

contact

FOR UNITED NON-RACIAL ACTION

5c

Volume 7 No. 3

14th February, 1964

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper

• **Opposition Party Formed in the Transkei**



• **Immorality Act - the Toll**

- See Page 4

Land Disproportion is Report's Basic Flaw

DIVIDE AND RULE GONE MAD

"THE COMMISSION is desirous that the non-white groups of South West Africa should eventually become independent and that they should now be guided further in that direction", says the massive "Report on South West African Affairs", now tabled in the House of

Assembly, Cape Town, and compiled in 1962-63.

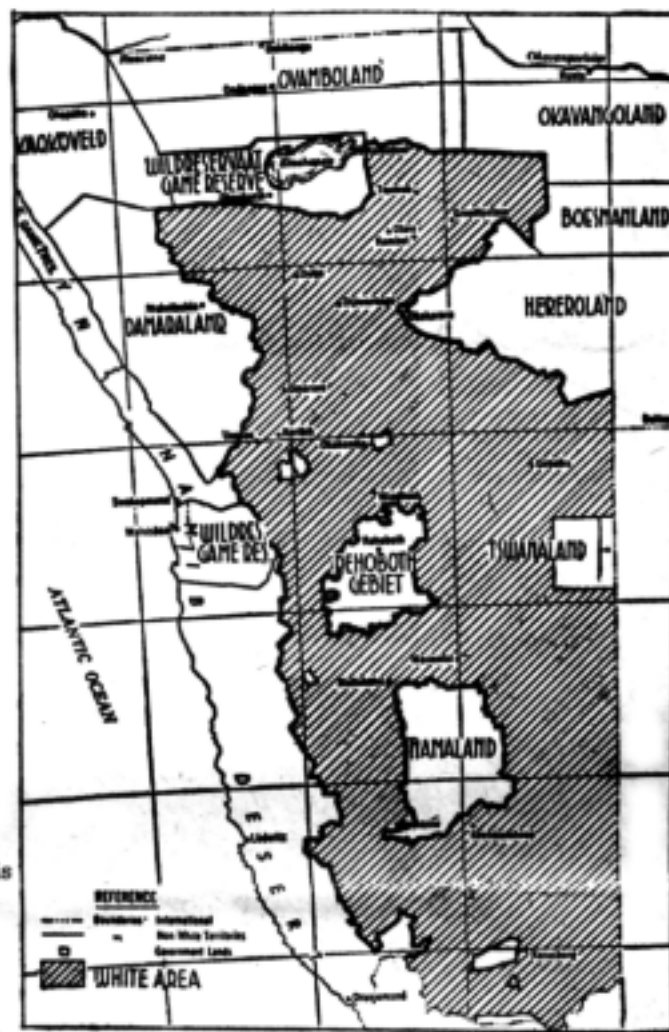
It was only in 1961 that the Nationalist Party in South West came romping home in the Territory's all-white elections on a cry of "Ons sal nie buk nie" (We won't budge).

Two years have produced some feverish hard work by a commission of convinced and able apartheidists, who have produced a mighty monument to the efforts of the Rev. Michael Scott, and of the nation's efforts of the petitioners at UN and their supporters who have kept alive the issue of South Africa's illegal misapplication of her Mandate over South West Africa, ever since the founding of the United Nations Organization in 1945.

No news story can do justice to the Report. SWAPO, SWANU, and political movements in South Africa are busy studying the report and will make their views known in the coming weeks. They, and the supporters of South West Africa's freedom cause everywhere are likely to condemn it because of the unacceptable concept underlying it - APARTHEID.

The map alongside - there are dozens in the volume, is a story in itself. It shows up the basic flaw of the Odendaal Commission's work: the Whites will still own the vast bulk of the habitable land of a Territory over whose indigenous people the old Union of South Africa was mandated to rule and care, back in 1919. With magnificent aplomb, the Commission ignores the whole issue of this land disproportion, and strains its every fibre to plan the economic, social and political development of a fraction of the land for 86% of the population.

The economic - industrial, agricultural, social welfare - provisions will provide a mass of useful ideas for a free South West Africa - or Namib, as Dr. Kerina and others have dubbed the South West Africa of the future. The political ideas, save perhaps for those to do with the Bushmen (2.25% of the population - they need "guidance and protection"), can attract none



PROPOSED "HOMELANDS"

but the inevitable sell-outs and short-term power seekers, and can please only the already apartheid-converted. Ten Bantustans for the non-whites and the whites under the Republic's Department of the Interior - and not even a central parliament for all the Bantustans to meet together: here is "divide and rule" gone mad.

