



contact

FOR UNITED NON-RACIAL ACTION

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POLITICAL TRIALS

(NOTE: The numbers enclosed in parentheses in the articles refer to the newspapers from which the information has been obtained. These newspapers are listed at the end of the articles.)

PRISON ACT TRIALS

OF THE NUMEROUS trials brought about by the State in an attempt to refute the allegations made about conditions in prisons, especially in Cinderella Prison, Boksburg, Transvaal, three trials are still continuing.

The trial of Mr Harold Strachan, who has been charged with two counts under the Prisons Act relating to the publication of false information about prison conditions, and one count of perjury, is in progress

in Durban. Mr Strachan has pleaded not guilty to all the charges. (1)

Also connected with the publication of information about prison conditions is the trial of Mr Isaac Setshedi. He was found guilty in the Johannesburg Regional Court of making a false statement under oath. He was sentenced to six months' imprisonment. Notice of appeal against the sentence was lodged. (2)

Head Warden Johannes Andries Theron of Cinderella Prison pleaded not guilty in the Johannesburg Regional Court to 12 counts under the Prisons Act of 1959 and the Commissioner of Oaths Act of 1963. The case arises out of statements he gave to the Sunday

Times and the Rand Daily Mail about prison conditions at Cinderella Prison. (3)

SABOTAGE TRIALS

Sentences totalling 34 years were imposed in Cape Town on three prisoners who had pleaded guilty to a charge of sabotage. The charge was that as members of Poqo they conspired with other prisoners in Gankaspoort Prison to overpower their warders and escape from prison, to attack the police station and the inhabitants of Ladismith and to escape to Basutoland to continue Poqo activities there.

Mr Peter Hlatwayo was sentenced to 12 years, two years to run concurrently with the sentence he is serving, and Mr Mshiyeni Gumbi to 12 years. Mr Eliphas Mashigo was sentenced to 10 years, two years of which are to run concurrently with the sentence he is now serving. (4)

Also facing the same charge are twenty-two other prisoners of the Gankaspoort Prison near Prince Albert. They have pleaded guilty to the alternate charge of escaping from custody. Their trial is still continuing.

Messrs Samuel Peter, Gilbert Yonke, Mhleli Mngayi and Wilson Fanti appeared in the

Supreme Court, Grahamstown, and were found guilty of sabotage. They were charged with having set fire to and damaging a motor truck belonging to a Mr Vasco da Gama Hlangwana. It was said in evidence that Mr Hlangwana had been a police sergeant and had arrested people in Pondoland in connection with political burnings. Each was sentenced to five years' imprisonment but in the case of Messrs Peter and Fanti two years of the sentence was to run concurrently with sentences they had received for similar convictions. (5)

Mr Titus Jobo was sentenced to five years' jail for setting fire to a woodworking factory near Korsten, Port Elizabeth. (6)

Messrs Julius Mtlalana, Losisile Willem and Washington Magcogongo were found guilty in the Supreme Court, Grahamstown, of sawing off a telephone pole and cutting telephone wires. They were each sentenced to five years. (7)

Messrs Stanley Matsha, University Tshavanduka, Peter Ncngene, Mxolisi Magaba, Mbuyisile James Didiza, Clopas Ndunana, Ephrain Ndzenga, Makosi Ndono, all of Kwazakhole, Port Elizabeth, were

found guilty of sabotage and of belonging to an unlawful organisation, and each was sentenced to five years' imprisonment on the sabotage count and two years' imprisonment on the membership count, the two sentences to run concurrently. (8)

The last of a series of eight sabotage trials ended in Grahamstown when Mr Ngazwe Zweni was found guilty. He was sentenced to seven years of which two years will run concurrently with the other sentences he is already serving for sabotage and membership of the African National Congress. (9)

MEMBERSHIP TRIALS

Mr Meshack Mampunye was found guilty in the Cape Town Regional Court of taking part in Poqo activities and of being a member of Poqo. He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment on the membership count and to two years' imprisonment on the taking part count. (10)

Messrs Amos Ndoni, Reginald Mbenya, Desmond Ncamane, Discipline Nkonyami, and Vulindlela Manakosa appeared in Welkom, Orange Free State, on charges of belonging to an unlawful

organisation, contributing funds to the organisation and furthering the aims of the organisation.

