Simple skills

The quality of education had become a big problem and black children felt their certificates

were not worth much.

Mrs Elizabeth Nel of Port Elizabeth said NCWSA should increase its communication across various groups and continue with its efforts to train people for a better life.

There should be an effort to teach simple skills, even at the pre-school level.

Mrs Nel said there was a need for humility among the whites in "approaching our friends who are blacks".

She stressed the importance of helping people to learn English, because as the various groups developed in South Africa they would need some knowledge of the language.

More white people needed to join Educare and there was a need for more literacy classes and other training programmes.

The Government had to be pressurised for more and better education, facilities should be shared and TV education should be appropriate to the group which it was directed at.

Mrs Joan Laubscher, also of Pretoria, said greater efforts should be made to work with local authorities. — Sapa.

Women told SA needs 'new perception'

Star 4/4/90 By Winnie Graham

South Africans have been told to take a balanced view of the "setbacks and massive disappointments" which are inherent in any programme for the rebuilding of a divided country.

Miss Isabel Direko, first woman to be appointed as principal of a high school in the Free State, delivered the Bertha Solomon Memorial Lecture on "From Fear to Hope: Today's Challenge" at the National Council of Women's national conference in Bloemfontein last night.

"Let us face the future in a spirit of creative difference," Miss Direko told the women. "Let us accept there are differences between people rath-

er than a difference between groups ..."

What was needed more than ever in South Africa was a new perception, a new way of looking at problems, relationships and people. South Africa needed a new force of negotiation which took heed of one side of the coin while working earnestly to forge the whole piece.

The ANC, as an element in the negotiating process, had to be sensitive to the struggle in which it shared the same goals for which many had died. At the same time its leaders had to work unstintingly at reworking the rhetoric of the past to addressing the new issues of reform and white fears.

By Winnie Graham

"Give us this day our daily bread" is more than an idle prayer for the people of Wagplek.

At this squatter camp on the edge of Siyathemba, the black residential area of Balfour, just an hour's drive from Johannesburg, several families have been left destitute because their breadwinner has been jailed for 90 days — for failing to pay site rent to the local Siyathemba committee.

One of the women is a grandmother, Mrs Jemina Miya. She was close to tears when she spoke.

Her son was in jail, she said, and she had no money with which to buy food. She and her grandchild lived on handouts from the neighbours.

"We are hungry," she added.

Her life has never been easy, but when her 35-year-old son was home he, at least, had a job that provided money for their daily bread.

"He earned R6 a week as a gardener," she said through an interpreter. "It was not much, but it was something."

Now her son is in jail: imprisoned until June because he did not have money to pay the rent for the site on which the family has built their small shack.

Move

There are about 1 000 shacks at Wagplek. Many of the people there are the "overflow" from the township where no suitable accommodation has been made available in years.

Initially the people built their shacks on land bordering Siyathemba, but in 1987 they were told by the town committee to move to the sites where they are now.

It was agreed Wagplek would be just that: a place to wait until the town committee could make alternative accommodation available.

In the meantime, the committee agreed to provide minimal services: water and refuse and nightsoil removal. For this the people had to pay R15 a month.

Many squatters in the area, however, do not have jobs and cannot afford the rental.

To make matters worse, they claim the services are inadequate: Water is often cut off and nightsoil has to be buried because it is not removed.

In January this year several residents of Wagplek received summonses for service charges and levy arrears from the Siyathemba town committee.

On March 28 two residents

Wagplek: a place of waiting for handouts



Mrs Jemina Miya's precarious existence in a shack at Wagplek is in jeopardy. Her son, who earned R6 a week as a gardener, has been jailed for 90 days along with several other breadwinners because they cannot afford to pay the site rent to the local authority that controls the squatter camp. ● Picture by Winnie Graham.

were jailed for 90 days for the non-payment of debt and will be freed only if the amount owing, plus costs, is paid in full.

Jailed

A spokesman for the Black Sash, asked to help, said in one case they knew the amount owing was R73 plus costs and in another R405.

The residents of Wagplek, however, point out that several people have been jailed since the crackdown on non-payment of rentals.

But, while a number of breadwinners will be "away" until June, their families are reluctant to complain because they are afraid they will be forced out of their homes.

One woman, the mother of nine, has to support her family on R50 a month (the wage she receives working for a local Indian family).

Her husband, jailed because

he owed the Siyathemba committee money, brought home R80,16 a week.

A mother of four, whose husband earned R50 a week making bricks, is also without a breadwinner.

She says her husband has been jailed for the same reason.

"We have no money but my friend shares her food with us," she said.

"Fortunately her husband has a job."

In the meantime, the Siyathemba Town Committee has made a new area available to the squatters.

Water pipes and sewage facilities are being laid on but, to date, there have been no takers.

A member of the Wagplek Committee, Mrs Mavis Mayaiza, said the sites could be bought for R450 or R600 apiece.

"But there are not many squatters who can afford to pay for them," she added.

Natal townships 'on verge of eruption'

Star 10/4/90

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Political Reporter

As renewed fighting broke out in strife-torn Natal yesterday, unrest monitoring groups warned that the province's black townships were on the brink of exploding and that the police were losing control.

Democratic Party offices in Durban and Maritzburg, the areas hardest hit by the violence which has left hundreds dead and thousands homeless, reported increased tension yesterday.

The DP MP for Greytown, Mr Pierre Cronje said: "The perceptions are that even the army cannot save the people and if this is so we are faced with full-scale anarchy."

Upsurge

Monitors said the conflict had moved from Edendale outside Maritzburg, where police backed by troops had managed to contain the conflict, to Mpumalanga near Hammarsdale, the hillsides around Durban and kwaMakhuta near Amanzimtoti.

A DP spokesman in Maritzburg attributed the upsurge in violence to yesterday's

stayaway, organised by Cosatu and the United Democratic Front, and impatience by thousands of refugees to go back home.

Unrest monitoring groups estimated the total number of refugees currently being housed at churches and community halls in town centres at about 44 000.

"Every available hall is packed to capacity," a DP spokesman in Durban said.

Mr Richard Fowler, convener of the Displacee Relief Committee — a committee of an ad hoc crisis group of about 30 organisations — said about 14 000 refugees were being given shelter at 10 centres in Maritzburg alone.

An estimated 4 000 refugees have moved into Durban's central business district, The Star's Own Correspondent reports.

Durban City Police, Durban Central Residents Association and the Black Sash estimate there are about 800 people, mainly from Umlazi, who have moved on to the beach front; another 800 at Durban station; 400 at the Ecumenical Centre; 350 have joined the growing band of street people; 300 in the Warwick Avenue Triangle; 210 at

the Expo Centre; 200 at the Berea Road station; 200 at the Centenary Road bus terminus and another 800 on vacant lots in the district.

Black Sash chairman Mrs Wendy Annecke said an urgent appeal had been launched for clothing, food, medicines, blankets, foam rubber mattresses, soap, towels and nappies.

On Sunday night 210 women and children who escaped from kwaMakhuta spent the night at Medwood Gardens, opposite the Durban City Hall. The women and children left the township in minibuses after fighting broke out at the weekend.

Outburst

The Black Sash and the Centre for Adult Education at the University of Natal in Maritzburg said the death toll was much higher on the side of the Cosatu/UDF/ANC and most refugees belonged to that alliance and not Inkatha.

Chief Buthelezi's movement angrily denied the allegation as "just another wild outburst of unsubstantiated claims".

Sta 26/4/90 (11C) ~~11C~~ ~~11C~~

Middle ground must act

There are many straws in the wind these days and they are all blowing in different directions. The political scene is so confused that it is difficult indeed to discern trends, options, directions. Yet it is vital to do so in order to be able to take constructive action.

Contrary to all expectations, it seems that we now have the extraordinary phenomenon of the Government and the ANC occupying the middle ground. They do this not because they share common beliefs or ideologies, but because they are willing to negotiate an acceptable future and are showing surprising flexibility, tolerance and willingness to compromise.

When Mr Mandela was released, one nursed the irrational hope that his history, his ability and his undoubted stature would somehow make it possible for him to overcome all obstacles, contain his constituency, and be permitted to rise above it in order to achieve the miracle of peace, negotiation and an end to violence. Obviously this was asking too much of any one man, but he has certainly tried.

So has Mr de Klerk, from where

ANC, Nats both have ability to compromise

JOYCE HARRIS of the Transvaal region of the Black Sash argues the need for the middle ground in South African politics to be strengthened to achieve a just society as soon as possible.

he stands. Both leaders have taken enormous risks with their constituencies, the results of which are demonstrated by the osmosis of the middle ground towards the peripheries. The PAC appears to be consolidating. Violence in Natal is escalating and spreading to other areas.

The hideous necklace has surfaced once again. The security forces sometimes appear to be out of control. The right wing is stealing arms from the Air Force and threatening to go for the throat of the ANC and the National Party is bleeding. The creation of the middle

ground has not been without risks.

These remain and will be aggravated for as long as the middle ground is unable to consolidate itself, control its constituencies, and show tangible, constructive results.

The field in the middle is fertile — the Government, the ANC, business, Cosatu, the UDF, Nactu, the DP, liberals and their organisations, Inkatha — all those who have professed a preference for negotiation and peace.

Lumping these disparate constituencies together in the middle ground may require a double take. They appear to be odd bedfellows. But the scenario is very different from that which has prevailed during all the years of National Party rule and the ideology of apartheid.

There has been a very real shift in the political configuration and it must be recognised.

It may be difficult indeed for all such parties and organisations to co-operate. It will probably go entirely against the grain for many of them. But each has its supporters. Each has its policies. Each has a stake in the future of this country, and each can help to swell the middle ground and make it prevail, stopping the leak to the peripheries.

If the process is allowed to reverse itself, if the leak is in the opposite direction and the radicalism, or the reaction, or the violence of the periphery are allowed to

spread and permeate the middle ground, the result can only be anarchy, bloodshed and disaster.

The middle ground will need to do more than woo its supporters to prevent the leak. It will have to deal firmly with all the chaos being created on the periphery. It will have to find a way of handling the violence in Natal and elsewhere, a violence which is becoming increasingly mindless and which feeds upon itself. Somehow this will have to be defused and the perpetrators courted with attractive alternatives.

The existence of a strong middle ground of co-operating constituencies will help, by offering positive, visible alternatives and hope for an eventual solution of all the problems. But it will have to act urgently and with firmness and strength, intervening physically to put a stop to the horrors that are being perpetrated and to exercise control.

None of this is easy. But the alternatives are "too ghastly to contemplate".

The middle ground must win. The periphery must be controlled and absorbed, so the contribution to the middle ground becomes increasingly broad.

Everyone has a part to play to strengthen the middle ground, and all of its constituencies must co-operate so that negotiations can proceed with the least possible delay and positive steps can be taken to stop the rot, quell the appetite for violence and get on course towards a future acceptable to all our people.

All those constituencies comprising the middle ground, actually or potentially, should stop their politicking and go for the achievement of a just society for all as peacefully as possible. Only then can their various agendas be brought into play, to be argued and not fought over. The future of the country demands this.

Demo recalls Webster death

30/4/90 Staff Reporter (11C)

Students, staff and members of the Black Sash and Five Freedoms Forum held a placard demonstration outside Witwatersrand University today to commemorate the anniversary of the murder of Dr David Webster.

It is a year ago tomorrow that Dr Webster was gunned down outside his home in Troyeville.

The Union of Democratic University Staff Associations (Udusa) organised the demonstration and a commemorative lecture on "Truth and Justice in South Africa", which will be delivered in the University Great Hall tonight by Professor Andre du Toit of the University of Cape Town.

"We are demonstrating against the murder of Dr Webster and the fact that this crime has never been solved by police, in spite of the fact that apparently the evidence has been there and available," said Udusa spokesman Mr Ian Moll.

He said the events of today were organised a week ago and before the dramatic naming of Mr Paul de Swardt, a former SADF sergeant, by spy Johannesburg City Council spy handler, Mr Hannes Gouws, as the alleged killer of Dr Webster.

The academic lecture tonight will be followed by music by the African Jazz Pioneers, a group with which Dr Webster was closely associated, as well as the performance of a play, "The Coat".

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8.30 am

1 At Auto & don't subsid drivers or protected households are very low.

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Silent protesters who keep freedom flame burning

Thirty-five years ago the Black Sash was formed when six women in Johannesburg's northern suburbs opposed the removal of coloured people from the voters roll. Now the organisation boasts a steadily growing membership of more than 2 000. SHEHNAAZ BUBBIA reports.

Silent women draped in black sashes standing along Jan Smuts Avenue in Johannesburg in the early morning, displaying posters crying out against injustice — that's perhaps the best-known way in which the Black Sash protests against apartheid.

Few realise, however, that this organisation's activities run far deeper and its members have assumed a key role in exposing human rights abuses nationally and internationally, says founder member Jean Sinclair who, along with people such as Elizabeth McLaren and Helen Norman-Thompson, founded it necessary to establish a human rights-honouring organisation in the country.

The Black Sash has done tremendous work and helped a great many South Africans. Since its inception it has worked for justice and will continue to do so," Ms Sinclair said.

Transvaal regional chairman of the Black Sash and active member for 10 years, Judith Hawarden, described the shirts in the organisation over the years as "gigantic".

The strides the Black Sash has taken in exposing human rights abuses was noted by ANC leader Nelson Mandela on the day of his release when he commended the Black Sash for "keeping the flame of freedom alight in the white community in the dark years".

Ms Hawarden said: "Since the birth of the organisation when the coloured people were removed from the voters roll, we resolved to play a more determining role in the future of South Africa and to protest against any injustices regardless of colour, race or creed affected by it."

Front-line position

Asked why the Sash had taken a decision not to affiliate to any organisation, Ms Hawarden said the organisation was committed to exposing all human rights abuses and would continue to do so even in a post-apartheid state.

At our national conference, we affirmed that we are a human rights organisation — we are not interested only in first-generation rights, that is, the right to vote. We have committed ourselves to the pursuance of a human rights culture for all and we can only do so without being affiliated to any organisation.

With the entrenchment of apartheid in all spheres of life, the Sash shifted its low-profile stance to assume a front-line position in exposing all aspects of apartheid, from detentions and forced removals to education, workers' rights and the housing shortage, she said.

Ms Hawarden attributed this shift partly to the United Democratic Front's formation in the early '80s, and the subsequent banning of organisations and increased State repression.

Being a predominantly white organisation, it was not as hard-hit by repression as were extra-parliamentary black organisations. This space afforded the organisation access to research and enable it to expose those suffering under apartheid laws, Ms Hawarden said.



Conscience for a society... women with black sashes draped around them picketing silently against human rights abuses and fading police arrest, have become a familiar sight in South Africa.



Reaching out... The Black Sash's concern with the erosion of human rights has led to the establishment of advice offices. Here Letty Lekcho consults Black Sash adviser Uri Albrecht.

"Because we are white, we have certainly been less harassed. We tried to use this space to expose repression. We were forced to get into the front-line to face the police with their teargas and whips. We did this because we had to respond to events in the country."

And keeping up with trends in the country is still very much a part of Sash strategy," Ms Hawarden said the organisation's major focus for the coming year was the dismantling of apartheid, and the issue of land and its redistribution.

The organisation's membership still consisted mainly of white English-speaking women.

"We have a number of black women and even men, but because of the Group Areas Act in the white communities, the Black Sash believes its role is to inform and educate whites about the lives of blacks in this country."

The Black Sash was not a feminist organisation but in all of its work it addressed how

women were affected, she added.

A significant change in the membership of the Sash from its early years had been the influx of younger working women. It had recruited members from all over the country.

Ms Hawarden said she believed that the reason for the steadily increasing number of younger women joining the organisation was the result of years of hard work in addressing the political problems facing South Africans.

The Black Sash's work was not aimed at helping people to live more comfortably with apartheid but to make them aware of their rights. There were numerous Sash offices dotted all over South Africa dealing with all types of problems, which were exposed nationally and internationally, she said.

Originally known as The Women's Defence of the Constitution League, the organisation was named Black Sash by the media because of its logo, which depicts the SA constitution with a black sash of mourning draped over it.



Standing for justice... Black Sash members resolved 35 years ago to play a role in the future of South Africa and to protest against any injustice. In one of the first protests, in 1956, a Black Sash member stands at the entrance of the House of Assembly in Cape Town as Prime Minister Mr J G Strijdom walks by.

A chilling diary of threats and harassment

IT is late at night when the telephone rings.

Someone answers.

At first there is silence ... an unnerving silence.

Then: "We're going to get you, you dirty Jew-boy" ... "We know you're alone" ... "Your father's a communist."

On the other end of the line is Clive M Chipkin. He is a Johannesburg architect and a co-founder of Architects Against Apartheid. He is also a member of the Five Freedoms Forum (FFF).

Target

Unknown, however, to Mr Chipkin is that the FFF is a specific target of the Johannesburg City Council spy ring. What he also does not know is that the names of certain FFF officials had also gained the attention of another sinister body — the secret South African Defence Force unit known as the Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB).

And neither he nor the FFF were aware of the extent of the spying, which included obtaining the groundplans of the homes of many activists, including FFF members.