The Report talks of the "melting-pot of population migrations into the country", yet with the same blind disregard for the wood, with so many saleable apartheid-trees around, it never once postulates a "melting-pot" state - a non-racial democracy, which has been the constant aim of the political leaders of the Ovambos, Hereros, Namas, Damaras, and others as represented by the petitioners at the United Nations.

It also makes clamorous protestations about health, education and welfare services, for the benefit of you-know-who at the Hague.

A final footnote: in its efforts to show the teacher-to-pupil ratio in a favourable light (1 to 37), the Report lets slip the figure for Africans in the Republic, which is 1 to 58, among the worst in Africa (Uganda is 1 to 29; Ghana 1 to 32).

ODENDAAL'S FIGURES ARE QUERIED

By a Reporter

CAPE TOWN: An interesting sidelight was cast on the Odendaal Report last week by Mr A. Louw, chairman of the Baster Burgerversgadering (Citizens' Meeting) when he stated that the Commission had given an incorrect picture of the number of Bastards in South West Africa.

Mr Louw said that the correct figure was "more than 30,000" whereas the figure the Commission gave was 11,257. In addition, the Commission gave the population of Hereroland as 35,354 while the Hereros some time ago claimed 72,000.

Observers now are asking if this is an attempt by the Commission to play down the disproportion of the white 14 per cent of the population (official figure) owning nearly 50 per cent of the land.

In this connection it is interesting that nowhere in all the 650 detailed pages of the Odendaal Commission's lavishly illustrated report is the percentage of land proposed for white ownership once mentioned. Only by dint of considerable and complicated arithmetical calculation is it possible to arrive at an approximate figure.

On the other hand, for example, a glance at a map devoted exclusively to the subject reveals how many schools there are in the Kaokoveld (three).

S.A. INHERITED A MANDATE - NOT HALF A COUNTRY

By a Special Correspondent

IT IS POSSIBLE to consider the Government's South West Africa plan with a certain amount of pity. It is probably the most spectacular example of the fallacious doctrine of equal but separate that history can show. It does the generous thing for the wrong reason. And it has no hope of success whatever.

That the Government ought to pump money into South West Africa, no one will question. For non-white people, it is a miserably poor country. Its farm labourers are amongst the most depressed in Southern Africa. Only a few years ago, after forty years of a mandate which was to prepare people for maturity and responsibility, the first High school for Africans was established. Its indigenous people lag far behind the Africans of the Republic in education, skill, and the standard of dressing and living.

There is of course one condition attached to the Government's generosity. It is a condition that has been attached to every gift that the Government has ever made. This gift is to be on the condition that rigid racial separation will be applied throughout the rejuvenated territory.

One might suppose that the world's complaint was solely against the poverty of the South West Africans. This is not the case. The primary complaint is against the condition of non-white subordination, of which non-white poverty is considered to be one of the consequences. The new plan does nothing to meet this charge. The new South West Africa is to perpetuate the rule of white supremacy.

There is another fatal weakness in the plan. It sets aside approximately half of the territory for white occupation, yet the non-white people constitute 85% of

the population. Thus is duplicated and perpetuated the land problem of the Republic.

What hope has this plan of satisfying the United Nations? Whatever the legal discussions may be, it is clear that the South African Government inherited a mandate, not half a country. What is more, the United Nations is likely to be outraged by a plan to entrench the system of racial separation against which they have inveighed so long. Furthermore, as it has been pointed out, the South African Government has now made Apartheid, which it always contended was a domestic issue, an issue which it is competent for the world to discuss. The world can now see for itself just how an Apartheid State is constructed, with all its paraphernalia of job reservation, influx control, endorsing out, and the like. It is impossible to underestimate the consequences of this.

contact

an independent fortnightly working for non-racial democracy through united action against apartheid and all forms of totalitarianism and imperialism.

47 Parliament Street, Cape Town. P.O. Box 1979. Telephone 3-4043 Telegrams CONTACT, Cape Town.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS:

African Postal Union: R1.00 (10s.)

