

The earlier Acts were said to be aimed at Communists, but were in fact used against opponents of apartheid with a wide variety of views. The later Acts were said to be aimed at "saboteurs" and "terrorists" but their definitions were so wide that they could be used against anyone. One might ask, if the 90-days detention law in fact provided for an endless succession of 90-days detentions, without release, and if the Terrorism Act defined "terrorism" so widely that almost any active opponent of the Government could be convicted within its terms of **some** offence, will things be any worse under the State Security Act? The answer is, we don't know, but we think so. Pretence has been abandoned. The Act is certainly aimed at what used to be called "Communists" or "terrorists", but it is also, as the Minister has told us, aimed at more or less anyone who rocks the

apartheid boat. It provides, too, for detention without trial for a year—or two?

As the Christian Institute report testifies, many people in South Africa have been detained, in solitary confinement, for many days. Many have been broken by the experience, some have died during it. *Joseph Mdluli was detained, in apparent good health, one day in March, and was dead the next day. At the time of writing no inquest has been held, so nobody knows why.

The 1976 security legislation entrenches and extends all previous abuses of what we regard as the Rule of Law. It may help damp down opposition to Government policy for a while, but as a longterm investment it is likely to be disastrous.□

***It was announced in Parliament on 11-6-76 that four police officials are to appear in Court on a charge of culpable homicide arising from Mr Mdluli's death.**

3

NUSAS

NUSAS is going through a very tough time. During the past year a number of universities have voted to disaffiliate from it, the most recent being Pietermaritzburg, always a loyal supporter in the past. Only Cape Town and Wits now remain affiliated—and they only as the result of narrow victories for their pro-NUSAS students in recent votes.

It is a gloomy picture—but not all that gloomy. UCT and Wits are by far the largest of the English-language universities and the fact that they still vote for NUSAS after its experiences of the past few years is no mean achievement for that organisation. And Pietermaritzburg, having voted to disaffiliate, has now elected a new Students' Representative

Council two-thirds of whose members are NUSAS supporters.

As the calls go out to White Africans to come into the laager we hope that Black South Africans, still hoping to see their White fellows come to their senses, will take some comfort from such small signs as these. They, and the recent dramatic increase in support for the Progressive Reform Party in the Durban North election, show that there is still a body of opinion within the White South African community, perhaps even a growing one, which refuses to be bluffed, bullied or cajoled into supporting apartheid or any other white supremacist doctrine.□