The telephone calls to Mr Chipkin, one preceded by heavy breathing and office background noises, are examples of a reign of harassment meted out to FFF members over the past three years. Here is Mr Chipkin's story:

● March 1987 — Several phone calls in the early hours. Parkview police station notified.

● April 7 1987 — Phone call at 11.45 pm. Heavy breathing. Background voices. Again, police notified.

● July 25 1987 — Phone call at 7.30 pm to inquire if the number was the Chipkin residence. Followed by abrupt rudeness.

Later, an English-speaking caller says: "We're going to get you." (Mr Chipkin's first name, Clive, and the names of his two sons were used).

● July 26 1987, 6 pm — Afrikaans voice: "We know you're alone." Click.

● August 3 1988, 9 pm — "Your father's a communist," a caller tells Mr Chipkin's son, Ivor, who was alone at the time.

The menacing messages of the late-night callers form part of a wider and seemingly calculated campaign to disrupt and demoralise officials of the anti-apartheid group.

On September 11 1988, the tactics of harassment involving Mr Chipkin took a new turn. He said: "A letter published in the Sunday Times on September 11 caused me great anger.

Vicious

"It consisted of a vicious attack on Archbishop Tutu and was signed C M Chipkin. This disgraceful misuse of my name was a total falsification of my views."

Investigations showed the letter was a typed photostat statement sent to several newspapers under a false signature. The incident was reported to Parkview police and Mr Chipkin called John Vorster Square (Docket



MORE TARGETS: The FFF's Adele Kirsten (left) and Mike Olivier were victims of a dirty-tricks campaign.

LEGITIMATE anti-apartheid organisations were spied upon by the Johannesburg City Council security department. Frightening details of this undercover operation were exposed by The Star. One movement, the Five Freedoms Forum, believes these clandestine activities are linked to the intimidation and harassment of its members. STEVE McQUILLAN and KIT KATZIN relate the FFF story.

89009/88 CR 185/0988). The outcome of investigation is unknown.

The FFF is just one of several legitimate publicly funded and supported anti-apartheid organisations that fell foul of the authorities, some of whose activities have now been revealed in evidence to the Hiemstra spy inquiry.

Mr Chipkins believes that because of the evidence emerging at the Hiemstra inquiry it is important to place

on record his "diary" of harassment.

A broader FFF dossier discloses a frightening picture of intimidation. As far back as February 1988, FFF executives recognised security police members, dressed in plain clothes, at public meetings.

On one occasion, on March 24 1988, FFF executive member Gavin Evans, who was also earmarked for "elimination" by the CCB, was detained shortly before he was due to attend a FFF

public meeting.

Two days later security police were again noticed at a meeting to plan closer contact with groups such as Women for Peace, the Black Sash, Jews for Social Justice and the End Conscription Campaign.

Then there was the incident involving another FFF member, Peter Hunter.

Burnt out

On June 14 1988, his car was set alight and burnt out in the driveway of his home. Mr Hunter's home had been chosen by the FFF as the venue for a cocktail party at which the organisation would launch its "One City, Open City" campaign.

In October 1988, the flat of FFF member Jean de la Harpe was raided by members of the security police, soon after a public meeting had taken place at which her address was mentioned.

On another occasion in October, said Ms de la Harpe, four security policemen visited her flat at 6 am. "They said that in terms of emergency regulations they wanted to search the premises for 'stayaway pamphlets' relating to municipal elections." In fact the FFF was encouraging white people to vote in the election.

Then, on the night of October 26 1988, the car of Anne Vincent, also a member of the FFF, was vandalised. The tyres were slashed, windows smashed, the door knocked in, glue poured over the vehicle, and the outside spray-painted with the words "ANC" and "Nurden".

Earlier that night, Ms Vincent noticed two cars driving around the block outside her Braamfontein flat. Later, the cars stopped. She noticed white men inside the vehicle. They were watching her flat.

In March 1989, FFF chairman Mike Olivier asked a member to leave the organisation on suspicion of spying.

From April 1989 to March this year, a number of FFF members received telephone calls of a suspicious nature.

The members included Adele Kirsten, Cecily Singer, Sally Cohen, Jeanne Nixon and her daughter, Barbara Buntman, Jeanine Copeman and Gael Neke, the organisation's publicity secretary. Ms Neke's parents were also harassed.

In May 1989, two shots were fired into the bedroom of FFF member Lambros Marinaki, while he was asleep.

In June 1989, Ms Neke's parents received a telephone call from someone who called himself "Mike Olivier".

Party

Said Ms Neke: "At that time I was with Mike in La Palala. The caller asked my parents for the names and phone numbers of all my friends on the pretext that he was organising a surprise party for me."

In June 1989, FFF member Ian Mullen died when his house burnt down. "It seems as if a murder docket was opened and that arson was suspected. We have no further information about the investigation," Ms Neke said.

Black Sash has 35th anniversary

ster
21/5/90

By Shehnaaz Bulbulia
and Carina le Grange

11C

Anti-apartheid activities formerly labelled "subversive" have today become "kosher", retired Democratic Party M P Helen Suzman said yesterday.

Mrs Suzman was speaking at the 35th anniversary celebration of the Black Sash where she received honorary life membership to a standing ovation and prolonged applause.

She is the third non-member of the Black Sash to receive honorary membership. The others were Archbishop Denis Hurley and Dr Beyers Naude. Speakers at yesterday's celebration were Mrs Suzman, Sheena Duncan, Joyce Harris, Beauty Mkhize, and Dr Naude who proposed the toast — with a cup of water (wine was served later to the background of a marimba band). Founder member Jean Sinclair cut the first slice of the birthday cake.

Many of the 2 000 members of the human rights organisation as well as delegations of 29 rural communities from as far afield as Driefontein to Oukasie attended. Recently-released African National Congress prisoner Andrew Mlangeni arrived later and said a few words, commending the Black Sash.

Seriousness

Mrs Mkhize, widow of community leader Sol Mkhize, presented the Black Sash with a woven mat embroidered with the words "Happy Birthday Black Sash, Long Live Black Sash, Long Live Black Sash". She said she was speaking for all the communities and the "lonely and worried people" who approached the advice office and who were helped by the organisation.

"I hope the Black Sash will continue to work in the new South Africa," she said.

Dr Naude, outlining perspectives of the organisation, related how, during the time he was still a member of the Broederbond in 1958, members had expressed fear of "the danger of women organising". This attested to the seriousness with which the Black Sash was regarded from the start.

"The power of liberated women, standing up for the truth, is needed at this stage. What is needed are women liberated from fear, hatred, prejudice and inhibition," he said.

Videos and photographs of the organisation were on display as well as its publications.



Community activist Beauty Mkhize addresses more than 200 people at the Black Sash's 35th birthday celebrations while (from left) founder member Jean Sinclair, former Progressive Federal Party MP Helen Suzman and executive member Judith Hawarden listen attentively.

(11c)
Sash honours Suzman

Opt. Trks. 21/5/90

JOHANNESBURG. — Former MP Mrs Helen Suzman was made a life member of the Black Sash movement at its 35th anniversary celebration here on Sunday.

Mrs Suzman said she had always considered herself a member of the organisation and congratulated it on its years of service to the oppressed people of South Africa when it was considered "subversive" to promote human rights.

Another guest speaker, ANC talks delegation member Dr Beyers Naude, praised the organisation, saying it was a formidable force. — Sapa



Mrs Helen Suzman... paid tribute to the back-up provided by the Black Sash

Sash provided vital facts, says Suzman

By ASHA SINGH

WITHOUT the vital information provided by the Black Sash, very little could be done to alleviate the problems of oppressed black people, said Helen Suzman at the organisation's 35th birthday.

Mrs Suzman, former MP for Houghton, was given honorary life membership by the organisation and commended for her efforts in Parliament to improve living conditions of displaced and homeless black people.

Without the statistics provided by the Black Sash, I would not have had the strength to fight those issues in Parliament like I did.

Being alone voice in Parliament like I was for 13 years, I certainly needed the back-up provided by the organisation, she said.

Valuable

Valuable information and statistics collected by the organisation was used by the Institute of Race Relations, newspapers and other organisations.

The importance of providing accurate in-

formation could not be stressed enough, and the dedication of Black Sash members towards assembling statistics and assisting clients was invaluable.

She thanked Mrs Moira Henderson, who worked with a section of the organisation which looked after prisoners' children, for stirring her interest in prison conditions and the plight of prisoners.

Visitor

"I suddenly became a frequent visitor at Robben Island and when I found that prisoners were not allowed access to media, I arranged for them to have newspapers.

The difference this made to them was satisfaction enough for me, she said.

The Black Sash also fanned her interest in forced removals of blacks from townships.

It was heartbreaking the way people were moved around from place to place, she said.

Satisfied

Here, the Black Sash played an important role in helping people relocate and find their feet again.

Mrs Suzman wished the organisation every success for the future and encouraged them to continue their struggle in the fight for human rights and equality for mankind.

Mrs Suzman said she was satisfied with her work in Parliament, but her one regret was she could not tell members who had initially opposed her: "I told you so!"

SINCE the beginning of 1990 events have moved with astonishing speed and South Africa finds itself on the brink of a process of transformation.

As the Black Sash marks 35 years of existence, we look forward with hope to the dismantling of apartheid and the start of the redressing of past injustice. But we recognise that this will be achieved only with great difficulty.

Despite the degree of trust and understanding which has been reached between the representatives of the government and of the African National Congress, there will be no easy move away from conflict and resistance to the painful task of building a new, more just, and united nation.

The structures of apartheid remain in place and widespread violence is shaking the country. The uncertainty of this transition period is aggravated by conflict at many levels: contests for power and control; attacks based on racist hostility; intimidation and revenge; and outright warfare between competing forces.

How do we seek to affirm human rights and condemn their violation in such circumstances? Of course we deplore and denounce the right-wing braggarts and vicious buffies, the mysterious car accidents and the horrendous events being revealed by the Harms Commission, the calls to arms by several different parties, the bomb-attacks and the killings (shootings, stabbings, necklacing) and all the torture and unjust imprisonment, whether sanctioned by the State or in exiled prison camps — as well as the desperate, destructive warfare which is laying waste to Natal.

What to offer the youth

We aim to record and expose these things, but what can be done to bring an end to such violence and to build respect for life and trust in the law?

The first step is to seek the causes of the violence.

When people resort to physical



Thirty-five years ago this week — on May 19 1955 — the Black Sash was founded in Johannesburg. Appraising the work which still needs to be done, MARY BURTON, past president, expresses concern over the growth of violence and the need for an urgent response.

attack they have given up hope of having an influence by any other means on the outcome of events affecting their lives. This applies equally to the threatening militants of the right wing in Welkom or Pretoria and to the warring armies in Natal, as well as to the attacks and counter-attacks on leaders or members of competing groups in situations like that of Crossroads.

Healing the wounds of nation's violence

CHL Temp 23/5/90 (11c)

They clearly have no belief that their interests will be served or protected unless they impose their demands by force and demonstrate that they have the power to do so.

As in all wars, decisions are made by leaders who send others into the field of battle. Leaders depend on the support they can demonstrate — the numbers they can muster, the power they can wield, and therefore the apparently good reason for more followers to join them. In South Africa this demonstration of support is a consequence of the denial of the vote to the vast majority of the population.

On-going conflict becomes a way of life. The young sacrifice their youth, their education, their innocence. What can peacetime have to offer them? They cannot regain the lost years and there seems no substitute for the heady excitement of fighting and danger. This is the tragedy of the young black generation but it is also true of those white youths being indoctrinated and trained to fight to the death to preserve an ethnic identity.

Violence feeds on hostility and fear. The legacy of apartheid is the mistrust, the fear of loss of privilege, the anger at injustice, the divisions and inequalities which have made strangers out of the citizens of one country.

'We make no excuses'

The structural violence needed to enforce apartheid has had the effect of desensitising its victims to such an extent that physical conflict loses its power to shock. "Structural violence" is

a contested term but it encompasses the actual violence which has accompanied Pass Law arrests, torture in detention, destruction of houses and property during forced removals and squatter demolitions and violent actions by employees of the State against political opponents. This violent history is indeed structural and it has had a blunting effect on sensitivity to brute force which may be difficult to measure but should not be underestimated.

In addition to all the violence for which such explanations can be made, there is the seemingly mindless brutality of crime — theft and assault, rape and murder — which arises out of the socio-economic environment of thousands of alienated, disaffected, criminalised people.

The Black Sash is sometimes accused of ignoring acts of violence unless these can be laid at the door of the government or its suspected agents and supporters. We do not deny that we see our primary task as one of defending the rule of law and protecting the rights of the public against incursions by the State. But neither do we deny that we have been horrified over the years by killings of alleged collaborators and informers carried out by anti-apartheid groups.

We do not make excuses for such actions. We do believe the most urgent task is to lay the foundations for peace.

Commitment comes first

How is this country to be healed?

All must share the responsibility. Causes and culprits must be

identified, and the government (present and future) must assume its task as the ultimate provider of protection for all. This means that it is of the utmost importance that the police and the army are impartial servants of the public and are seen to be so.

The constitution-making process must be consultative and open. Those who see no future unless they fight for it must be persuaded that there is a process through which their voice can be heard. The guaranteed protection of civil rights is essential but so is a real commitment to address the economic restructuring which must take place. The state of emergency and curbs on political activity must be lifted in order to foster a rapid process of organisation, mobilisation and political education.

The help of those who have power to affect the outcome of events must be enlisted. It is inevitable that the actions of the powerful business sector, the outside world, the unionised labour force, the religious communities and other groupings within and outside the country will have an impact. There is a risk that such forces could aggravate rather than reduce conflict.

It is neither surprising nor wrong that those who fear the possibility of one political grouping (for example, the African National Congress) acquiring too much power, should support its opponents. But when, as in Natal, lives are being lost and the fabric of the society is being torn apart, sectarian interests must take second place to a common commitment of peace. Those who have influence must use it to guide disagreement and

competition into formal channels and away from armed conflict.

Part of the process of healing is the acknowledgement of past wrongs. Retribution and revenge are not conducive to reconstruction but a new edifice cannot be built on secrecy and guilt. The role of independent commissions is vital in opening up to the light all the evils which have taken place, so that old ghosts can be laid to rest.

Justice and dedication

South Africa will depend heavily on the capacity of all its people to forgive, a capacity which has often been generously demonstrated. Knowledge of the truth, however, is the precursor to forgiveness. (It is for this reason that the prompt acknowledgement by the ANC of its responsibility for any malpractice in its detention camps is to be welcome and that its commitment and that of other parties to continuing openness is a necessary component of future peace.)

Those who are and have been combatants and victims must be of primary concern. The country's resources must be urgently directed towards a programme of counselling, curing, educating and training this battered generation — those within the country and those who will be returning to it.

This will require a massive mobilisation of people and skills: the task of providing jobs and training must be a priority for the business sector and the government; and divisions and problems that bedevil the education system must be vigorously addressed.

We must deal with poverty and the need to acquire skills. We must prepare for major change and help people to accept it. We in the Black Sash have some of the abilities which will be needed. Our advice offices and our fieldworkers can offer valuable services.

Our commitment to human rights, to justice and to peace demands that we dedicate ourselves to this work.

SA FINDS itself on the brink of a process of transformation. As the Black Sash marks 35 years of existence, we look forward with hope to the dismantling of apartheid and the start of the redressing of past injustice.

This will be achieved only with great difficulty. In spite of the trust and understanding reached between government and the ANC, there will be no easy move away from conflict and resistance to the task of building a new, more just and united nation.

The uncertainty of this transition period is aggravated by conflict at many levels: contests for power and control; attacks based on racist hostility; intimidation and revenge, and outright warfare.

How do we seek to affirm human rights and condemn their violation in such circumstances?

We deplore the right-wing braggarts and vicious bullies, the horrendous events being revealed by the Harms Commission, the call to arms by different parties, the bomb attacks and killings, and torture and unjust imprisonment as well as the

All must share task of healing the nation

BIDAY 29/5/90

MARY BURTON

desperate, destructive warfare laying waste to Natal.

To bring an end to violence and to build respect for life and trust in the law, the first step is to seek the causes of violence.

When people resort to physical attack they believe their interests will not be protected unless they impose their demands by force and show they have the power to do so.

Conflict becomes a way of life. The young sacrifice their youth, their education, their innocence. What can peacetime have to offer them? This is the tragedy of the young black generation, but it is also true of white youths being trained to fight to preserve an ethnic identity.

The structural violence needed to enforce apartheid has so desensitised its victims that physical conflict loses its power to shock. "Structural violence" is a contested term, but it encompasses the actual violence which has accompanied pass law ar-

rests, torture in detention, destruction of houses and property during forced removals and squatter demolitions, and violent actions by employees of the state against political opponents.

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We do not make excuses for such actions. We believe the urgent task is to lay the foundations for peace.

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The state of emergency and curbs on political activity must be lifted to foster rapid organisation, mobilisation and political education.

Sectarian interests must take second place to a common commitment to peace.