Airmail: R2.00 (£1)

Rest of the World: R1.50 (15s., \$2)

Airmail: On application. Half for six months.

Unless otherwise stated, headlines, sub-editing and political comment in this issue by J. R. Clare of 47 Parliament Street, Cape Town.

COMMENT

THE MEANING OF FIGURES

ONE OF THE WORST features of Nazi Germany was the precision with which its administrators carried out their bestial work. The extermination of millions of people was all dutifully recorded and monsters like Kramer and Hoess tendered performance returns with all the calm detachment of a business manager reporting his daily sales. It was all so exact, so thoroughly organised that the horror of it all was obscured by the tedious banality of facts and figures. For figures, when they move into the hundreds and beyond tend to obscure, and the mere listing of them dulls the impact of what they really mean.

We have had an example of this in South Africa during the past few weeks. In response to questions put to him in Parliament, Minister of Justice Vorster meticulously listed what those who have fought too hard against his regime have had to pay for their independence of spirit and their courage. In 1963 security laws were used to place people in prison at the rate of nearly ten a day. The exact totals, all carefully added up and balanced, were:

- *1, 213 adults and 64 juveniles (under the age of 18) detained under the Suppression of Communism Act.
- *592 people detained in the Transkei under the emergency proclamation No. 400.
- *594 people detained under the 90-day detention clause of the 1963 General Law Amendment Act.
- *500 adults and 43 juveniles arrested under the Unlawful Organisations Act, that is for allegedly carrying on the activities of the banned African National Congress and Pan Africanist Congress.
- *285 adults and 55 juveniles arrested under Section 21 (defining sabotage) of the 1962 General Law Amendment Act.
- *Nine people arrested under the Riotous Assemblies Act.

All this adds up, according to Mr. Vorster, to 3,355 people, 2,169 of them actually arrested on a charge and the rest detained without charge. Of those actually charged, 922 were released without trial (some after months in prison) and 1,447 were brought to trial. Of this number, 922 were convicted, 521 were found not guilty and on 25th January 104 were still awaiting trial.

Added to these figures are those of 19 people subjected, without trial or chance of a hearing, to house arrest since 15th February 1963; and of 175 people who, in 1963, were served with banning orders.

THE PRICE OF A SHIRT

IT IS A CLAIM of those who try to find some good in South Africa's white racialists that, whatever else is done to them in the name of "separate development", the voteless, voiceless mass is still left with a good solid shirt on its back and not all the food has been taken from its plate. But now the shirt is going to be harder to buy and the cause may be traced directly to the folly of attempting to impose the apartheid policy on the siting of industries in this country.

On 5th October, with all the exchange of compliments and joviality that go with such occasions, South Africa's most spectacular border industry was opened in East London. This is a R5m factory set up to weave poplin, the basic material in the making of shirts and other garments.

While some distance from the nearest Bantustan,

it is still near enough, it seems, to qualify and in it more than 1,000 citizens of the Transkei will work for wages far below anything they could obtain in Port Elizabeth, Cape Town or Johannesburg.

The factory has also been hailed as a sign of the confidence of its founder and chief executive, Mr. Cyril Lord, in the economic future of South Africa and in the practicability of border industries. But closer examination of Lord's gift to apartheid shows that this enterprising Englishman was moved by things more solid than belief in the correctness of Government policy.

First, most of the cash necessary to set up the factory was put up by the accommodating Industrial Development Corporation, which seems prepared to act with remarkable generosity towards any industrialist prepared to conform with its ideas on the siting of factories. Next, Mr. Lord proceeded to equip his factory with machinery, most of it second-hand, from declining mills in England; and then - with further considerable help from the Government and the East London municipality - he brought out a batch of key workers from England.

It is now becoming clear that even more than this assistance was necessary to bring Mr. Lord and his factory to South Africa. Although designed eventually to produce the 30 million yards of poplin required in South Africa each year, the factory's initial production is only 10 million yards. But Mr. Lord has now secured the removal of the rebate on customs duty on all imported poplin which means that more will now have to be paid for shirts and eventually many other garments. Many years may pass before the East London factory is able to meet the entire needs for shirting material in South Africa. But Mr. Lord is being well paid for his "confidence" and the effect is that a shirt costing, say, R2, will increase to R2.60 or R2.80, and the price of most shirts will go up by 50 to 75 per cent.

