

APPENDIX ASTATEMENT ON THE INTERNAL SECURITY BILL ISSUED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The Executive Committee of the SACC meeting in Johannesburg today expresses its deep sense of alarm over the Internal Security Bill, previously known as the Promotion of State Security Bill. We associate ourselves with those, both inside and outside parliament, who have forcibly pointed out the objectionable features of this legislation - its enshrining in law of the aberrant doctrine of "preventive detention", the provision of detention without trial, and extension of these powers to Namibia.

Yet, while these legal aspects arouse profound concern, of even more concern is that this Bill reveals an increasingly distorted set of values among the rulers of our country. Although they sincerely claim to be Christian, they are attempting to base the peace and security of South Africa not on Christian values, but on structural violence reflected in harsh and repressive legislation. It is no accident that measures similar to this are found on the statute books of atheistic Communist states.

The Bible teaches, and the lessons of history bear it out, that true peace and security are based on the application of justice in society. In the South African context that means a more even spread of wealth, the recognition of human dignity, the according of basic human rights such as the right to own property, to sell labour freely, and freedom of movement. These things are denied to vast sections of our population. Indeed, with the coming of independence for the Transkei, we will see rights actually being taken away from thousands of people in the land of their birth when they lose their South African citizenship.

Let the people of South Africa be warned that there can be no peace and security in South Africa until these injustices are removed. A measure such as the Internal Security Bill only increases insecurity.

The effect of this Bill, it has been pointed out time and again, could be the blocking of processes of peaceful change in our country, since it will strengthen the idea that all opposition to the authorities is tantamount to subversion. And when peaceful change is prevented, the alternative is too ghastly to contemplate.

It is too late to prevent the passing of the Bill; but it is not too late for the Government and the Nation to become obedient to the Word of God. "Let justice roll on like a river, and righteousness like an ever rolling stream." (Amos 5:24)

APPENDIX BSTATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE OF THE S A COUNCIL OF CHURCHES ON THE PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL SQUATTING BILL

The attention of the Executive of the S A Council of Churches meeting in Johannesburg on June 2 was drawn to the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Bill (No 71, 1976). While we can commend the authorities in their desire to control squatting and the growth of shanty towns, we believe that the method envisaged in this Bill is mistaken in that it deals with symptoms rather than causes.

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- a) Group Areas removals;
- b) Problems created by mixed marriages - many such couples cannot get housing either in Coloured or African Areas;
- c) Poor conditions on farms which force labourers to come to the city in search of a better livelihood;

The Executive Committee objects particularly to the requirement in the Bill which obliges employers to furnish the authorities with proof that a prospective employee has accommodation before being allowed to employ him or her. This constitutes a serious obstacle to freedom of movement and choice in work situations.

Because it attempts to deal with the squatting problem from the wrong premise, the Bill will probably cause more suffering and human degradation than is now the case. Rather than merely trying to control the problem through the measures envisaged in the Bill the Government is urged to take steps to deal with the causes of squatting, especially those relating to Group Areas removals.