

SOUTH AFRICA BULLETIN

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IS SOUTH AFRICA A REAL LIFE "ELDORADO"?

So claims the South African Information Service in its full page *New York Times* Ad of March 26, (N.B. South Africa's 1964 budget was \$4,496,000 to improve the image of apartheid overseas.)

How do Ads like this square with the real facts of life in Apartheid Land? The most important trends in South Africa today, it seems to your Editor, are the following:

1. MOUNTING FEAR of Black Nationalism, shown in:

- a) Arming Against 'the Blacks';
Defense Budget for '65 is 5 times that of 1960;
Police expenditure increased \$6½ million over last year;
Munitions and aircraft are being manufactured in South Africa;
Rocket-propelled missiles and poison gases being developed.
- b) Greater severity in 'political' sentencing;
More than 35 Africans are under sentence of death; 4 were hanged since November.
Sabotage convictions – even for painting a slogan – now carry a mandatory minimum 5 year sentence;
Life sentences were given to 9 persons in '64 and 20 years to 8 others.
- c) Huddling of Whites into the 'Laager';
A wide-spread swing by English-speaking Whites to the Government Party was shown in recent by-elections.
From Rhodesia and Zambia came, in '64, 12,000 'bitter-enders' to strengthen the white 'Laager'.
The danger: a potentially explosive deepening of African bitterness against all Whites, as more join the Government.

2. STRICTER APPLICATION OF APARTHEID

- a) A recent Proclamation forbids all inter-racial though segregated sports events, concerts, theatre performances, church bazaars, except by special permit.
- b) Group Areas' heartless displacement of non-Whites continues; Stellenbosch will remove 2,000 'Coloreds' settled for 200 years; Port Elizabeth: over 22,000 Colored people will be moved; Fordsburg (Johannesburg) 5,000 Indians will be evicted.
- c) 'Endorsing out' of families from cities and the building of housing for 'single' people is growing. Alexandra Township will have only 'single' hostels; the new Tembisa Township will house 29,213 families and 15,000 single Africans. How this trend will disrupt African family life is obvious.
- d) Strangle-hold on African Labor results from Bantu Laws Amendment Act of '64.
An African, even if born in the city, can be expelled from an urban area if the labor bureau refuses to register, or cancels his work contract, alleging him to be "idle" or "undesirable".

3. THE ECONOMIC BOOM

Business prosperity has never been greater in South Africa, due largely to continuing 'Western' investment and trade. Embarrassing government surpluses, in both commodities and cash, piled up again in '64; incomes rose, but the price of living soared even higher.

To again quote the South African Ad: "The Republic's prosperity benefits all her people, white and black." True, but not nearly to the same extent. In '64 (Jan. to July) average monthly White wages in industry rose \$7.35 to a total of \$279.24; African wages rose \$2.94 to a total of \$57.03.

The 'boom' and its demand for ever more skilled labor has brought higher paid jobs – formerly 'reserved' for Whites – into the grasp of Africans. Many employers, however, pay only about *one third* the usual 'white' rate to Africans in these new jobs.

Boom or no, most Africans still live in dire poverty. A recent study made by the Non-European Affairs Department, Johannesburg, of some 25,000 employed men showed an average starting wage of \$47.39 while the minimum monthly requirement for a family of five was \$70.56.

4. EVER-GREATER GOVERNMENT CONTROL:

- a) The new *Emergency Planning Bill* empowers the Minister of Justice to:
 - * declare any sabotage or riot an "emergency";
 - * postpone elections indefinitely;
 - * order military training for every able-bodied man and woman;
 - * retain these and other emergency powers *without time limit*.
- b) The *Official Secrets Amendment Bill* classifies police matters "prejudicial to the interest of the State" as "official secrets." "A form of press censorship!" objects the Press.
"Even less information about arrested friends!" cry Africans.
- c) *Bans prohibiting teaching or writing* on any subject were imposed on university professors H.J. Simons and Edward Roux. Previously 'named' by the Government as Communists, Dr. Simons resigned from the Party in 1950, and Prof. Roux in 1936. Both men lose their life work and their living by the bans.

RECENT NEWS:

THE "90 DAY LAW".