"These drastic increases," said one shirt manufacturer, whose factory is established in Cape Town and is, therefore, not so well favoured by the apartheid planners, "are all the result of protection offered to encourage the establishment of a poplin industry in South Africa, with particular emphasis on the border areas".

His further comment was that the protection "has been far too generous".

But apartheid has reached the stage where its protagonists can only buy their friends and the cost is becoming an insupportable burden on the near-shirtless backs of South Africa's people.

**On the date of publication (14/2/64)
Adv. Albie Sachs will have spent 137
days in continuous solitary confinement
without charge or trial**

BRITISH LAWYERS PROTEST AGAINST VICTIMIZATION

THE FOLLOWING LETTER which was signed by six eminent British lawyers appeared in *The Times*, London, on 23rd January under the heading: "Threat to the Bar - Advocate Detained in South Africa".

Sir,

Whilst public attention has recently been focused on the serious infringements of the Rule of Law in Ghana, in South Africa a matter of some gravity, involving as it does the independence of Counsel has received scant attention.

We refer to the case of Mr. Albert Louis Sachs, a prominent junior member of the Cape Town Bar, who was arrested on October 1, 1963, and detained under the provisions of Section 17 of the General Law Amendment Act, 1963.

This Section authorizes the arrest without warrant and detention in custody without trial of any person suspected by any commissioned police officer of certain political offences for successive periods of 90 days.

Mr. Sachs, who had in April, 1963, been placed under a ban restricting him for five years to certain parts of the Cape and forbidding him attending any social, political or educational gathering was released on the expiry of the 90-day period on December 30, 1963, but immediately re-arrested and is now reported to be the only person held under the Section.

We are concerned at a number of features of the case:

1. Although Mr. Sachs has been detained for over three months no charge has been preferred against him.

2. The provision under which he is held authorizes the detention of any suspect "until such person has, in the opinion of the Commissioner of the South African Police, replied satis-

factorily to all questions" at the interrogation. There have been allegations recently that police have resorted to torture and physical violence against detainees but whether or not these are substantiated there can be no doubt that the solitary confinement in which they are held (without contact from relatives or friends) has serious psychological ill effects and leading South African psychologists and medical specialists have recently appealed for its abolition. As the Section expressly deprives the courts of jurisdiction to order release and the police have an absolute discretion in this regard there must be considerable pressure on detainees to cooperate with the authorities. It is particularly serious that an advocate should be subjected to this treatment since pressure may be put on him to part with information concerning his clients obtained in the course of his professional duties and therefore privileged.

3. Mr. Sachs was one of the South African Counsel willing to act for Africans charged with political offences and this type of work constituted the bulk of his practice. An inference that may be drawn from his detention following shortly on the prohibition in April 1963 is that he was considered a "thorn in the flesh" of the authorities. This example of victimization strikes at the roots of the independence of the Bar, has grave implications and is much to be deplored.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) Gardiner
Niall MacDermot
F. Elwyn Jones
Leslie Hale
G.H.L. Fridman
Benedict Birnberg.

"CONTACT" REGRETS...

IN SPITE OF THE extraordinarily generous response of a large number of donors, *Contact*, lacking a permanent source of income, is finally faced with financial ruin and from now on, for the foreseeable future, will only appear monthly.

We are concerned to conserve our slender resources in this way in order to comply with the requirements of the Imprint Act in terms of which our registration would lapse should we fail to come out at least once every 30 days. Re-registration, as we have pointed out before, would involve a deposit of R20,000.

We trust that subscribers will bear with us over this lean period. The necessary adjustments will be made such as to ensure that they will receive the number of issues they have paid for.

CONTACT FUND

Previously acknowledged		R956.75
Anonymous	Johannesburg	30.00
H. Cocks	England	1.52
J. Pfeiffer	Cape Town	1.00
Messrs Barron & Kessler	Cape Town	2.60
John Blundell	Cape Town	1.00
H. Lebrun	California	7.00
B.A. Sharples	Knysna	6.00
A.E. Castello	California	7.00
J. Paton	Johannesburg	1.00
Helena Brown	Edinburgh	2.50
B.S.	Cape Town	1.50
Catherine Eglin	Cape Town	2.00
Marieanne Nordfords	Sweden	1.50
W.C. Norton	U.S.A.	1.40
Donald Bratton	California	2.10
Dan Tikill	Cape Town	1.00
Paul Brink	Kansas City, U.S.A.	3.50
Elizabeth Black	Cape Town	2.00
Charles Diegal	Pittsburgh, U.S.A.	2.10
A. Drachman	New York	1.75
Mr Leather	Somerset West	5.00
Dot Cleminshaw	Cape Town	1.00
Rt. Rev. G.W.R. Tobias	Cape Town	10.00
Marjorie Fleming	Pietermaritzburg	1.00
A. Fischer	Johannesburg	8.00
J. Unterhalter	Johannesburg	50.00
R. Stretton Webb	Paarl	10.00
	TOTAL	<u>R1,118.22</u>

