

THE BREAK-UP OF FAMILY LIFE

WE are in complete agreement with the sentiment expressed in a recent leading article in the "Transvaler", which we publish together with a rough translation. The newspaper extracts which follow tell their own story.

'N DUIWELSE GEES

DIE TEERSTE en innigste bande wat daar tussen mens en mens kan bestaan, is ongetwyfeld dié wat deur die gesin geskep word. Niks anders kan in hierdie opsig 'n vergelyking met die gesinsverband deurstaan nie. Om hierdie rede moet dan ook alles wat willens en wetens die gesinsverband wil verbreek, diepe afkeuring verdien.

Min sake openbaar die Kommunisme werklik so in sy duiwelse naaktheid as juis sy strewe om, waar dit maar enigsins moontlik is, die gesinsverband te verbreek. Op 13 Augustus 1961 is die wêreld plotseling opgeskrik met die mededeling dat die Kommunistiese bewind van Oos-Duitsland daartoe oorgegaan het om 'n muur dwarsdeur Berlyn te bou, wat o.a. tot gevolg gehad het dat lede van gesinne heeltemal van mekaar geskei is sonder enige kommunikasiemiddel tussen hulle. Hoewel hulle soms maar enkele honderde treë van mekaar gewoon het, kon hulle op generlei manier met mekaar in aanraking kom nie.

Met die pas afgelope Kerstyd het die Kommunistiese owerheid dit toegestaan dat mense uit Wes-Berlyn na die oostelike deel kon gaan nadat hulle die nodige verlof verkry het. In die afgelope week of wat kon 'n mens haas elke dag in die koerante lees van die proot getalle mense wat van die geleentheid gebruik gemaak het om van hul familieledede in Oos-Berlyn te gaan besoek. Volgens die jongste berigte kom die getal op meer as 1,000,000 te staan.

Die Kommunistiese bewind het blykbaar gemeen dat hy nou 'n gebaar van welwillendheid gedoen het waarvoor hy dank behoort te verkry. **Belyers van 'n ideologie wat bereid is om gesinne te verskeur en uitmekaar te hou, verdien egter geen dankbaarheid nie.** Solank die skandmuur in Berlyn gehandhaaf word en solank gesinne nie in aanraking met mekaar mag kom nie, toon die Kommunisme eenvoudig dat dit 'n ideologie is wat met 'n duiwelse gees besiel is.

A DEVILISH SPIRIT

THE TENDEREST and most intimate bonds between man and man are undoubtedly those engendered by family life. Nothing can compare with these family bonds. For this reason, everything that deliberately destroys family ties deserves the strongest condemnation.

Few situations reveal Communism in its "devilish nakedness" more clearly than its attempts, wherever possible, to break these bonds. On the 13th August, 1961, the world learnt with horror that the Communist regime in East Germany had decided to build a wall through Berlin, which wall had, amongst others, the effect of separating families completely without any means of communication. Although they often lived only a few hundred yards apart, there was no way for them to communicate.

During the Christmas period, the Communist authorities allowed the people of West Berlin to visit the Eastern section, after obtaining the necessary permission. In the past week, one could read of vast numbers making use of this opportunity almost daily. Recent figures refer to about 1,000,000 visitors.

No doubt the Communist Regime thinks that it should be praised for its deed of goodwill. **Those who believe in an ideology that is prepared to tear families apart and keep them apart do not deserve thanks.** As long as the wall is maintained in Berlin, and so long as the people may not get into touch with each other, Communism reveals itself as an ideology which is motivated by a "devilish spirit".

Commendable sentiment

IN a moving statement on the sacrosanct nature of family bonds, the "Transvaler" declared in a leading article yesterday that "everything which sets out to break the family tie must deserve strong condemnation."

Unfortunately this National Party organ was not writing of the pass laws and influx control regulations which separate thousands of African families in this country. It was writing of the families divided by the Berlin Wall, and went on to say of the opening of the wall for Christmas

reunions: "The Communist regime apparently thought it had performed a gesture of kindness for which it should have been thanked. But supporters of an ideology which is prepared to separate families and keep them apart deserve no thanks."

What a pity this commendable sentiment is not also considered applicable to families whose skin colour happens to be black and whose homes happen to be here in the Republic.

(*"Rand Daily Mail"*)

A mockery of marriage

IT is fitting that your leading article of January 9 drew attention to a leader in the "Transvaler" on the breaking up of family life.

It is interesting to note that this newspaper is so concerned about the hardships caused to families divided by the Berlin Wall.

Is the "Transvaler" aware that in every urban area in South Africa there is a "Berlin Wall" — influx control — which divides thousands of African families?

Not only marriages by Native Law and Custom, (recognized by the Government), but Christian marriages as well are broken up daily by the laws of this land.

To have his wife living with him in an urban area, a man must either have been born in that area and, since birth, lived there continuously, have lived continuously in that area for 15 years, or have worked there continuously for one employer for 10 years.

If he satisfies one of these requirements he must still prove that he "ordinarily resides" with his wife. The fact that the couple may have several children does not imply that they "ordinarily reside" together.

And how is it possible for a man "ordinarily to reside" with his wife when she is forbidden entry into the area where her husband is ordinarily employed?

As the "Transvaler" said: "supporters of an ideology which is prepared to separate families and keep them apart deserve no thanks."

In our view they are to be condemned. We ask the "Transvaler," therefore, to institute a campaign to have these laws repealed. They offend every Christian principle and make a mockery of the sacred institution of marriage.

(Black Sash letter to "Rand Daily Mail")

Only a Liberalist

THE liberalistic Press are at present concerning themselves with the fact that in a recent leader "Die Transvaler" pointed out that by building the Berlin wall the Communists had broken up the family life of thousands of people. In this connection the question is no wasked whether the laws of the Republic concerning the residence of Bantu in the urban areas do not also lead to the disruption of family life.

It is only a liberalist who would treat all people alike, who could see any connection between the two cases.

In Berlin, those affected are highly civilized people who in most mases have strong family ties. In the Republic the people affected are at a very low stage of development, and often have such loose family ties that they surely do not deserve the title . . . The encouragement of the family bond is, among other things, the intention behind the establishment of the Bantu Homelands.

(*The "Transvaler"*)

Condemnation

We can comment only by quoting the words of Professor Pistorius (see "Bantustans — Fact or Fallacy?" Page 10) "The policy of separate development, far from being an instrument to bring Africans back to their homelands, is in effect a compulsion on them to leave it"; and the "Transvaler's" own words: "Everything that deliberately destroys family ties deserves the strongest condemnation."

NATAL "WALL OF SHAME"

FARMERS and residents of Golela — a hamlet which sprawls over the South African-Swaziland border 245 miles from Durban — have asked high-ranking Government officials to release the stringent security precautions at the border control post which cuts Golela in half.

It is not even possible to travel along Golela's main street from the hotel to the post office without producing a passport to an official of the Bantu Administration Department. Special permission has to be obtained to pass through the control post after normal working hours — 8 p.m. to 7 a.m.

At Christmas and New Year families were kept separated by the barbed wire fence — nicknamed the "wall of shame" by residents. They call their town grimly "another Berlin".

(From a report in the "Rand Daily Mail")