The men were all found guilty and each was sentenced to a total of seven years' jail.

A State witness described how a member had to go to Maseru, Basutoland, and take the oath. The member taking the oath had to hold a firearm in his hand and was told how to fight the White people of South Africa.

Once the oath was taken there was no going back. Death was the penalty for breaking the oath. (11)

RECRUITING FOR MILITARY TRAINING

Messrs Shadrack Tangala, George Mogoro, and Jackson Fazile were convicted in Johannesburg of attempting to leave the country to receive military training to further the aims of the banned African National Congress.

Mr Tangala was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and Mr Mogoro to six years. The court found that Mr Furgile recruited men for military training and sentenced him to 12 years' imprisonment. (12)

Mr Isaac Heymann, a State witness, was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment for re-

fusing to give evidence at the trial of four men charged with aiding and encouraging others to undergo military training. Another State witness, Mr Philip Sello, also refused to give evidence, and was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment. (13)

COLOURED PEOPLE'S CONGRESS TRIALS

Mr Mogomat Toufie Bardien was found guilty and sentenced to 90 days' imprisonment (an additional 120 days' imprisonment was suspended) in the Regional Court, Cape Town, for being an office-bearer in an organisation (the South African Coloured People's Congress) when he was banned from doing so and for being in possession of copies of a banned magazine (Fighting Talk). (14)

Mr Dennis Wessels, a State witness in the trial of Mr Bardien, refused to give evidence and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment in the Regional Court, Cape Town. He was allowed bail pending an appeal. (15) Mr Wessels also refused to give evidence in the trial of Mr William Bock and was sentenced to another six months.

Another State witness who refused to give evidence in

the Bock trial was Mr Alfred Osman. (16)

Mr Bock was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment for belonging to the SACPC but was acquitted on all the other charges.

Mr Wilfred Cecil Brutus appeared in the Regional Court, Cape Town, charged under the Suppression of Communism Act. Mr Brutus pleaded guilty to being an office-bearer of the SACPC while he was a banned person, but not guilty of attending four different meetings between February and May 1965 or alternatively of communicating with Mr Bardien and Mr Bock, while they were both banned.

Sergeant J. van Wyk of the Security Police said that the aims of the SACPC were to lead the Coloured People "in their fight for democratic rights, to organise them against any attack on their political, economic and social rights, and to support other organisations with the same aims".

He said that the Coloured People's Congress was still a legal organisation because most of its leaders had been arrested or banned or had fled the country in 1963.

(17)

At the conclusion of the

trial, Mr Brutus was sentenced to a total of 15 months' imprisonment when he was found guilty on four counts under the Suppression of Communism Act. (18)

COMMUNISM ACT TRIALS

A 4½ year sentence imposed on Mr Louis Leo Mtshizana was reduced on appeal to three years in the Supreme Court, Grahamstown. Mr Mtshizana was convicted on six counts under the Suppression of Communism Act. (19)

A witness who may not be named was sent to jail for eight days for refusing to give evidence in a trial in camera under the Suppression of Communism Act in Johannesburg (20).

An appeal by Mr Samuel Malkinson, who was convicted of possessing two banned publications, New Age and Fighting Talk, was dismissed in the Supreme Court, Cape Town. He was given leave to appeal to the Appellate Division. In the Magistrate's Court he was sentenced to 30 days, suspended for two years. (21)

Mrs Pixie Olga Benjamin and Mr Louis Mnimkulu won their appeals against their convictions and sen-

ences under the Suppression of Communism Act. Mrs Benjamin was charged with being in possession of four copies of the banned magazine Fighting Talk which was banned in March, 1965.