Keen Interest in the Transkei**DEMOCRATIC PARTY
IS LAUNCHED**

Paramount Chief Poto

CAPE TOWN: The 7th February 1964 - a milestone in Transkeian and South African history?

Or just another misfire in the fight for freedom?

Public response to the launching of the Sabata-Poto backed Democratic Party on that day, in Umtata the Transkeian capital, has so far evidenced keen interest in the young party. And early strong criticism.

Its birth was heralded by statements by Mr K.M. Guzana in Umtata and by East London newspapers, followed quickly by a sharp attack in Imvo Zabantsundu (8th February) the pro-apartheid newspaper, owned by the Afrikaanse Pers Beperk.

Mr Zion Mzazi of Mqanduli, in Imvo's "Public Platform" feature, accuses the Democratic Party of contradictoriness:

* Does the DP believe in the continued oneness of the Republic and the Transkei, or in complete independence, as Mr Mzazi claims that Chief Victor Poto averred

during the election campaign?

* Does the DP really uphold multiracialism (though, says Mzazi, it doesn't definitely say so), and if so how is this to be reconciled with its intention of "protecting minorities by constitutional entrenchments"? How are these entrenchments compatible with the DP's "Government by the people, for the people, and on behalf of the people"?

* How can the DP stand for multiracialism and yet aim to "maintain and perpetuate the institution of chieftainship", since the whites, coloureds and Indians would be equal citizens?

CONTACT OFFERS THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S ACTION COMMITTEE SPACE TO ELABORATE ITS INSPIRING POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES.

If 7th February is to be a great day in the public memory, the party that was born on that day will need to clear up all doubts about its policies without



Paramount Chief Sabata

delay.

To honour the occasion, Contact repeats some of the DP's 'nine points':

- * retention of the Transkei as an integral part of South Africa.
- * development of a nonracial loyalty to the Government of the Transkei as well as the South Africa Government.
- * insuring harmonious and cordial relations among the race groups in the Transkei.
- * Government of the people, by the people and on behalf of the people.

George Matanzima says it's "Lies"**MINISTER OF JUSTICE ON
"COMMUNISTS AND AGITATORS"**

By a Reporter

CAPE TOWN: It is pointed out by Umthunywa, Umtata, that a report in Imvo Zabantsundu, the Nat-owned King William's Town newspaper, significantly omitted the fact that Minister of Justice George Matanzima was faced with hostile questioning at his East London "report-back" meeting held at the end of January.

On this occasion, Messrs. Matanzima, Mdledle, Mfebe and Msengana, the successful pro-apartheid candidates for the Emigrant Tembuland seats in the Transkei general election, spoke to several hundred East Londoners and were grilled at question time.

Asked when Proclamation 400 would be lifted, Mr Matanzima replied that the Transkei Government had no power to do so, as this power lay in the hands of the Republican Government and their police. He added that the cause of Proc. 400 was the activities of agitators and communists, and that if the people would behave themselves and not listen to agitators it might well be lifted.

A question that greatly annoyed him was put by a young man, who asked which side the ordinary people should follow, because there was one side leading to darkness and the other one leading to light. Justice Minister Matanzima pointed his finger at the questioner and said that he had every right to put people like him in their proper place. His answer was that "there is no better policy than separate development, the only civilised policy." The young man moved to the back of the hall as if to escape from Mr Matanzima's threats.

Asked about his being struck off the roll of attorneys, misappropriating his clients' money and being called a liar by a judge of the Supreme Court, Mr Matanzima accused the papers who had told "such lies" of trying to defame him, and claimed that he could sue them.

He warned the meeting to be careful of papers like the Daily Despatch (East London), "who seldom print anything truthful".