Part of the process of healing is the acknowledgement of past

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REVIEWS

Sowetan Woman

Fighting for morality

Sowetan 30/5/90 11c

When apartheid's legacies are removed, Black Sash will switch to the politics of nation building

THIRTY FIVE years on, after successfully fighting the voluntary farm labour system and influx control laws, the Black Sash continues to fight.

An enduring and one of the effective protest organisations, Black Sash was started as an angry reaction to the Government's plan to remove coloureds from the voters' roll in 1955.

Five women came together to oppose the move, and the effort snowballed to thousands. The Black Sash failed to prevent the end of the coloured people's right to vote, but its campaign against violations of human rights continued.

Today the organisation has eight regions and nine advice offices countrywide. It has field workers in both rural and urban areas and action committees that do research and monitor events inside the country. It presently has a group

By **SIZAKELE KOOMA**

in Natal and another one checking the squatting outbreak in urban areas.

"One thing that we try hardest to do is to keep the issue of civil rights alive through protest and fighting for morality," Jenny de Tolly, Black Sash national president said.

Document

Their advice offices, De Tolly said, had allowed them to have a window on white supremacy and the appalling price that blacks pay for apartheid.

The Black Sash has played an important role in documenting and making the world aware of the injustices of apartheid. It partly takes credit for the scrapping of the voluntary labour system, which allowed for arrested people to give their labour voluntarily on

farms, and the influx control law. It has also contributed to fight against incorporation into homelands and forced removals.

The organisation is never short of issues to address.

"We are a fairly adaptable organisation. I wish a time could come when our services would no longer be needed. The number of people coming to us never lessens. We have been changing constantly. Pension advice is the one issue we are dealing with most presently," De Tolly said.

In view of the present changes on the political front and others that might occur in future, De Tolly said the Black Sash may be forced to change its strategies.

Legacies

"For a long time we have been engaged in programmes of resistance. When the irregularities are removed we will have to switch to the politics of



A familiar sight in city streets, a Black Sash member carrying a placard which shows how she feels about discrimination.

nation building.

"It is going to take some time to sort out the legacies of apartheid. When it goes the divide between rich and poor, for example, will still remain. Our organisation would therefore have to look at things like equality in the economy," she

said.

Black Sash, which has about 20 000 members nationally, mostly women and mostly white, has been attacked by people on both the left and the right of the political spectrum. It has never been banned, a fact they consider counter-productive

because, by allowing them to speak out, they feel the Government could claim it gave freedom to its critics.

The organisation's accomplishments are due not to the work of any particular individual but to all the women working as a group. But, among

the women who stand out in their total commitment to the campaign against apartheid are past presidents Jean Sinclair and Sheena Duncan.

It this year gave former Houghton MP and veteran parliamentarian Helen Suzman honorary life membership.



Elias Tshabalala relates his problem to Jean Bertstein at a Johannesburg Black Sash advice office.

Security Act must go, say Sash, HRC

Dawn Barkhuizen

The Black Sash and the Human Rights Commission have drawn attention to the increased use of Internal Security Act detentions since the lifting of the state of emergency last month, and have called again for the Act's repeal.

But a Law and Order Ministry spokesman Captain Peet Bothma has denied the Government is replacing emergency detentions with detentions under the Internal Security Act. The increased use of the Internal Security Act was because of the recent upsurge of violence.

He added: "Planting a bomb has nothing to do with politics. Police will not stand in the way of peaceful political protest, but we will not tolerate terrorism."

Detentions

The Black Sash and HRC call was made following the string of detentions — three Natal Indian Congress leaders involved in an African National Congress recruitment drive were arrested in Durban on July 13 and held under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act.

A Black Sash statement yesterday said: "Government's reform policy and the lifting of the state of emergency have not stopped detentions in South Africa. With the demise of the emergency, security forces are increasingly using Section 29 of the Internal Security Act."

"Since the lifting of the state of emergency, there has been a dramatic escalation of Section 29 detentions," an HRC spokesman said.

He supplied the following statistics:

- Eighty-three people are in detention under Section 29 with two additional detainees under Section 31. Of the 83, more than 45 were detained following the lapse of the state of emergency.

- For five months prior to June 8, 34 people were held under this Act, HRC records show. On March 28, 31 people were being held. By April 18 one had been added to the list.

- In Natal, where the state of emergency still exists, there have been no detentions in terms of the regulations, but at least three people have been arrested under Section 29.

The HRC spokesman said that of the 83 detainees, nine were recently detained right-wingers. The balance were members of legal left-wing organisations such as the ANC, the United Democratic Front, youth congresses and trade unions. The majority were black people.

Law and Order spokesman Captain Peet Botma yesterday denied that police were replacing the state of emergency with the Internal Security Act.

"Section 29 is used solely for investigational purposes. It is totally unlike the state of emergency. It allows police to investigate specific aspects. These investigations can be lengthy," he said.

Asked to explain the marked increase in detentions under Section 29, Captain Botma said the arrests were directly related to the present surge of violence in South Africa. June 1990 saw the most incidents of unrest since 1985.

The detentions were not contradictory to current Government policy, he said.

Under the state of emergency, detention was their only option.

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Picket protest in city

By MATSHUBE
MFOLOE

FIFTEEN members of the Black Sash yesterday picketed near the Johannesburg City Hall in protest against detentions and the Internal Security Act.

The lunch-hour protest, which lasted about 20 minutes, called for the scrapping of the Internal Security Act and the immediate release of people in detention.

Sash spokesman Ms Gill de Vlieg said the Government's reform policy and the lifting of the State of Emergency had not stopped detentions in South Africa.

"With the demise of the State of Emergency, security forces are increasingly using Section 29 of the Internal Security Act," she said.

Sowetan 18/11/70
Terms

In terms of the Act, prisoners could be held incommunicado for purposes of interrogation.

The organisation claimed 79 people were being held under the Act and two under Section 31.

De Vlieg said 81 people were being held in Bophuthatswana under the emergency regulations.

Star 24/1/90 (110)

Buthelezi challenges Mandela

By Esmaré van der Merwe, Political Reporter

KwaZulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi has challenged ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela to publicly state whether he agrees with ANC military leader Chris Hani's remarks at the weekend that the chief should be isolated.

In a statement yesterday, Chief Buthelezi, leader of Inkatha, said Mr Mandela should also express himself on alleged ANC plans to assassinate Inkatha leaders.

Insurgents

"There is now evidence that armed ANC cadres have been sent into this country to kill senior members of Inkatha. Recently ANC insurgents alleged to be linked to the murder of Inkatha supporters were arrested in Natal and police seized a large arms cache.

"I now seek a public response from Dr Mandela as to whether he shares Mr Hani's views and approves of ANC action.

"I ask whether this is the reward I am getting

for having campaigned over the years for the unbanning of the ANC and the release of their political prisoners and for having refused to negotiate with the South African Government in any way until the African National Congress and others were also free to do so," Chief Buthelezi said.

Mr Hani, chief of staff of Umkhonto we Sizwe, told a rally on Sunday that Chief Buthelezi and Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope should be "isolated".

He said the South African Government was leaning on these two men in order to "perpetuate their delaying tactics".

Sapa reports that Chief Buthelezi also claimed that the ANC/UDF/Cosatu alliance and the South African Communist party front were brutalising people in kwaZulu/Natal because they were seeking victory through violence before elections were held.

Inkatha was being attacked by those who did not want it to be part of a future democracy.

Chief Buthelezi emphasised that he had repeatedly appealed to ANC deputy president, Nelson Mandela, to take part in peace talks with him. — Sapa.

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31/8/90 (11C)

Govt in crisis of credibility

An element of trust is an essential ingredient of the negotiating process, but instead we have a Government presently enjoying a crisis of credibility.

This is the result of a long history of covert action, lies which have subsequently been exposed, and more recently the "Namibian Invasion" fiasco and now the "Red Peril".

Deeply involved

The security forces seem to be at the root of the latter two incidents, and are also deeply involved in what begins to look like a cover-up of the CCB activities, but they cannot be held responsible independently of the Government.

President de Klerk is widely recognised as a man of honour and integrity, but he alone cannot fill the credibility gap and it would seem that he is ill-served by at least some of those around him.

The bungle over both the "Red

JOYCE HARRIS, of the Transvaal Region of the Black Sash
discusses the honesty of leadership.

Peril" and the "Namibian Invasion" sows deep doubts in the minds of the public, and they are aggravated by indications of police brutality and possible police bias. Lack of information does not help and the SABC obeys its master's voice.

It is not enough for the Government to make a simple statement that the CCB is being "operationally disbanded".

The CCB and its membership needs to be totally exposed and its deeds admitted. What becomes of its members should be open to public scrutiny. People need to be able to feel secure that hit squads are no longer functioning and that they will no longer be tried and punished, even to death, without trial and any apparent accountability.

This is a form of anarchy practised by Government-controlled forces, and it is small wonder that

respect for the Rule of Law and for human life itself is dwindling.

Never has the ordinary person in the street felt so insecure as now. There is no confidence in the law, or that those responsible for the maintenance of law and order and the security of the State and all the people in it are doing their job.

There is a feeling abroad that they are part of the problem.

There is crime, thuggery, faction fighting, attacks by whites on blacks, shack demolitions, a descent into chaos and Government dis-counters of responsibility and apportionment of blame do nothing to rectify the situation.

Certainly the liberation forces voice threats and there are acts of violence. No one is suggesting that the Government's task is easy. But when it has become impossible to believe anything anyone says, par-

ticularly the Government to which the public looks for the creation of peace and security, the country is threatened with anarchy.

It is difficult to know how the Government can remedy its credibility crisis, it has become so deeply ingrained. It seemed to lift a little when Mr de Klerk made his February speech and when the Government and the ANC got together. To their credit they are still getting together and the country should be full of hope. Instead it is full of fear.

The first thing the Government should do is to admit its guilt — come clean over the CCB and the hit squads and not sweep them under the carpet. It should be seen to be controlling its security forces.

An incident like a conscientious objector appearing in court in leg irons and shackles should be severely and openly reprimanded. President de Klerk must be seen to be in control. Maybe then the mantle of his credibility will spread to his Government and some confidence will be restored to the people.

see all too clearly what has to be avoided here at almost any cost."

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Sir Seretse's ^{Call} ^{Tint} son takes an ¹² ^{10/9/70} Afrikaans bride

Ser
dy

SEROWE. — Mr Anthony Khama, one of Sir Seretse Khama's twin sons, married Miss Margret le Roux in a traditional ceremony here on Saturday.

A private ceremony was held on Friday in Odi, at the home of the bridegroom's mother, Lady Ruth Khama, Botswana Press Agency reports.

Guests came from all over Botswana, South Africa and Mozambique, and included Botswana's President Quett Masire, the two daughters of the late President Samora Machel of Mozambique and notables from the government and civil service of Botswana.

The wedding was conducted at the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa in Serowe.

The Afrikaans bride, accompanied by her family, arrived in a cream satin wedding gown inlaid with pearls, with a matching head dress decorated with flowers, a pearl necklace and matching pearl earrings.

After the ceremony a kgotla (traditional wedding feast) was held, attended by hundreds. The couple was presented with gifts including a mounted kudu trophy and a lion skin, presents from the Bamangwato tribe. — Sapa

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Case 7-1-8
12/19/90
11c

Sash workers 'must be impartial'

Political Staff
THE Black Sash, although politically active and interested, had to maintain impartiality in its quest for universal human rights in South Africa, according to its official journal, Sash.

"Our volunteers and employees are engaged in awesome tasks as monitors and participants in situations of deep-seated conflict," it said in an editorial in the latest issue of the magazine.

"But our non-party political stance means that, while we feel free to work together with any party on issues where we share common goals, we will not be directed or controlled by them.

"The Black Sash does not stop its members, workers or elected office-bearers from belonging to the party of their choice.

"But within the context of our work their party commitment takes second place to the Black Sash's need to maintain impartiality," the editorial said.

Pensioners losing out, says Sash

Sowetan 18/10/90

11C
[Handwritten initials]

THE under-funding of homelands by South Africa has allegedly resulted in authorities waiting for a pensioner to die for another application to be considered so as to create space in the pension payout "quota".

A report compiled by the Black Sash says thousands of Lebowa pensioners were deprived of their pensions because the Social Pensions Act of 1978 provides that the homeland secretary for welfare may determine

By RUSSEL MOLEFE

the number of applications to be approved.

The report said the then secretary for welfare had stated in 1984 that no further pension applications would be approved because of a shortage of funds.

The Lebowa secretary for social welfare, Professor MM Bopape, confirmed that the plight of pensioners in the homeland was due to financial constraints and a delay of six months in the supply of funds by South Africa.

He said the "policy"

of waiting for a pensioner to die to make way for another did not apply in his homeland.

The report said pensioners in Lebowa and other homelands were prejudiced as:

- * They do not have an enforceable right to pensions since this depends on whether South Africa allocates sufficient funds to the homeland;

- * They wait for excessive periods before they receive social pensions and;

- * Their payment is received only from the date of final approval.

Police 'prevented aid to dying man'

By Brendan Templeton

Star 24/10/90
11C 187

A Black Sash member yesterday described how police in Hillbrow last week prevented her from comforting a fatally wounded man who was shot minutes before her arrival.

Witnesses told The Star the suspected car thief was shot while lying on the ground by a policeman. They said a medical student was prevented from giving him first aid before he died.

The man was shot outside the Metropolitan apartments in Alexandra Road, Hillbrow, at about 11 pm last Wednesday.

Dorothy Wheeler said a policeman shouted at her: "Don't touch him", when she leant over the dying man. Blood was pouring from his mouth and his eyes were glazing over, but she noticed one hand still moving.

Witnesses told The Star they heard gunshots and saw a man running down the street stumble and fall. While he was on the ground, the policeman shot him from about 10 m.

Ms Wheeler said police made no attempt to help the man. Another witness said the policeman turned and walked away after firing the last shot. He did not check the wounded man's condition.

Police grabbed The Star's camera to prevent pictures being taken and threatened to confiscate it. The medical student who tried to help the man was subsequently arrested.

Police liaison officer Captain Eugene Opperman urged people who witnessed the incident or who have any information to contact Sergeant Erasmus at Hillbrow police station, (011) 643-4811.

Education crisis ^(11C) is big, says Sash

THE education crisis in South Africa is so big that any child who manages to go through school and get a matriculation certificate at the end is an elite, says national vice-president of the Black Sash Mrs Mary Burton. *Sowetan 6/12/70*

Addressing the annual speech day at Epworth School in Maritzburg yesterday, Burton said there were thousands of children in South Africa who had no hope of achieving a matriculation certificate - and whose lives would be permanently affected because of this.

"The goal of the Freedom Charter, 'that the doors of learning shall be open', remains for now, at least, a distant dream," she said.

"Even with the willingness of many to share some of the benefits of education, there is a long way to go."

- *Sowetan Correspondent.*

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BLACK SASH.

1991 - 1995

Repeal security laws'

The Black Sash on Friday welcomed President FW de Klerk's intention to repeal the Land and Group Areas Acts.

The group said it was necessary, however, that compensation be made to the millions of people whose lives had been destroyed through the implementation of these Acts over many decades.

South 4/29
"We note with great regret that Mr de Klerk made no mention of security laws, particularly the Internal Security Act," Black Sash said in a statement. *HC*

Removal of laws which allow for such evil practices as detention without trial would have been a real indication of a commitment to a South Africa where a Bill of Rights would prevail.
Sapa

Rural women organise ^(11C)

^{Sowetan}
By PEARL MAJOLA

SEX discrimination is still very much a reality for women in the rural areas.

And this prompted the formation of the Rural Women's Movement by Transvaal women last year.

The movement was formed with the help of the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac), a subsidiary organisation of the Black Sash concerned with helping rural people faced with forced removals.

RWM aims to unite rural women and give them a platform to share their problems and work on solutions together, while assisting them to develop skills such as sewing and trench gardens.

Fighting the problem alongside these women is Lydia Kompe of Trac.

Born and bred in the rural areas herself, the issues and problems facing



LYDIA KOMPE

them are well known to Kompe.

"My concern for rural women grew when I started working for Trac.

"I found out that it is them who are first hit with notices of removals before the men, who usually work far from home," explained Kompe.

"Yet, when decisions have to be made, women are not given a chance to contribute to those decisions.

"The men come home and the Kgotla, the decision-making body,

meets to discuss what needs to be done. understand the problems facing married men.

"Women are excluded from the Kgotla and are only called in to explain what the authorities said.

"The RWM was then formed to address this particular issue and then get women together to discuss other problems they face like why they have to be excluded even from issues that affect them directly," she said.

They have succeeded in getting women into the Kgotla in some villages such as Braklaagte, Mogopa and Driefontein, but Kompe maintains there is still a lot of work to be done.

"It has been a struggle because men still feel dominant and feel they will be breaking tradition if they allow women into the Kgotla.

"The RWM has the support of unmarried men who are also not allowed into the Kgotla because it is assumed they do not

understand the problems facing married men.

"But they are saying that as adults they need to be involved when decisions that are going to affect their lives, are made," she said.

"Another issue we want to tackle is the gap between rural and urban women.

"Urbanisation has divided black women and urban women have access to facilities which are not available for rural women.