Mr Mnimkulu was sentenced for being a member of two banned organisations, the African National Congress, and Umkonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation). (22)

BANNING ORDER TRIAL

Mr Mountain Qumbela, who submitted that he had forgotten the terms of a banning order, appealed unsuccessfully against a conviction and sentence imposed on him for contravening the order.

Mr Qumbela was sentenced by a Cape Town magistrate to six months' imprisonment for working in a factory when he was banned for doing so. The sentence was suspended for three years on condition that Mr Qumbela was not convicted of any offence in terms of the Suppression of Communism Act in that time. (23)

(Contact learns that Mr Qumbela has again been sentenced for working in a factory - a construction works he did not regard as a factory. He will probably serve his original sentence and any sentence imposed on him for

contravening his banning order for the second time.)

Mr David Ratshwaffo, a banned person, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, suspended for three years, for attending a gathering, which is a contravention of his banning order. He had attended the inauguration of an Anglican crèche near Pretoria. (24)

Miss Gladys Emma Lee was found guilty of obstruction in St George's Street, Cape Town on November 11 (the day Rhodesia declared UDI) when she held placards that stated: "Verwoerd copies Hitler, Smith copies Verwoerd".

FISCHER CASE

The judge president of the Supreme Court, Pretoria, ordered that Mr Abram Fischer's name be struck from the roll of advocates and that he pay the costs of the application for his striking-off. (25)

Mr Fischer was on trial with 13 others on charges under the Suppression of Communism Act. He was allowed bail of R10,000 but disappeared.

On November 11 he was arrested and brought to trial on November 16. His case was remanded till December 22; (26)

references:

1. Rand Daily Mail, Nov.
2. Star, Oct 28
3. Star, Nov 18
4. Cape Argus, Oct 26
5. Daily Dispatch, Oct 26
6. Daily Dispatch, Oct 27
7. Star, Oct-28
8. Daily Dispatch, Oct 28
9. Star, Nov 9
10. Cape Argus, Oct 19
11. Daily Dispatch, Nov. 4
12. Rand Daily Mail, Nov. 20
13. Cape Argus, Nov 15
14. Cape Argus, Nov 4
15. Star, Nov 2
16. Cape Argus, Nov 8
17. Cape Argus, Nov 4
18. Cape Argus, Nov 9
19. Daily Dispatch, Nov 11
20. Rand Daily Mail, Nov 9
21. Cape Times, Nov 13
22. Star, Nov 8
23. Cape Argus, Nov 5
24. Daily Dispatch, Nov 24
25. Rand Daily Mail, Nov 3
26. Daily Dispatch, Nov 16

"A requirement which must be set for the proposed Afrikaans university in Johannesburg, is to combat Liberalism and Communism, oppose nihilism and to destroy humanism root and branch" - Senator de Klerk, Minister of Education, Arts and Science.

long view by

ALAN PATON

IN THE BLOSSOM-LAND

I wrote in the last issue of Contact that Mr Smith would find independence a bitter fruit. Apparently however when one first sinks one's teeth into it, the taste is pleasant. How else can one account for the state of euphoria in which, if newspapers are to be believed, white Rhodesians are living?

The white Rhodesians seem to believe that when the "nine days' wonder" comes to an end, Rhodesia will then proceed peacefully on its independent course, that new markets will be found, and that after a period of tightening one's belt, prosperity will return.

It seems to me that white Rhodesia has no conception of the modern world. Mr Smith has unleashed political forces of incalculable strength. It does not help for Dr Banda to say that

one white mercenary can take on a thousand Africans. He also misunderstands the times.

Here in white South Africa the majority of opinion is pro-Smith and anti-Wilson. This is to be expected. Any Nationalist or United Party supporter is bound to be pro-Smith. But what both Nationalists and U.P. supporters fail to understand is that Mr Wilson is not merely a Labour man who is trying to hold on to power. He is the British Prime Minister, and the fate of Britain and the British Commonwealth depends on what he does. He is in a grave situation, and the confusion of the British electorate, and the confusion or worse of the Conservative Party, only makes his responsibilities more frightening.