Minister of Education Mdledle defended Bantu Education against a questioner.

**JUDGEMENT
REVERSED**

CAPE TOWN: A judgement in the Supreme Court, Grahamstown, has brought about the release of Chief Zwelihle Silimela Mzirara and 48 of his tribesmen, including Mr Leonard Matiwane, an Engcobo district school principal.

The men were detained under Proclamation 400 on 24th May 1963. They were later charged and found guilty of being Poqo members. Chief Zwelihle, who is second to Paramount Chief Sabata Dalindyebo in seniority in Tembuland, was sentenced to eight years gaol, the others to four and six years.

The original sentence arose out of charges that a Poqo meeting had taken place at Quluqu, Engcobo, convened by Chief Zwelihle and attended by the tribesmen. Money was alleged to have been collected by Chief Zwelihle. The Grahamstown court accepted that this money was for a new motor-car for Chief Zwelihle, and that the two main state witnesses were stock thieves who had a grudge against Chief Zwelihle.

It is expected that the popular Chief Zwelihle, a loyal supporter of Chief Sabata during the Tembus' 1962 fight against the Bantustan legislation, will take his seat in the new Transkeian Legislative Assembly when the Assembly meets early in May.

LIBERAL WARNED

Mrs. Lewin

"We will

not be

deterred"

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT was issued recently by Mr Peter Brown, National Chairman of the Liberal Party, after a prominent Johannesburg Liberal had been "warned".

"The Chief Magistrate of Johannesburg, acting under Mr Vorster's instructions, has warned Mrs Elizabeth Lewin, a member of the National Executive of the Liberal Party and a former National Secretary of the Party, to desist from activities "calculated to further the aims of Communism."

"Mrs Lewin's activities have had no such aim and there seems little doubt that she has received this "warning" simply because she has been active recently in trying to alleviate the condition of people whom Mr Vorster has detained without trial, and that of their families.

"Mrs Lewin's warning is yet another threat to individual liberty in South Africa and the latest in a series of Government attempts to neutralise the effective strength of the Liberal Party. We protest against the "warning" in the strongest terms - and we will not be deterred by it."

**LAWYERS THREATENED WITH
POLITICAL SCREENING**

By a Lawyer

THE CONCEPT of "the freedom of the individual" contains amongst others one fundamental principle, viz. that no man shall be imprisoned without a fair and public trial before a judge who is independent of both the Executive and the Legislature. It is an essential prerequisite of a fair trial that the accused be represented in court by a trained lawyer.

The right to trial before imprisonment has been removed by the Second General Laws Amendment Act of 1963 (the "90-days" Act). Should the accused have the privilege of a trial, the likelihood of his being properly defended is now to be placed in jeopardy by the introduction to Parliament by the Minister of Justice of two bills. One is to amend the law on the admission of advocates

and another is to likewise amend the law providing for the admission of attorneys.

At present both advocates and attorneys are admitted as "officers of the Supreme Court" by the Supreme Court which relies on the advice of the Law Society and the Bar Council in considering applications for admission. Minister Vorster proposes to deprive the courts of their unfettered discretion to recruit their own officers by prohibiting "named communists" from being admitted to practice, and by reserving to himself the right to remove "named communists" from the rolls.

The legal profession has fought strenuously in the past to prevent the political screening of lawyers and even extracted a promise from Mr Erasmus when he was

Minister of Justice that this would not be done.

The impending legislation and the spate of banning and restricting orders which have been served on practising lawyers have had an effect on the legal profession itself. Many leading firms of attorneys will not take on political cases. It is becoming more and more the practice for firms of attorneys to insist that their employees take no part in politics. Radical movements have always had a large number of lawyers in their ranks. Today an attorney who has a commercial practice is assured of losing it if he so much as dares to publicly support any radical cause.

A vigorous Bar and Side Bar are valuable fighters on the side of democracy. Mr Vorster is ensuring that his march to totalitarianism is not hindered by any such foe.

We apologise to our readers for the absence from this issue of Alan Paton's "LONG VIEW". Both the original and the duplicate, airmailed separately from Durban, have been "lost in the post" — EDITOR.