"This creates a feeling of inferiority among rural women. We have tried in the past to bring the two groups of women together on occasions like National Women's Day, but it has never worked.

"Often the medium of communication on these occasions is English which leaves rural women out because translation is seen as a waste of time by urban women," Kompe said.

Joyce Harris of the Black Sash rejects the Government's land plans

116

Jan 20/3/91

Erase apartheid's imprint on the earth

SINCE 1955, when the National Party Government immorally removed the coloured voters from the common voters roll in the Cape, the Black Sash has constantly and consistently registered its protest against all apartheid and unjust laws, some of which are currently being removed from the statute book.

It is painful but unproductive to ponder on what the current situation in our country might have been had our words been heeded. However, we cannot remain silent over the Government's White Paper on the land Acts.

Naturally we welcome their repeal, but our organisation has been intimately involved with the Government's whole policy of forced removals since they were first brought to our attention in East London in 1959.

We organised mass campaigns of protest. We issued a map of the

removals in 1978 and re-issued it a couple of years later. We published booklets. We wrote letters and articles to the press.

We fought the migrant labour system, the hostels, the homelands policy, the Group Areas Act, the Pass Laws, and all the disruption inherent in their implementation.

We formed Trac — the Transvaal Rural Action Committee — as a wing of the Black Sash, to work in rural areas with people threatened with removal or already removed and suffering gross injustices.

Always we made our information public, and always we made representation to those in Government who had the power to reverse decisions made on behalf of millions of people who had no representation in Government and whose lives and communities were being mercilessly destroyed and uprooted.

But nothing and no one could

halt the Government in its determination to alter the face of South Africa to suit its selfish policies. It caused untold suffering which continues to this day.

It might be convenient for the Government to refuse any reparations, sheltering behind logistic and cost difficulties, calling on people to let bygones be bygones and make the best of what is now on offer. But it is totally unacceptable to all those millions who have suffered so grievously, as it is to those who have been aware of their suffering.

These deeds were perpetrated in living memory. Many of the people involved are still trying to return to their land. Much of the land is still available.

The proposed legislation will entrench the present pattern of grossly unjust and unequal land distribution, with the very real possibility of a further wave of dispossession, leading to yet thousands more join-

ing the seven million already without adequate shelter.

Surely land must be an absolutely fundamental subject for negotiation? Yet once again we have the Government deciding on its own what should be done and how it expects people to feel about it.

There can be no peace unless justice is seen to be done — in every sphere of life, but now, particularly with regard to land. No one pretends that there are any easy solutions. There will be problems and complications and conflicting claims.

But something has to be done about the dispossessed people, and a Government which once found it quite easy to uproot, dispossess and remove, should not find it impossible to resettle, reimburse and satisfy — particularly if it works in conjunction with the people concerned. □

Sash slams 'racist' ^{11c} govt notice

Political Staff

THE Black Sash yesterday slammed a government notice about artificial insemination as racist and sexist.

The Black Sash's Western Cape group said in a critical statement that the notice, issued on May 17, contained explicit references to population groups.

The notice also said regulations would not affect the artificial insemination of a person "who was not married" or those without the written consent of the spouse of the person.

Sash takes steps after 29 years

W/M 28/6 - 4/7/91
By GAVIN EVANS

THE Black Sash will "reclaim" the steps of the Johannesburg City Hall at 12.30 today — 29 years after all demonstrations were banned there.

The last City Hall steps demonstration saw the Sash holding a silent day and night placard protest against the Sabotage Bill, which criminalised a wide range of protest activities.

This time, the demonstration will be more positive — and several of the stalwarts who protested against the promulgation of apartheid laws will be there.

"We will call for homes for all, one education for all, one citizenship in one country, political tolerance, political honesty, justice for all, just land allocation, a just and peaceful society, equal rights for women and fair and impartial broadcasting," said Black Sash representative Gill de Vlieg.

The protest will begin at 12.30 and end at 2pm.

Women form new alliance

ct 8/7/91

Staff Reporter

A WIDE range of organisations — including the ANC and the Black Sash — have joined forces to set up the Women's Alliance.

The formation of the alliance was yesterday announced at a press conference attended by church groups, trade unions, the ANC's Women's League, the Organisation of Lesbian and Gay Activists (Olga), the Muslim Youth Movement, the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU), Rape Crisis, Azapo and the Black Sash.

Ms Karin Chubb, of the Black Sash, said a campaign would be launched to educate women on their rights and a women's charter would be drawn up.

She said negotiations would soon be started for a new constitution and a bill of rights.

It was essential that women were organised as a political force to ensure that women's demands were not ignored. The future South African government would be forced to adopt the United Nations Charter on Women, she said.

The Black Sash, traditionally a human-rights organisation, would now concentrate on women's issues, she said.

C

Black Sash in placard protest

Members of the Transvaal region of the Black Sash today braved the early morning chill and occasional abuse from passing motorists to protest against what the organisation described as the "irresponsible, corrupt and untrustworthy behaviour of the Government".

Picketers gathered at several places along Jan Smuts Avenue, wielding placards which included "Apartheid caused sanctions" and "Info CCB, Inkathagate... What Next?"

A spokeswoman said: "We are not convinced that everything is out in the open." — Staff Reporter.

How black violence rent the Black Sash

By DAWN BARKHUIZEN

THE women of the Black Sash were sharply divided by a heated debate on whether violence was justified in fighting repression during the 80s, a new book has disclosed.

British author Kathryn Spink, in *Black Sash — The Beginning of a Bridge in South Africa*, says the dispute, which spanned the decade, resulted in some members quitting the organisation.

Veteran Black Sash member Jill Wentzel "melted away" from the Sash. She led the lobby which demanded the organisation publicly condemn violence whether it be from the state or township residents.

The violence issue arose as black resistance gained momentum in the late 70s. Prior to that, the Black Sash had essentially one enemy — apartheid and the strong-arm methods used to keep it in place.

But suddenly the women of the Black Sash found themselves confronted with black-on-black violence — necklace killings, murders of black policemen and their families and intimidation of individuals who broke strikes and boycotts.

Forced

Spink writes: "It was a time when mothers were being made to watch while their sons were burnt to death and if they cried they were enemies of the people; households were forced to send representatives to funerals or else; people found breaking the boycotts were forced to eat the soap and oil they brought back to the townships."

"The fact that violence was increasing not only by the state, but by those combating repression gave rise to the question of how far such suffering could be regarded as a justification for reactive violence."

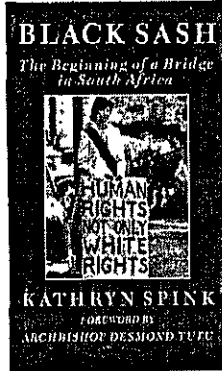
Evil

The dilemma facing the Black Sash was:

● Should it denounce "the liberatory violence" of those who had taken up arms against apartheid, just as they condemned state violence?

● Or should whites from their comfortable vantage points in the suburbs refrain from standing in judgment on people struggling to survive and driven to violence by a violent and intransigent government?

Mrs Wentzel says in the book: "You had to make allowances because apartheid was so evil ... but somewhere there was the idea that to be critical was



'It was a time when mothers were being made to watch while their sons were burnt to death and if they cried they were enemies of the people'

not to be supportive, the idea that the violence used to enforce the boycotts was excusable because of the violence of apartheid."

Mrs Wentzel recalled telephoning a Black Sash member about a youth who was hacked to death when he and his father were "sent for" from a funeral vigil.

The woman on the other end of the line said, yes, she knew all about it and was collecting affidavits — about the subsequent action by the police.

But she never, it seemed, interviewed the youth's

father or questioned the killing with the Congress of SA Students from whom she took the affidavits.

Said Mrs Wentzel: "I never felt the idea of justified defensive violence should be thrown out the window, but it was necessary to put down boundaries. Nobody seemed to want to do this."

Influx

"There had been an influx into the Black Sash at that time of members of the Congress of Democrats. They were the kind of people who would be threatened by the possibility of gradual, piecemeal evolutionary change because that would not bring about the socialist millennium."

Joyce Harris, another long-standing Black Sash member, was clear about her position: "Lawlessness remains lawlessness, whenever it is committed by, for whatever reason and no matter how understandable it might be."

She felt if the Black Sash applied judgments in one area and not another it risked turning into an acceptable wing of the struggle to overthrow the government by violent means.

Vulnerable

Port Elizabeth Black Sash member Judy Chalmers, however, said the debate was largely academic.

"Some of those making the strongest statements were not that close to the violence, not seeing the horror and fear caused by the state," she said.

"We were horrified by the necklacings but for a policeman to be attacked was, for those of us dodging the bullets, very often a case of self defence."

Another view came from Margaret Nash.

She said: "I hate the violence of headhunting and shrink from it, but see it as part of the pathology of a society that has for nearly 350 years been deformed by white supremacy and the power that flows from the barrel of a gun."

"I hate even more the institutionalised violence of a so-called Christian government that has brutalised, dehumanised and manipulated black people to the point where this kind of headhunting becomes

part of the pattern of resistance."

National president Mary Burton admitted Black Sash members were probably vulnerable to the criticism of being blanketly anti-government "probably because of having been in opposition to the government for so many years".

By 1989, however, "when everything was so turbulent and people were so clearly not on the side of the authorities," said Mrs Burton, "there was a lack of courage in speaking out, partly because everything was so confused and people did not know who the good guys or bad guys were. I think we have come through that and have the courage to say what we think."

Jill Wentzel during a protest in 1981: "Somewhere there was the idea that to be critical was not to be supportive, the idea that the violence used to enforce the boycotts was excusable because of the violence of apartheid"

The Black Sash calls for clarity on political prisoners

PRIEST
REV. D
TEL:

Amnesty or travesty?



Star 3/19/91

THE Black Sash calls upon the Government to make emphatically clear its policy on the release of political prisoners.

Among those released since the Pretoria Minute are people from the Left and the Right and people who in no circumstances could be regarded as political (eg Le Grange and Van der Merwe).

Many political prisoners whose cases would have appeared to have been clearly of a political nature have applied for indemnity and yet have been refused. Some of these have been released on parole while many still languish in jail.

Despite comprehensive definitions of what constitutes a political crime (Government Gazette November 7 1990) the nature of the crime does not seem to influence the release process. Some people convicted of necklacing have been released while others are still in jail; some MK members involved in incidents where civilians died have been released

while others have not; some political trials have been suspended while others continue.

Though the negotiations between the Government and the ANC on the release process have been up-front and documented, it is not clear if these agreements are applicable to other political parties. Have, for example, any right-wing groups come to arrangements with the Government? Have the right-wingers who have been released been through the process of applying for indemnity and has this been granted or were they released unilaterally?

Is the cut-off date as given in the November 7 Government Gazette applicable across the board and should it not be adhered to stringently?

Aggravating an already confusing situation are the general amnesties that have been declared since last December and though these might have assisted in the release of a number of first of-

fenders they have not helped many genuine political prisoners who do not fall into these categories.

These amnesties have served to create anger and frustration for a large percentage of the prison population, while the lack of preparation for the release of thousands of common law prisoners has resulted in enormous problems for the prisoners themselves, their families and society. Moreover, they have undermined the justice system and the idea that criminals have a debt to society.

To resolve the conflict surrounding political prisoners and to prevent manipulation of the process of the release of political prisoners by groups who are not committed to the process of negotiation and a "new South Africa", the Government needs to urgently clarify many of these issues.

● This article was written by Laura Pollecutt for the Transvaal regional council of the Black Sash. □

Black Sash (UC) showdown (UC)

By Dave Lourens 10/91

BLACK Sash members are set for a confrontation with Bophuthatswana police when the organisation stages a protest in Mafikeng tomorrow.

The protest is aimed at highlighting the banning of the Black Sash in Bophuthatswana and drawing attention to what organiser Suzanne Nossel calls "general repression" there.

While there had been improvements in free political expression in SA, Bophuthatswana remained repressive, Nossel said.

She said 25 Sash members joined by supporters of the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac), banned with the Black Sash in 1988, would stage the protest.

A Bophuthatswana government spokesman said that in terms of the Internal Security Act promulgated earlier this year, permission for gatherings had to be obtained from the Law and Order Minister.

The office of Law and Order Minister Amon Fegoe said it was unaware of any such application from the Black Sash, and any gathering would therefore be illegal.

Sash seeks access to picketers

Staff Reporter *Stur* 7/16/91

The Black Sash brought an urgent interdict against the Bophuthatswana police last night to gain access to members who were detained after picketing in Mmabatho on Saturday.

Sash spokesman Barbara Klugman said last night a magistrate, a State prosecutor and the organisation's lawyer had convened on Saturday night for a bail application but the investigating officer, a Captain Hlakanya, did not arrive.

The 11 Black Sash members and four foreign observers were remanded in custody because the bail application could not be heard without the officer.

A Bophuthatswana police spokesman said they would appear in court today but declined to say how many people would appear or what they would be charged with. This was confidential, he said.

A Black Sash lawyer passed Captain Hlakanya on an Mmabatho road yesterday and gave chase, Ms Klugman said. He forced the officer off the road and demanded access to his clients. Captain Hlakanya said he would decide when to charge those arrested.

Ms Klugman said the Black Sash, which is banned in Bophuthatswana, had been told earlier that its members had been charged with creating a public disturbance, promoting a banned organisation and holding an illegal gathering.

● The Black Sash will protest by holding a picket along Jan Smuts Avenue this morning.

Black Sash demo: Bop refuses bail

Star 8/10/91
Staff Reporters

The Bophuthatswana government yesterday refused a bail application for 16 people detained in Mmabatho on Saturday during a demonstration organised by the Black Sash.

Black Sash spokesperson Barbara Klugman said the Bophuthatswana government wanted to keep the detainees in custody until October 14 for further investigation.

Three German citizens, Roster Muller, Heinz Kuserer and Adelheid Kistner, and US citizens Lauri Adams and Chris Benner were among those detained on Saturday.

The group was arrested on charges of creating a public disturbance, attending an illegal gathering and furthering the aims of the Black Sash, which is banned in Bophuthatswana.

The German and US embassies, which do not recognise the homeland, yesterday officially placed responsibility for their detained citizens in the hands of the SA Government.

Embassy spokesmen condemned the arrests and demanded the detainees' immediate release. The US Embassy declared it was appalled by the arrest of "two (American) bystanders" who, according to their information, did nothing to deserve arrest.

"We hold the South African Government responsible for this, as we consider Bophuthatswana to be part of South Africa," Barry Walkley of the US Embassy said.

A picket organised by the Black Sash was held outside the University of the Witwatersrand yesterday to protest against the detentions and "the failure of President de Klerk to insist on an end to repression in the former homeland".

Bop frees Sash picketers

Staff Reporters

The Black Sash members and foreign observers held in custody at Mma-batho in Bophuthatswana since Saturday were released yesterday, a Sash spokesman said.

Transvaal regional chairman Barbara Klugman said the 11 Sash members who held a 20-minute picket demonstration on Saturday morning had been charged with staging an illegal gathering and had paid R200 admission-of-guilt fines.

Four overseas observers — whose arrest raised the ire of the United States and German embassies in Pretoria — were yesterday released, without being charged, along with a Mafikeng Anti-Repression Forum member.

On Monday, the State had indicated it would apply to have all 16 held in custody until October 14 pending further investigations.

Minorities take Barmine to court

MATTHEW CURTIN

THE attorney campaigning on behalf of minority shareholders in the Barplats Mines (Barmine) platinum operation for a better deal from former owner Rand Mines is to take the mining house to court on October 22.

Windhoek lawyer Andreas Vaatz said yesterday minorities would seek a court ruling in terms of the Companies Act as to whether minority shareholders had been prejudiced by the deal in which Impala Platinum (Implat) took over Barmine from Rand Mines. *B1 Day 9/10/91*

Section 252 of the Act afforded protection to minorities and Vaatz said he could hardly visualise a better case in which the court could compel majority shareholders to buy back minorities' shares.

In the current arrangement, which shareholders have to ratify on October 16, minority shareholders' interests are diluted and their shares will be worth a small

fraction of the price when Rand Mines took over Barmine from Loucas Pouroulis.

Vaatz said it was vital for minorities to vote against the scheme at the meeting, as those who did not could not expect any redress if a court ruled in their favour.

Minorities have also questioned whether Rand Mines kept them adequately informed of all relevant aspects of Barmine's Crocodile River mine and the company as a whole. The mine's new owner, Implat, has mothballed the mine indefinitely and shut down the mine's smelter and metals refineries.

In terms of Section 257 of the Act, minorities have said a court should compel disclosure or insist on a probe on whether Rand Mines was guilty of negligence or incompetence in running Barmine.

Vermaas got life savings

PRETORIA — A Pretoria entrepreneur said he invested his life savings with Albert Vermaas because of the assurance that there were no risks involved, the Pretoria Supreme Court heard yesterday.

G J van Tonder, of the company Gerdor Wonings, said he had invested R1m in October 1988 — shortly before Vermaas's investment scheme collapsed.

Van Tonder became interested in the scheme through a Sanlam agent, who told him that he could earn 25% interest in an investment scheme based on "back to back short-term investments" that carried no risks.

