

STATEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE RE THE REPORT OF THE VAN ROOYEN  
COMMISSION, JOHANNESBURG, MAY 24, 1977

The recommendation of the Van Rooyen Commission that the Christian Institute should be made to certify that none of its money came from overseas appears meaningless in view of such certification in any case being required and given annually to the Registrar of Affected Organisations when the audited statements of our organisation are presented to the Registrar.

The Commission further wishes to tighten the controls over "affected organisations" by precluding a body like the CI from receiving purely local funds from a South African church body which also received funds for its purposes from abroad. In this regard reference is made to money which the CI had received from the S.A. Council of Churches. The facts of the case are that the SACC has only made one grant of R2 000 to the CI in June 1975 immediately after the CI was declared an affected organisation. This grant was made from entirely SA source monies and clearly states as such. We therefore totally fail to understand the complaint of the Commission that the organisations "are often so mixed up with each other that it is difficult to separate the one from the other". If there is any confusion anywhere it is clearly not in our minds or between the organisations concerned.

The reference to grants received from the SACC for Spro-cas is irrelevant as the project terminated in 1973 - two years before the CI was declared an affected organisation.

If the recommendations mean that a South African church, which receives funds from abroad, may not assist a body like the Christian Institute from its local funds, then the Government is both further eroding religious freedom and regrettably hastening the Church-State confrontation.

The report also refers to funds from overseas for the defence of people involved in security trials. In this regard we wish to warn the Government that any attempt to curtail or prevent such monies from entering the country will seriously increase the already strong feelings of anger and bitterness within our Black community and lead towards further confrontation and conflict.

The overall impression of the recommendations made is that of a totalitarian regime extending its control over yet another important aspect of human life. Only an oppressive political system could seek to ensure its security by such methods.

(Signed) C F BEYERS NAUDE  
DIRECTOR

JOHANNESBURG  
May 24, 1977