INSTITUTE DEFENDED AGAINST CHARGES OF CONSERVATISM

— Not an 'Ivory Tower' —

By a Special Correspondent

THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS held its 34th Annual Council in Cape Town in January this year. Papers were read by experts and these were followed by panel discussions open to the public. Essentially, the idea seemed to be to allow intellectuals and the public to exchange ideas and views. Was this successful? ... To a limited extent only. For it was too much a case of the old familiar faces going through the same familiar paces. The radicals, those who bothered to attend, appeared to come away disgusted - there was no call to action. But to be fair it would seem best to probe what the Institute is all about and to endeavour to assess its role.

The Institute states in its Articles of Association "The main object is to encourage, work for and foster, peace, goodwill, and practical co-operation between the various sections and races of the population of South Africa." The political Radical smiles benignly upon these words, shakes his head and mutters, "Oh, THAT conservative body" and continues his own sad way with hardly another thought about the Institute.

This attitude reflects more upon the political Radical than upon the Institute. For it is a sadly misinformed individual who sees the Institute as a mere bunch of intellectuals discussing ideas in vacuo.

That at one level the Institute is an academic body would not be denied. And here mention should be made of the Institute's annual publication "A Survey of Race Relations in South Africa". It is a mine of factual information which is something not easily come by in South Africa these days.

But apart from its invaluable production of such publications, the Institute performs a role in South Africa today that no other organization is really equipped to undertake.

For South Africans perhaps the most explosive event of 1963 was the advent of Poqo and the Paarl Riot and its aftermath: the arrest of thousands of Africans which resulted in months spent in prison, a few charges laid and even fewer convictions. And, for the majority who were never brought before the Courts, suspicions

were laid at their doors which they were given no chance to disprove - suspicions which led to intolerable hardships; dismissals from work, 'endorings out' for one trumped up reason or another and the resulting break-up of family lives.

Two major efforts to clarify this general atmosphere of suspicion created by the Government and to assist those in need, were made by the Institute during this period.

Firstly, the Institute placed evidence before the Paarl Riot Commission of Inquiry and appointed Counsel to act both for the Institute and the non-Whites of Paarl. Of the Institute's evidence, Judge Snyman

The Editor Invites Readers to Comment on this Solicited Article

wrote that many of the submissions made by Counsel had been accepted in his report. Was there any other body that could have performed this duty? It seems unlikely, and at the time of the riot more than one prominent citizen of Paarl, who had more than an inkling of what had actually been going on there, privately begged the Institute to participate in the inquiry: "For there is no one else who can, or would dare, to do this", they said.

For at least eight months after the riot the

Nationalist Government reacted by arresting thousands - many on apparently flimsy evidence or with no evidence at all. As has already been mentioned, very few of the total number arrested were ever brought before the courts, let alone convicted. By May the

arrests had reached such proportions, and the dependents of those arrested were so many, and had been without their bread-winners for so long, that the situation had become critical. No bread-winner meant no incoming money for food, for rent, for clothes, for doctors' fees and other such vital necessities which enable a family to exist. The Chairman of the Institute in Cape Town then brought together some sixteen organizations, each interested in different and/or overlapping aspects of the situation, to discuss what could be done to assist the dependents. An incredible task has been, and is being, performed, details of which cannot be given here except to say that from periods varying from anything between 1 to 9 months, over 500 people have been supplied with food parcels alone.

On the evidence of the above facts alone, only a fanatic could accuse the Institute of existing in an Ivory Tower. It is incumbent then upon all interested in politics - and especially upon the political radical whose actions have been so severely curtailed by the Government - that power politics should not be the only category of thought and action.

FOOTNOTE: Of the 2,000 people arrested during the police swoop of last year on the Poqo movement in the Peninsula, only about 600 were brought to trial. Half of these were discharged because of lack of evidence against them.

Immorality Act Figures Released

IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO

By a Reporter

CAPE TOWN: Mr B.J. Vorster, South Africa's Minister of Justice, revealed in Parliament last week that 2,427 people of all races were prosecuted under the Immorality Act during 1960-62. Figures for 1963 were not yet available, said Mr Vorster in reply to the original question put by Mrs Helen Suzman.

Of the total prosecuted, 1,197 were convicted. This included 630 whites and 567 non-whites. Taken jointly, this means that more than one person was convicted on every day of the week and twice as many charged on every working day of the three year period.