Despite assurances that

Sash will keep protesting

B1 Day 9/10/91
THE Black Sash will continue to protest against the banning of the organisation in Bophuthatswana, says spokesman Barbara Klugman.

Speaking shortly after the release of the 16 detainees yesterday, Klugman said such action was necessary, given the level of repression in Bophuthatswana, and its inability to enter into the spirit of negotiations which existed in the rest of SA.

The detainees were released after paying R200 admissions of guilt for attending an illegal gathering. The other charges were dropped.

The two American and two German foreign observers, as well as the chairman of the Mafikeng Anti-Repression Forum, Laura Taylor, were released without being charged.

They were arrested in Mmabatho after a human rights demonstration on Saturday, on charges of creating a public disturbance, attending an illegal gathering and furthering the aims of the Black Sash.

Bophuthatswana President Lucas Mangope said demonstrations were not permitted in terms of legislation due to the "massive damage" caused to property and buildings by demonstrators in the past.

He added it was a fact that detractors wanted to make the country ungovernable. — Sapa.

w/mat
29/11-5/12/9



11C

THE BLACK SASH

The Black Sash supports the entrenchment of a Bill of Rights in the new South African constitution in order to guarantee the equal access of all citizens to justifiable human rights through an independent Constitutional Court.

In order for a Bill of Rights to be effective:

- mechanisms must exist for people to claim their rights
- the process must ensure that a Bill of Rights has legitimacy
- the majority of people must understand its provisions
- it must reflect people's needs and interests

Different needs and interests will often be in conflict. The Bill of Rights must not provide unfair protection of privilege, but should maintain an equitable balance between private interests and public good.

The decision over which rights have priority during the process of transformation will form the nub of the negotiation process.

The Black Sash gives an update on human rights in Bophuthatswana

One step forward, two steps back

STAR 10/12/91

11C

WHILE South Africa has initiated a reform process aimed at negotiating a just future for all its citizens, Bophuthatswana, a creation of apartheid South Africa, has failed to follow suit and indeed appears to be moving in an even more repressive direction in a desperate attempt to stave off inevitable change.

The much vaunted Bill of Rights contains a number of clauses guaranteeing freedom of speech and assembly. But subsequent security legislation has nullified these and reduced the Bill of Rights to little more than window dressing.

The Bophuthatswana Internal Security Act gives authorities extensive powers of detention without trial. Numerous allegations of torture during detention indicate that these powers have been liberally used and abused.

All political organisations are required to register as political parties, but in practice any real opposition to the ruling Bophuthatswana People's Democratic Party (BPD) is effectively silenced. The official opposition party, the Progressive People's Party, has been banned and Chief Lucas Mangope's recent re-election to a third presidential term

was unopposed. Other political organisations banned outright are the Black Sash, Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac) and the Bafokeng Women's Club.

Although officially unbanned, the ANC has found that all applications for permission to hold meetings have been ignored or refused. Executive members of several ANC branches face charges of holding illegal gatherings.

The Security Clearance Act is another measure used to silence and intimidate political opponents. The Act gives the president of Bophuthatswana the power to dismiss employees of the State, parastatal and educational institutions, if he believes they constitute a threat to the national security or the maintenance of law and order. Dozens of political opponents have been dismissed, including the superintendents of Bophelong and Thusong hospitals. Bophuthatswana is also the only "independent homeland" that reports South African citizens; at least one prominent academic and one lawyer have been deported and declared persona non grata.

Apart from the formal banning of organisations, labour legislation in Bophuthatswana prevents workers from joining unions affiliated to Cosatu and Nactu. De-

spite this, several large South African companies operating in Bophuthatswana have recognised the rights of employees to join these unions, an action that has led to the deportation of several senior executives.

This was brought into sharp focus by recent labour unrest and disputes over the recognition of the NUM at Impala Platinum Mines. The fact that Impala is the largest employer and taxpayer in Bophuthatswana may force a re-examination of labour legislation.

Much of Bophuthatswana's economic prosperity (in comparison with other homelands) is due to its platinum resources and the fact that the price of platinum more than trebled between 1984 and 1989.

However, the gap between the rural poor and the urban middle class and civil servants has widened considerably. Allegations are rife of corruption and embezzlement of public funds by government officials. Millions have been squandered on non-productive or white elephant projects such as a R250 million power station never used, an international airport, lavish government buildings, and a multimillion-rand opera house.

Agricultural parastatal companies run at a loss and seldom

benefit the rural poor. On the other hand, the very successful Thusano Foundation, a self-help scheme that provided employment for 10 000 people in building and agricultural projects in rural villages, was closed by Mr Mangope in April, allegedly because it posed a political threat.

Desperately poor and remote rural communities are also not free from the pervasive climate of oppression. This frequently takes the form of vigilante activity, particularly in Braklaagte village, which has resisted incorporation into Bophuthatswana. Attacks became so intense last December that 6 000 residents fled and sought refuge in Zeerust, where they remained for six months.

The banning of the Black Sash and Trac, as well as growing evidence of human rights violations such as those described above, lay behind the decision to stage a Black Sash picket in Mmabatho in October. In keeping with Bophuthatswana's paranoia about "threats to the State", 11 Black Sash members and five observers were arrested and held in police cells for three days. The Sash members pleaded guilty to a charge of holding an illegal gathering and were fined and given a three-year suspended sentence. □

By Anthony Ndlovu

THE BLACK Sash this week condemned the proposed banning of demonstrations and gatherings outside parliament saying the building "is not an ivory tower to be kept away from the people's needs".

A bill being debated in parliament is intended to abolish all gatherings and demonstrations outside parliament within a defined area, and to remove the power of the chief magistrate of Cape Town to give permission for such events.

The organisation's spokesperson, Ms Mary Burton, argued that parlia-

Black Sash condemns bid to ban parliament demonstration

South 13/2 - 19/2/92

ment "belongs to the people and exists for the people", and added that it was a legitimate exercise for people to demonstrate outside parliament.

If it is passed, the bill will change the title of the existing Gatherings and Demonstrations Act of 1973 to the "Gatherings and Demonstrations in the Vicinity of Parliament Act," and re-define more narrowly the area in which

all open-air gatherings and demonstrations are forbidden.

"Parliament is of supremely symbolic importance to the citizens whose lives are affected by the decisions made there, it is appropriate that on occasion citizens may feel strongly that their physical presence outside the walls of parliament is the most effective way in which to demon-

strate their concern over legislation being debated there," Burton said.

She said other provisions of the law were quite adequate to deal with any disturbance of the peace or damage to property, and the chief magistrate was capable of deciding whether permission should be withheld.

"We have protested in the past against legislation which curtails the freedom of people to hold gatherings and demonstrations and we raise our voice once more to oppose the removal of the last possibility of holding them in the vicinity of parliament," Burton added.

Black Sash to meet (11C)

The Black Sash's annual national conference will be held at the Johannesburg College of Education on Friday March 6 - 7. The conference is open to the press and the public. The Black Sash national president Jenny de Tolly and former president Sheena Duncan will be the speakers at a public meeting which precedes the conference on Thursday March 5 at 8 pm. Contact Gill de Vlieg at 834-8372 during office hours or Pat Tucker at 788-5639 after 3 pm for more details.

by day STAR 2/3/92

ON THE SHELVES

NON-FICTION

HOLY WAR: THE CRUSADES AND THEIR IMPACT ON TODAY'S WORLD by Karen Armstrong (Macmillan, R184, 99) A thousand years after Pope Urban II summoned the first crusade, the consequences of that call still echo around the world. This book explores the religious origins of those conflicts and their parallels in today's uneasy Middle East situation.

The issues that propelled protests of Black Sash

W/MCW 6/3-12/3/92 (11C)
BLACK SASH by Kathryn Spink (Methuen, R159, 99)

THIS is not a history of the Black Sash. It doesn't need to be: the territory has been covered before. Kathryn Spink has chosen, instead, to give a sketchy (very sketchy) background to the formation of the organisation and then to focus on issues — influx control, removals, the controversial "violence" debate, the question of alignments with other organisations and the Black Sash's role as "watchdog".

She had done it competently enough in a faintly didactic work with a somewhat skewed perspective derived, I felt, from the fact that she appears to have concentrated far more of her attention on the organisation's activities in the Cape than anywhere else in the country.

Pat Schwartz

They're not about to hang up sashes

STAR 13/3/92

(11C)

THE challenge of democratising the constitution-making process shifted the Black Sash back into high gear at its recent national conference, held in Johannesburg.

"People assume we are going to hang up our sashes now — that there's nothing left to do. There's *more* left to do than ever," said president Jenny de Tolly.

This perception of overwhelming quantities of work ahead stems partly from the demands of political transition — such as campaigning for a more accountable and inclusive Codesa, and finding paths to free and fair elections. But a lot of it has to do with the Sash's particular glimpse of society from its position as a combined human rights/social service organisation.

In their advice offices, Sash members are confronted daily with hundreds of people — im-

As South Africa moves away from apartheid, the Black Sash believe there's still plenty of work ahead to ensure the masses have an effective voice in the constitution-making process, reports JO-ANNE COLLINGE.

poverished, driven to the outer edge of existence, human evidence of what Mrs de Tolly calls "an extraordinary collapse of society".

The conference stressed that the huge under-class left in apartheid's wake must have an effective voice in the constitution-making process.

Partly to this end, Sash delegates resolved to warn Codesa to "limit its discussions to the processes required for establishing a constituent assembly and refrain from deciding matters which should rightfully be decided by the elected representatives of the people of South Africa".

Until a constituent assembly was in place, Codesa should submit its decisions to

a panel "drawn from all prominent human rights organisations . . . to ensure there are no infringements of human rights principles".

In addition, the Sash is to start educating the most powerless sectors of society about elections. As a sequel to the booklets, "You and the Pass Laws" and "You and Your Pension", "You and the Vote" will be soon be in print.

The Sash believes that independent monitoring of elections will be crucial.

The conference called on Sash supporters to "monitor and expose covert policies, strategies and actions designed to perpetuate minority control of power and privilege in a post-apartheid South

Africa that will constitutionally be democratic, nonracial and non-sexist".

In a statement, the conference spelt out its perception of the Government's "updated total strategy designed to destabilise and weaken its opponents". On the one hand this involved "orchestrating political violence, the assassination of opposition leaders, the random killing of train commuters, and the deepening of divisions in black communities already under economic and social stress".

And on the other, it depended on economic restructuring through the privatisation of services and natural resources. This was calculated to "deprive a future representa-

tive government of access to the economic resources it will need for a constructive programme to increase national wealth and distribute it more equitably", the Sash asserted.

Despite its concern that Codesa should become more inclusive, the Sash is not seeking representation. As an organisation of fewer than 2 000 members (almost all of them white and middle class), it hardly met Codesa's criterion of "demonstrable support", Mrs de Tolly observed.

The Sash has been disturbed at the virtual exclusion of women from Codesa. There is something of an irony in this. For, despite being a women's human rights group in a heavily patriarchal society, the Sash has never tackled gender oppression head on. This was changing, she said. Every social problem it confronted was now being analysed in terms of its impact on women. □

Women in drive to influence negotiations

South 21/3-26/3/92

~~SSA~~ IIC ~~SSA~~

THE BLACK SASH has called on Codesa to make its proceedings public by broadcasting them in full on radio and television.

The organisation raised concerns about the legitimacy and brief of Codesa at its national conference last week.

"Codesa is a positive step in the negotiation process but we believe only an elected body should have the right to decide on a Bill of Rights and constitution," the Black Sash resolved.

"These issues should not be debated in advance in secret meetings by parties at Codesa."

The organisation proposed a

Human Rights Review Committee be established — comprising all prominent human rights organisations — to review all resolutions tabled at Codesa.

The Black Sash called on Codesa to prevent the government from unilaterally restructuring or privatising the SABC.

"Impartial reporting is an essential component for free and fair elections and for many South Africans, particularly rural people, radio is the main source of contact with the events and concerns of this country," it said.

Meanwhile, the ANC Women's League will build a stronger pres-

ence for women during the negotiation and election process when it sets up its own negotiations forum.

This decision flows from the league's Western Cape regional conference last weekend.

"We will conduct an active education drive around these issues to ensure all women remain informed, specially in rural areas," a spokesperson for the league said.

The campaign for a women's charter will also be intensified and involve the Women's Alliance in the process.

"The campaign will focus on researching and compiling a charter that guarantees specific rights, pro-

tection and affirmative action for women in the future South Africa.

Elected on to the regional executive committee were: Ms Mildred Lesca (chairperson), Ms Nomatyala Hangana (secretary), Ms Rashieda Abdullah (vice-chairperson) and Mrs Rhoda Joemat.

The PAC's African Women's Organisation of Azania (AWO) held its second annual congress in Bloemfontein last weekend where it unanimously approved the PAC's decision to withdraw from Codesa.

Ms Ellen Mothopeng, daughter-in-law of the former PAC president Mr Zephania Mothopeng, was elected chairperson of AWO.

We must consider those on the periphery of our society, writes Pat Schwartz

Listen to those outside the walls

STAR 24/3/92

11C

WHEN Sheena Duncan, National Advice Office co-ordinator of the Black Sash, asked a businessman if the violence and instability in South African society would affect prospects for foreign investment, she was told that business was little affected by what was going on "outside the walls".

The response gave Mrs Duncan the theme for her opening address to the recent Black Sash national conference.

"We have always been aware that the majority of the people in this country are marginalised — excluded from decision making and processes of government, from

sharing in economic wealth," she said.

"But perhaps in the last two years we, too, have become so immersed in the large national debate about a new constitution and change that we have not continued to focus properly on those who have been outside the walls in the past and will continue to be outside the walls unless we do something to ensure that political leaders and constitution makers really listen to what is being shouted at them from the large peripheries of the World Trade Centre in Kempton Park."

The present Government, Mrs Duncan suggested, "is moving very

fast indeed to entrench economic power in white hands and economic power is, in the end, political power"

She added: "I think that what we are seeing are moves to ensure that a future democratically elected government will have no power to respond to the demands of its constituency because sovereignty will have been removed from Parliament to the esoteric preserves of the rich in the courts of law."

Mrs Duncan made reference to welfare considerations such as State pensions. "The Social Assistance Bill seeks to remove the legal right to a pension." She also

pointed out that "the Expropriation Act Amendment Bill seeks to increase the costs to a future government of expropriation of private property".

"Private property is suddenly something important because we have the property and no one must be allowed to take away from us that which we have stolen from other people in the past.

"The urge to privatise is astonishing in the light of the past history of the National Party and its focus on national socialism and its nationalisation of everything it could lay its hands on." □

Explain camp deaths, ANC urged

By Michael Sparks
and Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — The Black Sash yesterday called on the ANC to identify and act against members responsible for the killing of colleagues in ANC camps between 1976 and 1990.

It also urged the ANC to expose the truth about alleged deaths in its camps.

The call was made by Black Sash national president Jenny de Tolly and her predecessor, Mary Burton.

They were responding to press reports about an alleged ANC document which names 265 people who died in ANC camps in suicides, executions and shooting incidents.

The document, called List of Deceased Comrades, purports to give the travelling names of those killed, their real names, the causes of their death and where they are buried.



Jenny de Tolly . . . rule of law one of earliest casualties in times of liberation war.

According to the document more than 70 guerillas died in skirmishes with Unita between 1987 and 1988.

Among the victims were Cekiso Hoyi, also known as Ronald Msomi, who was allegedly one of seven guerillas executed in Quibaxi camp, Angola, in 1984. Seven other ANC members were allegedly shot dead in the

same camp during an "ANC confrontation" in 1984, and six others were killed by mutineers.

Mrs de Tolly and Mrs Burton said the rule of law was one of the earliest victims in times of conflict and liberation wars.

"If the allegations are correct, the ANC cannot escape responsibility for the actions of its officers," they said.

Even if prisoners were convicted of espionage and treachery, they had to be treated in terms of the Geneva Convention, they added.

Chris Hani, ANC executive member and former head of the organisation's armed wing, yesterday denied any knowledge of the list. However, Mr Hani said he was aware that a commission had been appointed to look into the matter.

Asked why the ANC would leak that kind of document to the press, Mr Hani said: "Although the Government is negotiating, it still regards us not only as a political enemy, but

some of the old-style people regard us as a real enemy."

He added: "The Government is reeling from scandals of corruption and killing. They are trying to say it was not only us who did the killing."

But Mr Hani pointed out there were distinct differences between what happened at the hands of the security forces and what happened in ANC camps.

Mr Hani said the ANC had to defend itself from agents of the security forces infiltrating into the organisation.

But he added: "What is now being debated by the commission is the strategies that were used, not all of which were correct."

Mr Hani said a key difference was that from the beginning, ANC president Nelson Mandela had said the organisation would fully investigate any irregularities. The Government, on the other hand, "has been trying to cover up what they did for years, and they are still trying to cover it up".

Equality between the sexes won't be handed on a plate

STAR 15/5/92

THE formation of a National Women's Coalition to draw up a Charter of Women gives women the opportunity to express their views and share their ideas about the sort of society they would like and, in particular, how society should view women.

