

SINCE SOWETO :

SOME BRIEF IMPRESSIONS

by Vortex

1

General Open Opportunities Department

The news is spreading through the town:
The BAD buildings are burning down.
Oh what shall we raise where buildings stood?
Nothing, till BAD be turned to GOOD.

2

Every shot fired by the police
goes thwacking mercilessly
through my body.

3

White South Africa

Sun in the garden
but dark within:
bird-song and silence;
mental din.
Fruits of prosperity
and sin.

4

God in this nightmare land we pray
That the destructive swirl of night
And these fierce masks of force and fright
May break at last into a day.

5

It clears the mind, it cleans the air:
A crisp, sharp, lucid statement of despair.

6

Afrikaner Nationalist

To show that his past's worth fighting for,
And to prove the force of his man-made law,
He'll be the cause of the Third World War.

7

Like the soil of a homeland —
which is parched and pockmarked,
burnt to deadness by the sun,
worn into dongas by the wind and rain—
my soul is eroded
by my country's pain. •