The above figures of course, do not take into account the total number of people who have either fled the country or jumped bail. But from all the evidence that is available even 2,427 is a gross underestimate of the true figures. Meanwhile, 63 unpartnered persons (presumably white men) dangle from Mr Vorster's cold information to Parliament leaving a query in the minds of a nation that knows it "takes two to tango". For behind these inclement figures lie tales of the untold misery of men and women who dared to defy the law of the land by making - or attempting to have - love across legislative race barriers.

Among these was a 20-year old German ex-seaman who, in 1962, told the court that the Immorality Act is not God's law. He lived with a 17-year old coloured woman in Durban as man and wife. Finding both guilty but suspending their sentence, the magistrate told this young man: "This is South Africa and it is the law in this country. When you are in South Africa you do as the law of this country demands."

And last year, a welder (white) who, it was alleged, had on two occasions tried to contravene the Immorality Act with a young and attractive African woman in Johannesburg, was sternly reprimanded and given a suspended sentence. Said the magistrate: "The fact that you grew up in close contact with non-Europeans is no excuse for your behaviour. We live in a multi-racial country where we come into contact with non-Europeans all the time. We should set them an example". . . .

However, it does seem from press reports that most of the Immorality Act prosecutions arose out of casual incidents (not prostitution) and hardly involved any stable and lasting relationship.

It is therefore then not surprising that Petrus Cornelius Delpont, a farmer of Stiltfontein (Western Transvaal), was faced with 13 charges under the Immorality Act involving 12 African women. Delpont, who was subsequently found guilty on three charges only and sentenced to 12 months imprisonment, half of which was suspended for two years, substantiates the contention that men

typically convicted of statutory immorality are not liberals openly preaching the importance of racial equality. On the contrary, they are men caught in a web of racially prejudiced thought and action. The cases on record show it is those who treat non-white people as tools to be used for the white man's convenience, who find it natural to use non-white women for this passing sexual purpose.

LETTERS

COUPLING AID WITH APARTHEID

Sir,

The South West Africa plan gives rise in me to one sober question. Is it true that white South Africans are generous only when their safety and possessions are in danger? Is it true that they yield nothing until they have to? And is it true of human nature in general?

I myself do not believe that this generalisation is true without qualification, but I acknowledge its considerable element of truth. It has a corollary that men cede power and share privilege only when they are faced with alternatives still more unpleasant to them. They consent to change only when the pressures become unendurable, or when reason tells them that they can pursue no longer their intransigent course. If even then they do not consent, they must face war and revolution.

It is not a pleasant thing to see one's Government facing hostile pressures such as at present are exerted on us. But I would far rather see the Nordic Ministers and the United Nations concern themselves with our affairs than that we should be confronted by war and revolution. From war and revolution I would expect nothing but misery for all South Africans.

Although our Government does not admit it, this is precisely its own conclusion. Let them therefore be more realistic about it. They will not keep South West Africa by coupling aid with Apartheid.

"NAMIB" Port Elizabeth.

FINAL VICTORY SEEMS FRAGILE AND IMPROBABLE

Sir,

This short note just to tell you I sent about 800 swiss francs some days ago; I collected this money from some Genevese sympathisers of a multi-racial and democratic South Africa.

I wish "Contact" survives whatever its form may be just to prove that white South Africans can occasionally be non-racialists and that Africans and Whites are able to co-operate in some domain. This money is also to prove to Africans and white South-africans that Switzerland is sometimes able to produce money and not only arms.

Maybe your final victory seems to you fragile and improbable, darkened as it is by the threat of black nationalism as well as by the actual government but from the outside, it is not difficult to see that the regime is disintegrating little by little not on a military point of view but in the world opinion and on a moral and human point of view South-Africa is more and more strongly criticized.

With my best wishes for an effective, daring and objective "Contact".

Dominique Ferrot. Geneva.

TAIL-PIECE

VORSTER TELLS OF 2,177 ESCAPES

The Cape Postmaster said THE Minister of Justice (Mr. J. B. Vorster) disclosed in the Assembly to-day that 2,177 convicts and awaiting-trial prisoners escaped from custody in South Africa last year.

2,177 P.O. VACANCIES IN 1963

The Cape Postmaster said THE Minister of Posts and Telegraphs (Dr. Albert Heitsoeg) said in the Assembly to-day that 2,177 posts in his department were vacant at the end of last year. Of these, 413 were posts for telegrams.

— from the "CAPE ARGUS", 31/1/64