The coalition crosses all party political lines, so, for the first time in South Africa's history, all women now have the opportunity and the responsibility to take time out to consider their needs and their future.

We are living in historic times. Great changes are taking place in our society, causing much questioning, much hardship and many doubts. If we are to build a just and equitable society, in which women's as well as men's rights will be advanced, women should be involved in the process.

The majority of women, that is African women, suffered more than any other group under apartheid. They were treated as minors regardless of age, denied the security of a family life and often had to raise children single-handed.

Vast numbers of women were relegated to barren rural slums. They were denied even the most basic services let alone access to education, training and jobs.

Let us be very clear. Calling for women's rights in South Africa, or women's emancipation or whatever you like to call it, is not some sort of foreign aberration. Any human rights programme which fails to address women's rights will have failed to address the injustices of apartheid.

So the setting up of a gender advisory committee by Codesa is to be welcomed and those who pressed for it are to be congratulated.

Yet what is of concern is the apathy of many women. Is this because South African women are content with their present position, are unconcerned about having a poorer chance of an education or a job, at being paid less than men when they are in work, and having fewer prospects of promotion?

Don't women mind that they

are virtually absent from all the higher levels of government? Are South African women satisfied with caring for children and husbands, with doing "women's work" at home and in employment?

Do their horizons stop at the boundary fence of their home or do they dream, as women elsewhere in the world do, of wider opportunities for themselves and their daughters?

In the past, South Africa saw mighty and militant demonstrations by women: 2 000 white women marched through the centre of Johannesburg in 1955 and 18 000 attended a mass meeting to protest against government moves to change the constitution and disenfranchise coloured voters.

An even greater number of African women protested against the extension of the pass laws to women and against apartheid.

During the '80s, women again played an important role in the struggle against apartheid and repression. But it was mostly the role of "do-er" — the women's role, rather than that of decision-maker, which was left to men.

As in the '50s, few women raised demands for their own liberation. Following the stormy '80s, we have entered a period in which we can go forward.

Parties to Codesa may express fine sentiments, may claim to be "non-sexist", and may even agree to redress injustices to women, but unless they know that the demands of the few women in their ranks have the backing of women's groups around the country such agreements will never be more than paper agreements.

Nowhere in the world have women been handed equality on a plate; everywhere they have had to fight for it. South Africa will be no exception. We do not want our daughters to turn on us in the years to come and ask: "Where were you when the Bill of Rights and the new Constitution were being drafted?" □

● Mary Turok represents the Black Sash Southern Transvaal Women's Group.

Searching study of the Black Sash's evolution

Bidan 1/6/92

11C

BLACK SASH: The Beginning of a Bridge in South Africa, by Kathryn Spink (Methuen, R65,99)

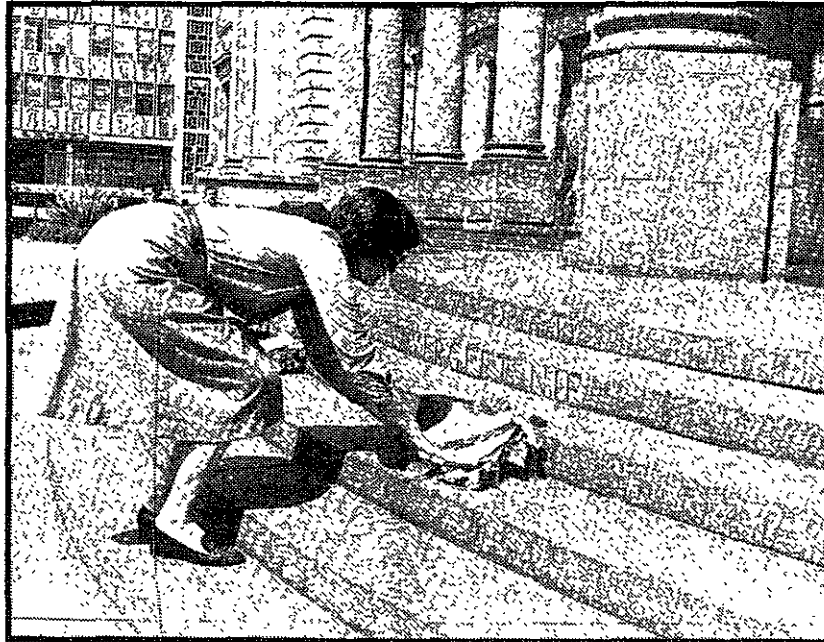
"LEST we forget" might well have been the subtitle of this recent study of the Black Sash. Any history of an organisation dedicated, as the Black Sash is, to human rights in this country, must start with a history of the abrogation of those rights in the particular system of legal discrimination and social injustice known as apartheid.

The actual subtitle chosen is taken from a remark made by the late Molly Blackburn which symbolises a hope for a non-racial future rather than despair at the racist past. (It was Molly Blackburn's widely publicised death and funeral which first attracted the author's interest in the Black Sash.)

Kathryn Spink comes to this study with an unusual range of achievements; an Englishwoman with a degree in modern languages, her career in London's Metropolitan Police, and later marriage to a senior policeman, gave her some sympathy for the lot of the police, as well as introductions to the police in SA when researching this book. Her other writing — a study of Mother Teresa, and biographies of religious figures — indicate her concern for the protagonists of compassion.

While her sympathies clearly lie with the Black Sash and the members of the oppressed, this study is, as Archbishop Desmond Tutu rightly points out in his foreword, no hagiography. It is a searching, comprehensive and occasionally critical study that should be read by anyone with an interest in our past and our future.

The Women's Defence of the Constitution League, which later became known as the Black Sash because of the mourning sashes worn by its demonstrating members, was founded in 1955 by a small group of



Former Black Sash president Joyce Harris lays a remembrance wreath on the steps of Johannesburg City Hall soon after the death of Steve Biko.

white women who were outraged at the removal of "coloured" voters from the common voters' roll. The original issue was constitutional, rather than racial. "Eerbiid ons Grondwet" was the rallying cry of the first major demonstrations, which culminated in a great trek from all corners of the country to Cape Town.

Two years later the Black Sash magazine commented that "nobody lost his job, went hungry or lay awake sobbing all night over the coloured vote. But that is what is going to happen over the Group Areas Act". The effects of the grand design were being felt; influx control, Group Areas Act removals, and homelands resettlements schemes all claimed their victims.

For members of the Black Sash, protest against discrimination was extended to include active help. The implications of the pass laws gave rise to advice offices run by the Black Sash in major urban areas. They collected information about the effects of this social engineering, and tried to help individuals where possible by explaining some of the legal labyrinths that affected millions of people of colour.

Sash monitoring of the courts (particularly the commissioner's courts of the old Bantu Administration Board, concerned with pass law offences) did alleviate some of the worst aspects of sausage-machine justice. Their concerns spread to the plight of political prisoners, and particularly of children in detention.

From being society ladies who wore pearls and gave dinner parties, Sashers began to mix with the proletariat, to see SA from a different perspective, to look through the effects to the structure of apartheid.

This had a radicalising effect on the organisation. By the mid-eighties there was a younger membership, many of them armed with the intellectual tools of radical social analysis, a euphoric loyalty to the then-banned ANC — and, possibly, a romantic view of revolutionary social change.

In addition, many had found a warm acceptance, a level of friendship, camaraderie and ubuntu among African people which they were loath to prejudice by critical comments.

Criticism of the structural violence perpetrated by government was not always matched by condemnation of violence in the townships, or of the armed struggle.

Spink has tackled in some detail the thorny issue of the near schism in the organisation over the violence debate, and the organisations's reluctance to condemn necklacing. Although some members did leave, feeling that the Black Sash had become too partisan, the issue was eventually resolved in 1986 with a commitment to "a society based on justice and the rule of law".

The photographs presented in the book tell their own story; on the dust-cover a picture showing Di Bishop standing in lonely vigil with a placard that reads "Human Rights not only White Rights", and Albertina Sisulu with "Victory is Ours".

At a more frivolous level, the photographs document social change in women's fashions, from the early days of respectable, sometimes hatchet-faced matrons in hats and coats standing with bowed heads on the steps of the Supreme Court in

Bloemfontein in 1955, to the far more jolly and youthful crowd of women in tracksuits and trainers in the 1980s, often with babies in their arms.

This is not the first, and one would hope that it will not be the last, account of the Black Sash. Groping towards the New SA the organisation has had to find a new identity, as opposition to the NP government bad guys is a decreasing objective — "what shall become of us without any barbarians?"

The legacy of apartheid lives on, particularly in the land issue; squatter rights, pension and other welfare concerns remain, and the Black Sash has adopted a policy of ecofeminism. There are still battles to fight.

HEATHER MACKIE

PE Sash furious over detention of youth

THE Black Sash in Port Elizabeth has spoken out strongly against the detention of a 14-year-old youth on charges of public violence.

According to the Sash, the boy was arrested in Motherwell on the outskirts of the city, and held in a cell in New Brighton between August 25 and September 4.

The boy and three other youths appeared in the PE Magistrate's Court on Thursday when the case was remanded to October 7.

The boy alleged that he was taken in the middle of the night to identify the houses of the other three

youths, who were then picked up.

Earlier, bail of R300 for the youth was waived and the four were released into the custody of their parents.

In a statement the Sash said it was concerned that children under the age of 15 were being arrested in this manner and put in prison cells with older men.

"We are appalled that the parents of the children were not informed where they were being taken to and that the grandmother of one of the children spent all Thursday searching for her grandson.

In its objection the Sash compared the detention of the youths to a case of a white man from Despatch who was arrested armed with a .22 rifle on a rooftop during a recent ANC march.

The man was released immediately without any bail application.

Police said the man was released on a warning.

Police denied the 14-year-old was held in a cell with older inmates and said that if young people have to be detained to ensure they appear in court, such detention is usually in a place of safety. - PEN

CP warns of biblical wrath

THE CP yesterday vowed to unleash its own version of the "10 plagues of Egypt" if its final demands for Afrikaner self-determination were rejected by negotiators at the World Trade Centre this week.

CP spokesman Corné Mulder said the party would make one last effort to convince the multiparty talks of the need for a volkstaat, and if that failed, a programme of passive resistance would be undertaken.

"When the Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go free after Moses asked him a number of times, Egypt was hit with plagues. If the negotiators say no to Afrikaner self-determination this week, our case will be sound and we will hit SA with our version of the 10 plagues. Maybe they will listen then." *Biday 22/6/93*

He said the final answer on self-determination would come from the technical committee reporting back to the negotiating council. *(S)*

"Afrikaner self-determination is the CP's bottom line. Once that is no longer an option for the negotiating forum, there is no sense in us staying at the table."

The technical committee is expected to report back to the negotiating council before Friday's meeting of the larger negoti-

DIRK VAN EEDEN

ating forum.

Observers said that the CP's hardline approach might test its already strained alliance with the Afrikaner Volksumie in Cosag and the Afrikaner Volksfront.

AVU leader Andries Beyers said that walking out of negotiations was not on their agenda and that they would not follow the CP if a confederal system, favoured by the CP, was no longer an option.

The AVU realised that a confederal system was not a realistic solution for SA's problems.

The AVU regarded government's proposal to incorporate Afrikaner self-determination within a federal system as a positive step and would remain at the negotiations to advance it.

Beyers added that CP domination in the Volksfront was becoming a problem and that the AVU was completely neutralised in all the Volksfront's political decisions.

The AVU remained part of the Volksfront in the hope that Constand Viljoen, chairman of its directorate and known to have closer links with the AVU than the CP, could have a moderating influence.

Black Sash unveils vision for SA

THE Black Sash unveiled its vision at the weekend of an SA in which human rights were recognised in law and respected in practice. *Biday 22/6/93*

It said its vision of SA was one "in which the government is accountable to all its people and attends to their basic needs".

Last year the Black Sash's western Cape advice offices in Mowbray and Knysna recorded 3 858 advice seekers, a 67% increase over the previous year. *(IC)*

"This increase is a tragic reflection of the country's economic state and the destabilising effect of the ongoing violence," the Black Sash said. *(S)*

Its aims were to provide the constitu-

Business Day Reporter

tional entrenchment and protection by law of human rights for all, equal access to justice for all, the establishment of democratic and accountable government, and an awareness of the roles of civil society as well as the state in the achievement of social and economic justice.

Its immediate goals included monitoring infringements of political and socio-economic rights, monitoring how the rights of women were affected and to campaign for justice in legislation and state administration. It would also debate and research human rights.

KORFA TRADE CENTRE

Black Sash to ^(11c) continue working for human rights

CLIVE SAWYER, Political Correspondent

THE Black Sash has pledged to continue its human rights work on several fronts.

The organisation, which held its annual meeting behind closed doors at the weekend, decided to organise national campaigns to:

- Work for gender rights.
- Monitor legislation.
- Encourage the demilitarisation of society.
- Conduct voter education campaigns for local government elections.
- Educate women about maintenance rights.
- Lobby for an end to capital punishment.
- Get involved in issues like the Commission for Truth and Reconciliation.

The group said it would support a gun-free South Africa campaign and would encourage the government to endorse the disarming of people and to stop exporting weapons.

There would be a long-term campaign to convert the arms industry to alternative production.

The group voted to "fully support" the reconstruction and development programme.

It reaffirmed its commitment to its resolution last year to campaign for a woman's right to choose whether to have an abortion.

It called on national health minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and attorneys-general to put a moratorium on prosecutions as a preliminary move to reforming abortion laws.

In a letter to safety and security minister Sidney Mufamadi, the group called for state support for Peace Accord structures.

"We support the demand for a proper, transparent audit of the financial affairs of the National Peace Secretariat and recommend that control of budgets for peace work be devolved to regional peace committees," the Sash said.

Mary Burton was elected president.

Sash calls for English or Afrikaans gazettes

BIDay 3/10/94

MARK ASHURST

PROVINCIAL government gazettes, local authority by-laws and other legal documents should not be printed in languages other than English and Afrikaans, the Black Sash told the PWV government yesterday.

"People who are literate only in their home language but not in English or Afrikaans are unlikely to want to read the official Provincial Gazette," it said in a submission on provincial language policy.

Afrikaans translations should be retained because the language was widely used in legal documents and widely spoken in the region, it said.

English had accounted for 42% of the demand for Black Sash voter education materials before the election, compared with 13% for Zulu, 9% for SeSotho and Pedi and 5% for Afrikaans.

Afrikaans' continued domination as a "necessary second language which our history has bequeathed to us ... is a fact of life." Attempts to exclude Afrikaans could be reassessed in future, but would be "an unnecessary provocation at this stage".

If the PWV government issued regular newsletters, they should be in English, "the only language that is really useful to the majority of literate persons, given the fact that there is a limited amount of money available".

The submission recommends that

official forms such as those used to apply for social grants, housing subsidies and documents related to the provision of services should be available in all eleven official languages.

Forms printed in more than one language were confusing both to the public and administrative staff.

Government should also honour the constitutional requirement that people were entitled to written explanations for administrative decisions in the language they requested, and staff in provincial public offices should have the language skills to reply to inquiries from the public, verbally and in writing, in the same language.

"The vast majority of people are verbally multilingual in several African languages (and) newcomers rapidly learn other languages for verbal communication purposes. The spoken 'township patois' is a vivid and exact communication tool."

Radio was the most important communication medium for illiterate people, and government should make use of community radio to publicise policy.

It was vital that the decisions and policies of the PWV government be issued in "very straightforward and simple words" to enable clear and accurate translations into other languages by radio journalists.

Black Sash might close regional offices

A FUNDING crisis could force the Black Sash to close its nine regional offices and several hundred community-based advice offices, former president Sheena Duncan said yesterday.

Following an annual budget meeting at the weekend, Sash representatives "reluctantly agreed" the organisation had no choice but to inform its 45 advice office staff of a three-month notice of retrenchment. If no funds were found by the beginning of next year, they would close their doors at the end of February.

Duncan said the Sash's advice office

811194
ERICA JANKOWITZ

budget for next year was R4,4m, but it could continue its service if between R3m and R3,5m was raised.

Last year, the nine Sash offices handled about 41 000 interviews of mainly destitute people seeking advice on issues such as pension payments and unfair dismissal.

The Sash appointed a full-time fundraiser at the weekend. Duncan said the organisation had for the past two years encountered funding problems as overseas donors believed post-apartheid SA no long-

er needed an organisation which fought human rights abuse. (116)

Donors were now redirecting funds to development projects.

"At a time when we are getting a human rights commission and a constitutional court and for the first time human rights are being enshrined in the constitution, the need for advice offices is all the more vital. If advice offices disappear, people will not have access to information to enable them to enforce these rights."

The first Black Sash advice office was established in Cape Town in 1958.

Black Sash aid to thousands at risk

Star 8/11/94
BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

Black Sash advice offices countrywide, which assist tens of thousands of people annually, will be forced to close their doors on February 28 unless there is a dramatic turnabout on the funding front.

(11C)
Sash president Mary Burton made it clear that, although retrenchment notices would go out to all staff members within weeks, the organisation would continue to fight

for the survival of this key aspect of its work.

"The annual budget meeting decided to appoint immediately a full-time co-ordinator of fund-raising for three months and to campaign energetically for new sources of revenue," she said.