The "90 Day Law," providing for indefinite detention without trial, was suspended January 11, 1965. But, to quote the Minister of Justice, it can be "re-instituted within a quarter of an hour," if necessary.

During 1963 and 1964 a total of 3,605 people were held for political offences. 1,167 were released without trial, and of those who stood trial 635 were found not guilty. 1,604 were convicted and 199 were still awaiting trial in February.

Of the 1,167 released without trial, 188 had been held for longer than three months; 37 for longer than 6 months and 2 for longer than 9 months — as a rule in solitary confinement.

RECENT TRIALS. At least 31 people have recently been convicted for political offences under various laws, with sentences ranging from 1 month to 14 years. Cases are pending for at least 23 more accused. An unknown number are awaiting trial in Port Elizabeth; three courts are being set up in nearby rural areas to try them.

Dr. Neville Alexander, Colored teacher in Cape Town, and 10 others who were convicted of sabotage and given terms of up to 10 years, lost their appeals in March, 1965.

TWO MORE POLITICAL EXECUTIONS

John Harris, 27, and father of a year-old boy, was executed on April 1, 1965, for sabotage and murder. He was found guilty of exploding a bomb in the Johannesburg station as a political protest, although he first telephoned the authorities to clear the station. No warning was given, and a woman died. Harris went to the gallows singing "We Shall Overcome."

Washington Bongco, former African National Congress leader, was secretly executed for sabotage some time in February. He sued the police for brutally assaulting him while he was in detention, persisting in the suit even when it became evident that he would be hanged. His leave to appeal was refused. In his last affidavit he stated: "It is wrong that policemen should assault persons whom they arrest."

PLEA FOR LUTHULI

One hundred Nobel Peace Prize winners have signed a joint petition for the release from banning of Chief Luthuli. The South African Embassy in Sweden refused to accept the petition.

FROM THE USA

SPONONO CASE

The US Government in May withdrew deportation proceedings against five South Africans. The five came to the US with Alan Paton's play "Sponono", but stayed behind when most of the cast returned to South Africa, last summer. Their visas had expired and immigration authorities were seeking to deport them.

The American Committee on Africa and the Worker's Defense League cooperated in their defense. League attorneys Rowland Watts and John Somers argued that the five could claim political asylum in the US in view of the fact that simply as Africans they would be subject to physical persecution in South Africa. By dropping the case and allowing them to remain here without papers, the Government has avoided ruling on this central issue. It would seem, however, that a precedent of sorts has been set, particularly through the introduction of documents as evidence.

CONFERENCE ON SOUTH AFRICA

The Conference on South Africa mentioned in the last Bulletin came off in Washington late in March with definite success. Co-sponsored by 38 Church, labor, civil rights and student organizations, and served by the American Committee on Africa as Secretariat, the Conference's main emphases were on American involvement in South Africa, and on action programs — to be implemented, it was hoped, by the various groups at a "grass roots" level.

ARTISTS AGAINST APARTHEID: The American list of artists refusing to perform in South Africa, or to permit publication or presentation of their work there, now has 60 signatures of distinguished actors, singers, playwrights, authors etc. Names continue to come in for this American "Roster of Honor." First signatories were Miriam Makeba and Harry Belafonte.

THE MINI EMERGENCY FUND, launched in the last Bulletin for the widows and 13 children of the executed patriots Mini, Nkaba and Khayinga, has received — and sent to South Africa — a total to date of \$1,400. Our thanks to every contributor!

FILM BAN

Tony Richardson, Director of *Tom Jones* and *Look Back in Anger*, has pledged to ban all his films from appearing in South Africa.

STUDENTS ON THE MARCH

Student demonstrations protesting American business involvement in apartheid took place across the country on March 19th. All were initiated and organized by Students for a Democratic Society and co-sponsored by civil rights, peace, and other student groups. Major impetus for this extensive protest came from SDS's Peace Research and Education Project which had done concentrated research into the role played by Chase Manhattan Bank and U.S. business corporations in bolstering the South African economy.

PREP's background papers traced the history of American Bank loans to South Africa since 1951. Implicated especially was Chase Manhattan which had extended a \$10 million credit in 1961 and led a consortium of U.S. banks in lending an additional \$40 million to the So. African government in 1963.