Here in white South Africa, and in white Rhodesia too no doubt, Mr Wilson is portrayed as the seller-up-the-river who has been routed by Mr

Smith in the shining armour of Christianity and Western Civilisation. That is not the opinion of Professor Arthur Keppel-Jones writing in the Natal Mercury of November 29, 1965. He writes: "The many millions who watch these events (on television) have not recognised in Mr Wilson a dogmatic, uncomprehending Leftist; they have watched the emergence of a Lincoln". Those are strong words indeed and no one can lightly dismiss them. Let no one believe that Mr Wilson has been routed.

If Mr Wilson were to be routed, many white South Africans would be jubilant, not realising that the world had moved into a new era, where the white nations were finally ranged against the rest. This is the greatest danger that confronts us,

and if Mr Wilson were to back down, it would be brought decisively nearer. Who knows that better than Mr Wilson himself?

It is encouraging to hear that the Catholic Bishops of Rhodesia have now joined the other churches (except the D.R.C.) in condemning UDI. They have accused Mr Smith of making a mockery of Christian and Western civilisation by claiming that he declared UDI to preserve it.

This pattern is already familiar to us. In South Africa parents are separated from children, wives are separated from husbands, workers are debarred from employment in the name of Christianity.

A few days ago I made my first acquaintance with a remarkable poem by Solomen Bloomgarden.

In the blossom-land Japan
 Somewhere thus an old song ran.
 Said a warrior to a smith
 'Hammer me a sword forthwith
 Make the blade
 Light as wind on water laid.
 Make it long
 As the wheat at harvest song.
 Supple, swift
 As a snake, without a rift,
 Full of lightnings, thousand-eyed
 As the web that spiders spin
 And merciless as pain, and cold.'

'On the hilt what shall be told?'

'On the sword's hilt, my good man,'

Said the warrior of Japan,

'Trace for me

A running lake, a flock of sheep

And one who sings her child to sleep'.

Such a sword is UDI.

SECURITY POLICE ACTIVITY

180-DAY DETENTIONS

On November 4, the Minister of Justice, Mr Vors-ter, said that two people were being detained under the 180-day clause of the Criminal Procedure Act.

One of them was Mr Isaac Heymann. The identity of the other is a mystery. (1)

The reticence of police and other officials has caused considerable speculation about the number of persons detained at any time. It is rumoured that several Africans have been held, their identities undisclosed to the public.

Ten people, however, are definitely known to have been held under this clause.

Mrs Violet Weinberg, banned wife of Eli Weinberg, the jailed communist, was arrested on November 8 under the 180-day clause. Her arrest brought the total of arrestees to three. (2)

On or before the 10th November, Miss Chloe Gama was detained under the clause. That brought the total to four. (3)

However, Mr Heymann was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment on November 15 for refusing to give evidence in the trial of Mr Shadrack Tangala and others. (See Trials) His imprisonment brought the total down to three. (4)

Three more persons were arrested on or before November 18, and they were: Miss Doreen Tucker, assistant secretary of Hope Training Home; Mrs Lesley Schermbrucker, wife of a convicted political offender; and Mr Issy Dinat. (5)

In June, 1962, Miss Tucker was refused entry into Australia as an immigrant after being questioned on her political and religious beliefs by the Australian authorities in Johannesburg. She was also refused an exit permit by the South African authorities. While on holiday in Australia

earlier that year, Miss Tucker had applied for a job with the Department of Territories. She came to South Africa from Britain in 1947 and is the holder of a British passport.

Mrs Scherbrucker's husband was jailed for three years in the Johannesburg Communism trial in which Abram Fischer was one of the accused. (6)

The total of arrestees was then six. But on November 18 two more people were arrested. They were: Mrs Clarice First and Mrs R. Milindton. Thus the total was then eight.

(7)

Mr First's sister is Mrs Ruth Slovo who, with her husband, Mr Joe Slovo, left South Africa some time ago. Both the Slovo's were listed communists. (8)

Mrs Milindton is 71 years of age. She is the mother-in-law of Mr Stanley Uys, well-known South African journalist. (9)

On or about the 19th November, Mr Noothi Naidoo was detained. That brought the total to nine.