Sheena Duncan, a past president of the Sash, said that during last year the 45 staffers in nine advice offices had opened 24 000 new cases and conducted 41 569 face-to-face interviews with people desper-

ately needing help.

Much of their work involved cutting through red tape to relieve poverty — helping people get the pensions, grants and wages to which they were entitled. The apartheid government might be dead, but the apartheid bureaucracy lives on, said Duncan.

"Our task is to persuade donors that the development which they aim to promote will not happen without good governance, fair administration and the exercising of civil rights."

at a cool pool on a hot day as (from left) ...
vered while frolicking at Newlands pool yesterday.

Picture: ALAN TAYLOR

fee table.

● FW shocked — Page 3

Arm Scor probe open to public

JOHANNESBURG. — The Cameron Commission of inquiry into Arm Scor's weapons deals began yesterday.

The Commission's chairman Mr Acting Justice Edwin Cameron has ruled that hearings would be open to the public, except in instances where national security or individual safety was involved.

CT 8/11/94
● Arm Scor, arms agent link — Page 2

Xmas sales boom expected

RISING inflation and fears of another hike in interest rates dented business confidence in October — but Christmas sales are expected to be R3 billion higher than last year.

Sales are likely to total R23bn, with the biggest improvement expected in the Cape coastal area, according to a survey carried out by the SA Chamber of Business.

● Xmas sales set for real growth — Page 10

Govt bypassed in EU aid of R440m

BRUSSELS. — The European Union (EU) has abandoned efforts to channel part of its aid for this year through the South African government.

The EU would now direct aid of R440 million to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) instead of the government, its acting director of development policy, Mr Peter Pooley, said yesterday.

Until now, EU aid has deliberately bypassed Pretoria officials and ministers.

The South African government said last night it was mystified.

Yesterday, Mr Pooley said Brussels was keen to work through the South African government, in a way that would never have been possible during the apartheid era.

"What we need is a single minister and a single official through whom we can channel our development aid," he said.

"We need a single channel so we are not having to arbitrate between, say, the minister of housing who wants one thing and the minister of health who wants another.

"With the new government, it is extremely difficult to decide who should be the great co-ordinator." He said he hoped the problem would soon be solved.

However, it was too late for the R440m to be channelled through the government.

"We must avoid losing the aid at all costs — and that we shall do," said Mr Pooley.

"All the R440m will go to non-governmen-

tal organisations, to ensure none of it disappears down the drain."

The EU aid budget for South Africa for next year is expected to increase by 25%.

Mr Pooley added he hoped that in the coming years, the EU would be able to channel more money through the government, while maintaining some links with NGOs.

But Dr Bernie Fanaroff, the deputy director-general in the office of Mr Jay Naidoo, the Minister without Portfolio, said the matter had been raised with Mr Pooley's deputy two weeks ago after press reports about alleged difficulties and "they told us there were no problems".

Dr Fanaroff also said neither Mr Pooley nor the EU had raised the matter nor had they written to his department about it.

"If we had received anything in writing, we would have dealt with it urgently.

Lome treaty

"We can only conclude there is a problem in the EU structures. It is certainly not here."

Meanwhile, the SA government is preparing to announce whether it will seek partial membership of the Lome convention.

This is the trade and aid treaty linking the EU with 70 developing nations.

Mr Pooley said he expected an application for membership from the SA government. — The Telegraph plc, Political Staff

Funds threat to Black Sash

By BARRY STREEK,
Political Staff

CT 8/11/94 (11K)
THE Black Sash may have to retrench its 50 workers in nine advice offices across the country because of funding cuts, its president, Mrs Mary Burton, warned yesterday.

The future of the advice office network, initially established to help black people fight pass laws, is at stake.

Mrs Burton's announcement follows decisions by some of the funders of its R4.4-million budget, including USAid, to change their funding priorities.

The Black Sash has also still not received European Unity funding which had been pledged for last year.

The problem has been caused by funders' decisions to support the government directly through the Reconstruction and Development Programme and to move away from backing anti-apartheid projects.

Mrs Burton said with its present resources the organisation had no option but to enter into immediate discussion with all its advice office staff before issuing a three-month notice of across-the-board retrenchments.

Funds threat to Black Sash

(112)

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Star 10/11/94

If Sash door closes, where can the desperate go?

■ BY ZINGISA MKHUMA

The Black Sash advice office, which has been a haven to so many people down the years, is now in danger of closing because funds are drying up.

Pensioner Johanna Mogale is one of those who have turned to the Black Sash when they could find help nowhere else. She had to go without her much-needed monthly grant for almost a year as a result of bureaucratic bungling.

When the 71-year-old grandmother confronted the authorities, she was sent from pillar to post. Last month the grant resumed, without the back-payments. Now, once again, the battle to get the back-payments has begun.

On Tuesday sickly Mogale joined scores of other desper-

ate and destitute people in the Johannesburg advice office.

Dan Shabangu, one of five case workers employed by the Black Sash, says that every day he sees between 20 and 35 people.

Although the bulk of the cases involve pensions and disability grants, Shabangu says the Sash also intervenes in labour disputes and cases of police harassment and brutality.

He says, pointing to a group of workers: "These guys worked as subcontractors for a builder and he now refuses to pay them. There are no written agreements between the parties, and really, we do not have much to go on."

"We will phone the builder and write him a letter asking for payment. If that fails we will refer the case to the Small



Helping hand . . . Zodwa Masilo, a co-ordinator at the Black Sash office.

PICTURE: ETIENNE ROTHBART

Claims Court, where everyone can be heard."

Shabangu could soon lose his job, and tens of thousands of destitute people could lose access to free legal advice, if the advice offices close because of a shortage of funds.

Shabangu says it is premature for overseas donors to redirect funding to other projects and leave out the Black Sash.

"We have a new Government but the old problems are still here. The new provinces have brought with them new problems: files go missing and pensioners are told to reapply for grants all the time (HC)

"We sometimes serve as guardians for people who are not even aware that they are being ripped off. We cannot simply close down — where will all these people go?"

Black Sash staff face retrenchment

THE Black Sash has appealed for donations after its North American funding lifeline was severed, threatening the closure of nine advice offices and free legal services to thousands of South Africans.

"The Black Sash is determined to sustain its operations," said president Mrs Mary

Burton yesterday.

"With the help of the public, a vital service to thousands of South Africans will be maintained."

Donations could be earmarked by donors for specific advice-offices or projects.

The organisation's main benefactor, USAid, recently an-

nounced unexpectedly it would not meet the Sash's R750 000 budget proposal for 1995.

Mrs Burton said 47 advice office staffers faced retrenchment by the end of February if alternative funds could not be raised.

The offices had served about 40 000 people so far this year. — Sapa.

Sash seeks money as US funds dry up

ET 19/11/94
THE Black Sash yesterday appealed for donations after its US funding lifeline was severed, threatening the closure of nine advice offices and free legal services to thousands of poor South Africans.

"With the help of the public a vital service to thousands of South Africans will be maintained," president Mrs Mary Burton said yesterday.

The organisation's main benefactor, USAid, recently announced unexpectedly it would not meet the Sash's R750 000 budget proposal for 1995.

Donations should be posted to the Black Sash Advice Office Trust (fundraising number 08800-962-0001), 7 Long St, Mowbray 7700. — Sapa

Donors save the Sash (110)

WM 13-19/1/95

Bulelwa Payi

THE Black Sash has been brought back from the brink of collapse — at least for another six months.

A representative, Zodwa Masina, said this week the organisation had received donations which "rescued" it from closure.

She would not divulge who the donors were nor the amount received.

"We got money to run for six months. But our donors will re-evaluate the situation after that and we may carry on until the end of the year," Masina said.

The Black Sash announced towards the end of last year that it was facing closure because it had run out of funds.

Masina said all the Sash's offices were now open. — Ecna

...and the...
...said...
Sash (11c)
**changes
focus**
Some run
2/3/95

By Betsy Spratt

AN INTERIM constitution is now in place. A permanent one is on the horizon.

Now that its main goal has been fulfilled, officials of the Black Sash believe the time is right to focus the organisation's energies on its advice office, says Ms Jille Jille, southern Gauteng regional coordinator of the organisation.

Until now, the organisation had a membership-based branch and an advice office section. The separation of the two sections came about as a way of countering the government's efforts to crush social change organisations by striking at their fundraising arms, Jille said.

Divided in two

Consequently the organisation, formed in 1955 as a way of achieving a more democratic constitution, was divided into an advice office branch with a trust to fund its activities and a human rights branch funded by membership subscriptions, Jille said.

The proposal to focus on the advice council came after a workshop last month in Cape Town, during which staff members and representatives from all regions looked at the most efficient ways of continuing the organisation's work, Jille said.

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Black Sash

'dissolves'

APR 15 1995

THE Black Sash, launched 40 years ago to fight apartheid, has dissolved its membership at a national conference, the organisation said in a statement.

The conference, held in Cape Town this weekend, saw the emergence of the Black Sash Trust, a professional organisation which will continue the traditions of the Black Sash through its advice offices and their projects.

"Forty years ago the Black Sash was born out of a concern for equality and justice for all and the sanctity of the constitution," the Black Sash said.

"It is fitting that with an interim constitution in place and a final constitution in the process of being formulated, the membership body of the Black Sash dissolves." — Sapa.

Black Sash dissolves but does not die

THE Black Sash decided yesterday to dissolve its membership after 40 years in existence but would continue rendering advice services and other projects through the newly-formed Black Sash Trust.

The decision to restructure came after consultant, Marian Nell, was commissioned to evaluate the organisation. Her findings showed the change of government had blurred the organisation's focus and resulted in a lack of direction. Membership was dwindling, fundraising

NOMAVENDA MATHIANE

had diminished and few people were volunteering their services.

(112) After the evaluation, the Black Sash was left with three options: to split the advice office from the membership organisation, to rebuild with a larger and more representative membership, or close.

BD 15/5/95
The Black Sash decided to continue but under a new structure, the exact form of which had yet to be decided.

A streamlined Sash

SIX women each phoned six women, who each phoned six other women ... and they got a movement going that was about defending what was right and condemning what was wrong.

Thus, in the words of former Black Sash president Jenny de Tolly, began the movement that spoke out fearlessly throughout the worst years of National Party rule.

The simple idea of fighting what was wrong, and upholding what was right, sustained the Sash from its formation in 1955.

And the very same principles sustain the movement today.

But just as the social and political terrain has changed, so the Sash has changed.

It decided at its weekend conference to dissolve its membership, and launch the Black Sash Trust, a professional organisation which will continue the traditions of the movement through its advice offices and their projects.

Volunteers are to become associates, but continue working towards the very same objectives that launched the movement back in 1955.

Leading Sash figure Mary Burton noted: "The public will not notice the difference ... we will be doing the same work and much the same people will be doing it.

"But what we are doing is professionalising the management of the organisation — the new professional staff will be accountable to the board of trustees — to relieve volunteers of this burden."

In effect, it means the Sash will be more streamlined and volunteer associates will be free to concentrate on core objectives.

"We see our roles of helping people claim their rights, and keeping a watching brief on the government, as an on-going challenge that will continue forever," Ms Burton said.

AS it celebrates its 40th birthday this week, the Black Sash — veteran of the grim years of apartheid repression — is streamlining itself to continue the good work. Political Correspondent **MICHAEL MORRIS** reports. (11c)



Black Sash members protesting outside parliament in 1966.

It was the National Party's constitutional iniquity of May 1955 — loading the Senate with government supporters to secure the disenfranchisement of coloured voters in the Cape — that incensed the "founding Sash mothers", as the movement's history puts it.

Within just a few months, the campaign mobilised 20 000 white women behind the Women's League for the Defence of the Constitution, whose emblem was a black sash.

In the next 40 years, the organisation made its mark nationally and internationally.

At a special conference in 1958, Sash members were exhorted to

"turn ... towards the future and work more constructively for the new South Africa which must surely emerge".

It was a long time coming.

The 1960s and 1970s were difficult years. Yet, while the movement's membership hovered under the 2 000 mark, it pressed on determinedly.

Every crackdown on freedom was protested, and the government and the country were reminded of every name on the growing list of apartheid deaths.

The Sash monitored and spoke out against forced removals, and worked tirelessly through its net-

work of advice offices to ease the effects of influx control and the pass laws, to record the life stories of the dispossessed and amass evidence of the effects of oppression.

Its work earned it acceptance in the black community, something which few other white organisations managed to achieve.

The repression of the tumultuous 1980s, the successive States of Emergency, presented a daunting challenge to the Sash to speak out when, as Mary Burton put it, "it was too dangerous for others to do so".

But a redeeming feature of this period was that the Sash's role was

acknowledged by the steadily growing mass-based organisations, and it was accepted on the basis of its hard-earned credentials.

Dynamic partnerships injected vitality and energy into the movement, it received international recognition and funding was secured.

When President Nelson Mandela emerged from prison on Sunday February 11 1990, he publicly acknowledged the Sash's contribution: "I salute the women of the Black Sash."

However, for the women of the Black Sash, this was not an end, but a new beginning.

As an editorial in the movement's journal noted in September last year: "We inhabit a new space. It is incumbent upon us to guard new rights and entrench hard-won democracy ... civil society is not of itself democratic."

To this end, the Sash is streamlining itself.

"We certainly believe," Ms Burton said, "that there is very exciting and important work to be done, particularly in parliament in monitoring legislation and the committees. There is a lot of excitement about that."

"And once people are freed of the heavy burden of management, there will be renewed energy for these things."

She added: "We really believe we have an opportunity, with a government that recognises rights, to en-

sure they are claimed and protected, and are part of people's daily lives, and to build a larger pool of people who are aware of the concepts of civil rights. We see this as an enormously valuable contribution."

There might not be much need for protest in the future, but we will continue to remind the new government of its own promises and the expectations the society has.

HRG 1615195

The Black Sash is alive and well and gearing itself up for the future, writes **Sheena Duncan**

Forty years of fighting injustice

(11c) WM 19-25/5/95

THE Black Sash is not disbanding, as *Business Day* posters proclaimed this week. We are alive and well and forty years old, celebrating our birthday. We will be continuing our work in our restructured form as the Black Sash Trust.

The Black Sash was formed in 1955 as the Women's Defence of the Constitution League and later adopted the name The Black Sash because that is what the press called us after the black sashes we wore in mourning for the "rape" of the Constitution had become a trademark. We were an organisation whose membership was open to women resident in South Africa.

Until 1985 we operated as a single membership-based organisation, most of whose work was done on a volunteer basis. We ran the organisation on voluntary energy and commitment and were able to raise the costs of maintaining our advice offices and other projects on money we raised at our annual morning markets, jumble sales, book and cake sales, bridge drives and the other ways in which women raise money to drive the causes they care about.

But by 1985 we were feeling the pressures of an ever-increasing workload in the advice offices and the decrease in the number of women available to do voluntary work during office hours. They were now working in their own jobs and could only do the extra things in the evenings and at weekends.

This has affected voluntary organisations all over the world and is not unique to South Africa, but it meant we had to employ more people to do the work we used to do by ourselves and that meant we had to raise more money.

When the Fund Raising Act was introduced in 1978, we had taken a principled decision that we would not seek registration because of the way that Act was then used to prevent the work of organisations unpopular with the government.

For a variety of reasons connected with the loopholes in the Act and our consequent need for tax exemption, we formed the Advice Office Trust, which managed all the service programmes of the Black Sash, leaving the "political" work to the membership organisation.

We then had two parallel structures which answered to our needs at the time and worked efficiently in tandem. Now two structures are no longer appropriate or necessary and have been taking up a great deal of voluntary energy which could be better spent.