During the first week of December, Mrs First was released from custody and her husband was taken in her place. Thus the total is ten. (10)

New Bannings

TWO people from Natal have

been served with restriction orders. They are: Mr Mewa Ramgobin, a former president of the non-White Students' Representative Council and a National Executive member of NUSAS; and Mr Iyavar Chetty, a former teacher and graduate of the University of Natal.

(11)

Mr Billy Morgan, well-known in Swaziland for his association with the Pan-Africanist Ngwane National Liberatory Congress which opposes the traditionalist Government that supports the Swazi king, has been banned in South Africa, that is, declared a prohibited immigrant.

Earlier in the year he was banned in Bechuanaland. He believes that was because of his helping a group of Portuguese to flee from Swaziland.

(12)

Of Banned People

MR Cameron Madikizela, a banned man who fled from South Africa in October while on R200 bail, pending a Supreme Court appeal, has become the second South African refugee to be admitted to the Bechuanaland Bar.

Mr Madikizela is a son of the Transkei Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

Bechuanaland's first resident attorney was Mr Abdool Essack, a Natal lawyer who

sought political asylum in the Protectorate after he was banned under the Suppression of Communism Act in Nov, 1963. (13)

ARRESTS

In two raids late last week, Security Police detained two men and confiscated printing and duplicating machines believed to have been used to publish subversive literature. (14)

Four political fugitives - members of the banned Pan-Africanist Congress of South Africa - were arrested on Nov 25 near Ladybrand by South African Security Police. It is believed that they were trying to make their way from Basutoland to Zambia. (15)

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references:

1. Daily Dispatch, Nov 5
2. Rand Daily Mail, Nov 9
3. Rand Daily Mail, Nov 11
4. Cape Argus, Nov 15
5. Daily Dispatch, Nov 19
6. Sunday Express, Nov 21
7. Evening Post, Nov 20
8. Evening Post, Nov 20
9. Evening Post, Nov 20
10. Sunday Times, Dec 4
11. Cape Times, Nov 25
12. Daily Dispatch, Nov 17
13. Daily Dispatch, Nov 18
14. Rand Daily Mail, Nov 19
15. Rand Daily Mail, Nov 26

Air Force

ON Monday, November 15, the Minister of Defence, Mr J.J. Fouche, officially opened a new radar air warning installation one mile from Devon in the Eastern Transvaal.

The radar station is one of the first in South Africa's air alert systems to warn the South African Air Force of possible intrusions. (1)

A series of radar scanners have been erected at strategic points including high mountains. They feed information to the 'brain' which is situated at Devon. The station at Devon protects about 60,000 square miles, and was constructed by the Marconi company. (2)

That the Government intends to form a strong counter-insurgency arm is evidenced by the fact that the SAAF will be equipped with 300 jet trainer-attack aircraft of Italian design.

The factory that will build the aircraft, the Macchi MB326, is being constructed alongside Jan Smuts Airport.

(3)

But the deal has not escaped the attention of three Italian communist senators who have asked the Foreign Minister if it is true that the export licence for the aircraft has been granted and

if so, how can it be reconciled with the Security Council's embargo on the supply of arms and military equipment to South Africa.

(4)

On Wednesday, November 3, seven of South Africa's 16 new Buccaneer sea defence aircraft arrived at Waterkloof Aerodrome. (5)

South Africa is constructing a R10,000 air base 15 miles from the Zambian border at Mpacha in South West Africa's Caprivi

strip. After an early denial that the base was being built at all, the South African Government stated that it was an emergency landing strip for South African Airways on the long haul around Africa.

(6)

An observer has estimated that it will be able to operate heavy military aircraft such as the Canberra.

(7)

references:

1. Rand Daily Mail, Nov 16
2. Cape Argus, Nov 16
3. Daily Dispatch, Oct 19
4. Star, Nov 16
5. Cape Times, Nov 4
6. Cape Times, Nov 22
7. Cape Times, Nov 25