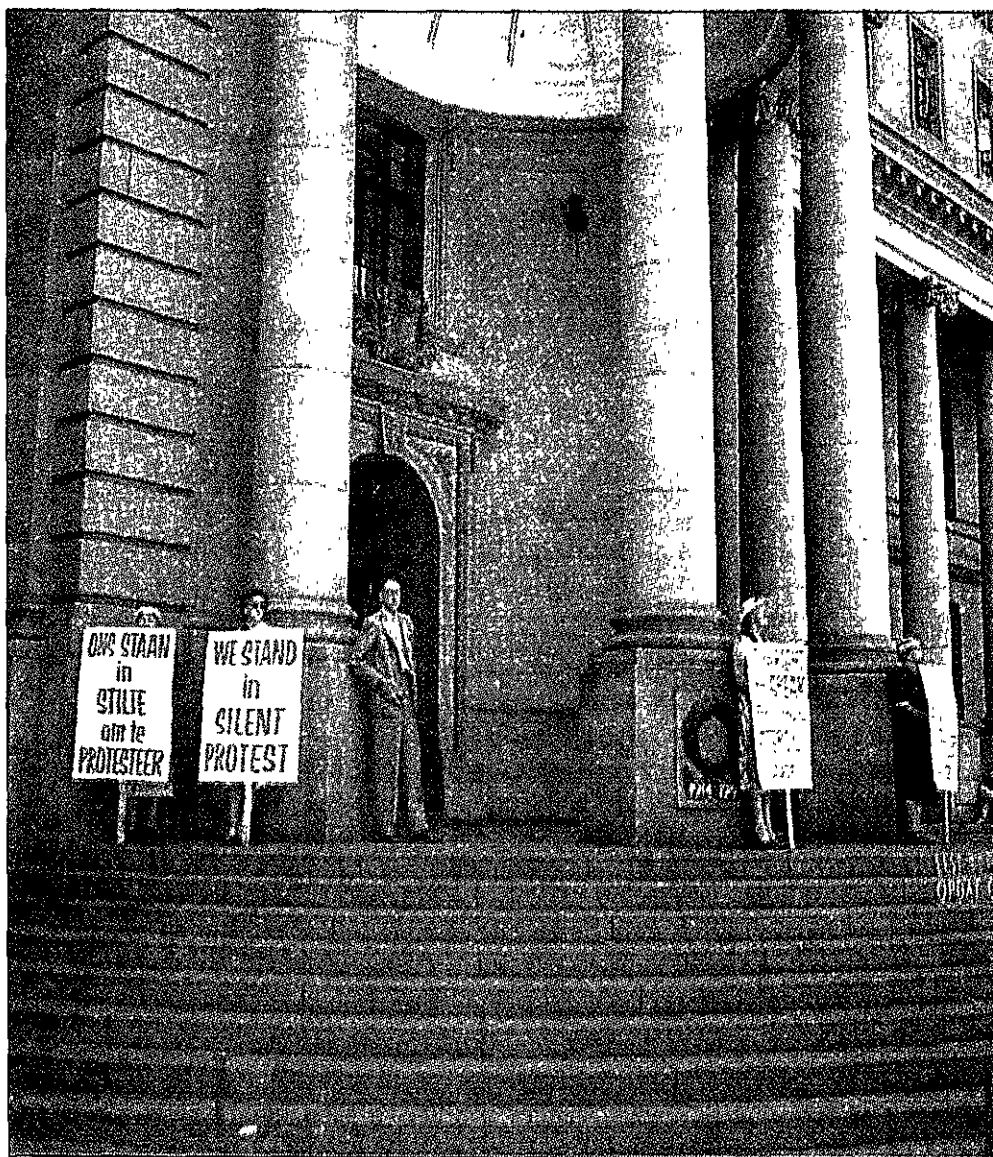
At our National Conference last weekend we adopted several technical and organisational resolutions which repealed the Constitution of the membership organisation and created one unified structure called the Black Sash Trust, which will put the programmes and projects of the Black Sash under professional management.

We will employ a National Director, but will seek to maintain and extend the involvement of volunteers in our work, especially in the enormous amount of lobbying and advocacy work in which we are now engaged. Because a Trust does not have "members", these volunteers will be called "associates".

We would, of course, have preferred to close down the Trust, but it manages our money, so we had to dissolve the membership organisation.

In common with all South African NGOs and community-based organisations, we have been hard hit by the loss of skilled and committed people to Parliament, provincial legislatures and the administration. One day, the tremendous contribution of NGOs to the workings of government in the transitional stage will be recognised, but it has left us all hard hit for the immediate future.

It is very hard to think ourselves back into the heady days in 1955 and 1956 when more



The Women's Defence of the Constitution League: The Black Sash rose out of the constitutional crisis of 1955 and developed into a voluntary group dedicated to fighting against apartheid injustices

PHOTOGRAPHS BLACK SASH ARCHIVE

What has changed is the way in which we can now work. We remember the days when Minister John Vorster replied to some communication from us by saying "your communication is in the waste paper basket where it belongs", and the time when Dr Piet Koornhof accused two of us of coming to him "hiding behind the skirts of the Church" because we had gone to see him with a church delegation to protest the break-up of family life caused by the pass laws.

Well, we do not have to worry about Dr Koornhof any more. He has moved from the mass removal of populations and the breaking up of families to body building with Arnold Schwarzenegger in Cape Town, while we have moved from protest to advocacy in a new, open, and amazingly transparent system of constitutional government. It is not by any means perfect, but it is very different and we have no doubt that we have much to contribute to the building of a truly just society, based on our forty years of experience of how law and administration affects the lives of people.

This is still our strength. Our knowledge does not come only from academic study of Acts of Parliament and Regulations, but from our understanding, taught us by the people in our advice office queues and the communities with whom we work, of how these laws affect people at the receiving end of the policies of those in power.

We will be working in a different structure in the coming years, but we are not going away just yet.

Sheena Duncan is chairperson of the Black Sash Trust and a former president of the Sash

than ten thousand women marched and stood in silent vigil in protest against the Senate Act, the removal of the coloured voters in the Cape from the common roll, contrary to an entrenched Constitutional provision, and the early beginnings of detention without trial and the destruction of the Rule of Law.

We were rather different then. In our first manifesto, dated May 23 1955, we described

ourselves as "mothers and grandmothers, wives and sweethearts ..." We would never do that now. Our manner then seems curious to the granddaughters who now carry on our work. We used to wear hats and gloves. We now wear jeans and T-shirts with slogans like *Womandla!* But the commitment to democratic and accountable government and to justice and human rights has not changed.

Women fearless in face of oppression

Star 18/5/95

(11c)

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Thus, in the words of former Black Sash president Jenny de Tolly, began the movement that spoke out fearlessly throughout the worst years of National Party rule.

The simple idea of fighting what was wrong, and upholding what was right, sustained the Sash from its formation in 1955. And the very same principles sustain the movement today.

But just as the social and political terrain has changed, so the Sash has changed.

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Volunteers are to become associates, but continue working towards the very same objectives that launched the movement back in 1955.

Leading Sash figure Mary Burton notes: "What we are doing is professionalising the management of the organisation — the new professional staff will

THE Black Sash was a movement that earned its stripes through some of the darkest eras of political oppression, Political Correspondent Michael Morris reports

be accountable to the board of trustees — to relieve volunteers of this burden.

"We see our roles of helping people claim their rights, and keeping a watching brief on the Government, as an on-going challenge that will continue forever."

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which must surely emerge".

It was a long time coming.

The 1960s and 1970s were difficult years. Yet, while the movement's membership hovered under the 2 000 mark, it pressed on determinedly.

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Its work earned it acceptance in the black community, some thing which few other white organisations managed to achieve.

The repression of the tumultuous 1980s, the successive states of emergency, presented a daunting challenge to the Sash to speak out when, as Mary Burton put it, "it was too dangerous for others to do so".

But a redeeming feature of this period was that the Sash's role was acknowledged by the steadily growing mass-based organisations, and it was accepted on the basis of its hard-earned credentials.

When President Mandela emerged from prison in February 1990, he publicly acknowledged the Sash's contribution.

"I salute the women of the Black Sash," he said.

However, for the women of the Black Sash, this was not an end, but a new beginning. As an editorial in the movement's journal noted in September last year: "We inhabit a new space. It is incumbent upon us to guard new rights and entrench hard-won democracy ... civil society is not of itself democratic."

To this end, the Sash is streamlining itself.

"We certainly believe that there is very exciting and important work to be done, particularly in Parliament in monitoring legislation and the committees," Burton said.

She adds: "We really believe we have an opportunity, with a Government that recognises rights, to ensure they are claimed and protected, and are part of people's daily lives, and to build a larger pool of people who are aware of the concepts of civil rights."

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS (11C)
Crucial role FM 19/5/95

Beacons of hope and liberal values during the dark years of apartheid, the SA Institute of Race Relations and the Black Sash have been re-examining their roles in society.

The Black Sash this week decided to dissolve its membership after 40 years. But it is to keep its trust going, and through it will continue to provide advice services. It lacked focus and had been in decline since the 1986 scrapping of the pass laws whose victims it helped.

Yet the need for a liberal watchdog has not diminished. In an address last week on the institute's role after apartheid, director John Kane-Berman argued: "The 'new' SA needs the institute just as much as it needs an Auditor-General."

Surveying SA's first year as a democracy, he says though there is little doubt that in general we are better off than we were, our situation is paradoxical.

"We have a constitution which lays the foundation of a liberal democratic State — one based on the rule of law, individual rights, private enterprise and limited government. Yet the party in the driving seat comes from a revolutionary tradition. It is not a liberal party, nor does it claim to be. Who knows what manner of man is likely to succeed Mandela? Who knows, indeed, what manner of President Mr Mandela himself will turn out to be?"

To ensure that it becomes and remains a liberal democracy, says Kane-Berman, SA

now faces four overriding challenges — which the institute, as an unashamedly liberal voice, aims to meet head-on:

□ To consolidate democratic gains — to give credit where it is due, identify positive trends, insist on the rule of law, defend the right of dissent, promote openness in government and check abuses of power;

□ To remain vigilant against a corporatist State run in the interests of the powerful and be willing to speak up for the underdog. To a social democrat, this may mean printing money to give jobs to the huge number of unemployed. To a liberal democrat, it means speaking up against such things as minimum wage laws and other barriers to market entry;

□ To defend the notion of limited government against special-interest lobbies seeking to resist privatisation, use the power of the State to enforce quotas, ban "hate speech," impose "transformation" on universities and the like. We must blow the whistle every time anyone seeks incremental State intrusion or erosion of individual liberties; and

□ To preserve our precious assets — the private sector, civil society and our vital faculties and institutions.

"Telling the truth without fear or favour" is intrinsic to the way the institute has always operated, Kane-Berman emphasises. While many talk in cliched terms about our fledgling democracy, "there are enough red lights flashing to suggest that we may be a fledgling something else. We have a constitutional court, many of whose judges were chosen in part for political reasons. The same applies to the SABC board. It took the National Party two years to start tampering with the constitution; Mandela is threatening to do so after one year. The Shell House cover-up was followed by the clumsy attempt at whitewash in the Boesak affair — which raises as many questions about (Deputy President Thabo) Mbeki as have been raised about (Allan) Boesak (who, of course, is entitled to be presumed innocent until proved otherwise in a court of law)."

He reminded his audience that "among whites, it was only the liberals who consistently spoke up against such things as forced removals and detention without trial and who applied to the Left the same criteria as they applied to the Right."

He concluded by saying that the institute's core values have never changed, "nor need they now." The long years of opposition to apartheid tended to obscure differences within the opposition camp — socialists were lumped with liberals — and when the ANC could not operate openly, its supporters worked in other organisations to achieve its objectives.

That was in the past. "What remains is the liberalism that stands for individual liberty and limited government. Instead of having to work all the time against what is evil, we can build, preserve and defend — as we will have to — what is good." ■

BLACK SASH

1998

A thorn in apartheid govt's side

“What will we do with children who dance around the bodies of necklace victims?” Joyce Harris, then Black Sash vice-president wrote in a 1986 Memorandum on the Suffering of Children.

The answer was that we South Africans jailed them – in 1986, 40% of the more than 30 000 people in detention were children.

Children were removed from entire communities like Kagiso, to punish their parents for resisting the apartheid state. Children became brutalised in all the ways Joyce Harris warned they would – and we wonder now when we stare into the dead eyes of a hijacker.

Stompie Seipei, who later died at the hands of the Mandela United Football Club at the age of 13, had been almost continuously detained by police since the age of 10, and badly tortured on every occasion.

After his detentions he would come to the offices of the Detainees Parents Support Committee, an organisation founded by the anger and determination of parents, but most particularly Audrey Coleman, a leading Black Sash member. He was a dear, plump little boy with a ready laugh and rare leadership qualities.

The police shot children. And when police arrested those who sought medical treatment, members of the Black Sash, like Julia Heaney, sometimes with one of her own children in tow, would travel to Khotso House to fetch people who sought refuge there after being shot by the police and ferry them to doctors breaking the law by treating and not reporting people who had been shot. They could have been struck off the medical roll. She could have been jailed.

She broke the law, like other Sashers, because the law was unjust.

In those awful years of violence and hatred, Black Sash women opened their houses to United Democratic Front leaders, trade unionists and others forced to live “underground” because of police persecution.

Beulah Rollnick, Gille de Vlieg, Miriam Hepner and dozens of oth-

ers had people living in their homes for various periods, and always had a hot meal available or the loan of their car, clothes, money or a caring ear. It meant that many were regularly raided by the security branch, who would sketch the floor plan of their homes, photograph and question their husbands or partners and children, even their domestic staff.

Few were intimidated. They were among the finest South Africans our land has nurtured.

Joyce Harris died of cancer recently in Canada close to the children and grandchildren she adored. Joyce was committed to a just South Africa. She despaired of some of the new Sash members of the late 1970s and early 1980s, who were seen as young radicals. We almost split the Black Sash in the early 1980s with our belief in the “just war” arguments of St Augustine and liberation theology.

Joyce, and others, was intensely uncomfortable with the notion that violence could ever be justified. At least one prominent member left the Sash because of those arguments and launched bitter attacks against it for years after.

Joyce, on the other hand, would sit listening, her hands clasped in front of her, an eye, affected by an earlier stroke, blinking. She would incisively demolish or question our arguments, but never in a destructive manner. Her approach meant we all learnt, and grew together.

Today there will be a memorial service in the same small meeting room of the Temple Emanuel where the Free the Children Alliance was launched, and where in the same year we tried to launch the Five Freedoms Forum until the security branch switched off all the lights in the area.

Instead, we retreated to a Forest Town house. David Webster, to be assassinated three years later, presided with Sheena Duncan, who with Joyce led the Sash through most of those turbulent times.

We will wear our sashes at the memorial: the Black Sash, that black slash across the bodies of women, that said no to injustice, and became an enduring symbol of the battle against apartheid.



And yet the women of the Sash were an unlikely bunch of revolutionaries. Most, like Joyce, would be horrified at the term. But in a

society that did not see black people as people, they were.

Some came to meetings wearing pearls and neatly coiffed hair; others

wore jeans and T-shirts. Some knitted. At evening meetings there would be wonderful homemade borscht or vegetable soup, and

Committed to a just South Africa... Joyce Harris would often “stand” – the Black Sash’s protests along kerbsides of public roads.

homebaked wholewheat bread.

One year, the Sash moved offices three times because white tenants would complain about all the black people that came to the advice office and mysteriously always knew the Sash’s latest address until it found a home at Khotso House with the SA Council of Churches, a place of peace so threatening to the mayhem of apartheid that the security police would later bomb it.

The queues outside Sash offices would begin at 7am and begin tapering off at 4pm. Women like Elizabeth Rowe, Joyce Harris, Dawn Ingie and Ethel Walt, would sit and listen to tales of misery translated by equally wonderful women such as Adelaide Pholofi and the indomitable Mitta Matika.

Everyone knew the addresses of pass offices, the West Rand Board, Bantu Commissioners’ Offices, how to write an affidavit.

“What is your full name? Do you have proof you were born in Soweto? You need a birth certificate to get the pass that will allow you to work and rent a home... okay, if you don’t have a birth certificate and the clinic has been burnt down, do you have any neighbours or other people who can testify that you were born in that home? Did your father include your name on his lodger’s permit? Well, even if your name was not on the permit, because your mother was illegally in Johannesburg we can still try and find ways to make you legal. We’ll do these affidavits and then you must go to the Bantu Commissioner’s office so they can register your birth, and then...”

Or to a frail old woman, who blinked myopically through glasses and twisted a handkerchief in her hand, “...so you worked 15 years for the same woman, and when you started to work for her you earned R100 a month, and she never gave you a raise, and then last week she told you, you must go because you are too old, and she has given you no severance pay? No pension? Why did you never ask for a raise when she made you work 11 hours a day, seven days a week, for 15 years and never gave you a raise?”

Joyce Harris and Sheena Duncan had fine legal minds, although they

were not trained as lawyers. Joyce, in particular, took a keen interest in the depressing monitoring of pass courts, where people’s destinies were sealed in three minutes or less.

She oversaw the monitoring of political trials – if there were injustices, and there were many, she would contact international organisations for legal aid or funds to help the accused, or send reports to international commissions.

She would always “stand” – the Black Sashers protested along kerbsides of public roads. There were increasingly harrowing experiences as Sashers got assaulted, arrested, or had eggs or water thrown at them, sometimes by policemen.

Joyce Harris was 78 when she died on August 27. She leaves her husband Nathan, children and grandchildren.

As a young woman she completed a degree in social science at Wits University, and was the first medical social worker at the General Hospital before working at the Community Centre in Fordsburg.

When the Black Sash was formed in 1955 she was asked to become its first secretary. She was its magazine editor on more than one occasion, was vice-president twice, president once and a prolific author of numerous Black Sash documents.

Joyce Harris was not a trendy leftist. She did not wear her heart on her sleeve. She did not bake bread. But she cared deeply about South Africa and about justice for all. The loss of such people leaves a deep wound in our country that can only be healed by others taking up the causes she so earnestly believed in.

To paraphrase an 80s slogan: Long live the democrats who are quiet now, but will rise if ever again our freedom is in jeopardy. May they look to the Joyce Harris of our world, and take courage.

Hamba Kahle Joyce Harris. Hamba Kahle David Webster. Hamba Kahle Sicelo Dhlomo. We have too many wounds that need to be healed.

■ The memorial service for Joyce Harris will start at 5.30pm at Temple Emanuel Centre, Oxford Road, Parktown. Charlene Smith is a freelance journalist who joined the Black Sash in 1979.