Because of Chase's direct and continued support of the So. African government and its leading role in maintaining foreign investment there following the Sharpeville massacre, it was chosen as the national focus of the March 19th demonstrations. In answer to SDS's correspondence demanding cessation of loans, the Bank replied that: "A loan to the Republic of South Africa is considered sound banking business, and we feel that it would be unwise if we, as a bank, made judgments that were not based on economics." Subsequent exchanges elicited the same tired reply that a bank cannot afford to take sides.

Chase Manhattan Campaign

A few days before March 19th Chase sought to enjoin SDS and allied organizations from demonstrating or sitting-in not only on Chase property but also on adjoining streets. The Bank claimed that it would suffer irreparable damage to its reputation as a result of the falsehood that it 'has helped to preserve or is in any way involved in South African apartheid.' In subsequent court action, SDS lawyers were able to limit the scope of the intended injunction to bank property only.

On Friday the 19th, 700 members of Students for a Democratic Society, SNCC, CORE, Student Peace Union, and National Student Christian Federation picketed from 12:00 to 5:00 pm at Chase Manhattan's main office in lower Manhattan. Midway through the demonstration a delegation met with Lawrence Marshall, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors, who once again rejected demands that Chase cease to make loans to the South African government. The delegation returned to the picket line and minutes later spearheaded a sit-in at one of the doors of Chase's banking office. All who committed civil disobedience were arrested and later released on their own recognizance.

The protest against Chase's amoral lending policies continues. Members of a newly formed anti-apartheid activist group drawn from several organizations are leafletting branch offices of the Bank once a week, urging depositors to withdraw their accounts from a bank which so blatantly maintains its partnership in apartheid.



THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAY OF LIFE

Visas to enter South Africa were refused to Floyd Anderson, American official of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, and to a journalist recommended by President Johnson. A Visa was granted to former Nazi bodyguard of Hitler, SS Colonel Otto "Scarface" Skorzeny.

Mr. Frederick Prager, acquitted in a sabotage trial, was placed under 24 hour house arrest. Recently he was given permission to go out for three hours - to get married! Another permit was needed for his wife to live with him.

A Chinese woman and a white man, who have been living together as man and wife for 18 years, and who have four children attending white schools, were found guilty of contravening the Immorality Act, which forbids interracial intercourse.

In the South African Marathon Trials for the Greek International Marathon in May, separate races were run by black and white competitors. The races began and ended outside the stadium, because non-Whites are prohibited from using the stadium itself. Finally, Africans were selected because of their greater speed. However, while they will represent South Africa in Greece, they will not be allowed to wear South African colors.

A multi-racial dinner being held to give an award to a Colored man for being the Best Supporting Actor of the year was held in secret, in Cape Town, so that it could not be prevented by police.

South Africa is having a boom: BUT

More than 45% of the Africans in industry and commerce are paid below \$72 a month. One wonders about the plight of domestic and farm workers.

A report of the South African Bureau of Census and Statistics, classifying the educational level of 10 million Africans, puts 7 million of them in the column marked: "education - none". (Port Elizabeth *Evening Post*, March 17, '65)

Thousands of Africans are facing starvation in the Ciskei (near East London) this winter, because of drought. There are no irrigation schemes in the area. School children faint in their classes from hunger, and on their way to school.

PARTNERS IN APARTHEID

Former Nato Chief: "I have full confidence in South Africa," said General Lauris Norstad, U.S.A. Retired, on arrival in April in South Africa, as President of Owens-Corning Fiberglass Company, to invest \$1,405,000 of American money in apartheid. Warming up, in a Johannesburg radio broadcast, to a spirit of 'togetherness', General Norstad lauded South Africa as a country of strong people, with the same standards, ideals, principles and objectives "as the rest of us in the West".

The American Committee on Africa immediately wrote to General Norstad, protesting both his investment and his utterances, but to date no reply has been received. His New York office, contacted by telephone, had an original answer: "No comment".

CIVIL RIGHTS OR PROFITS?

The Facts: * *The New Yorker* carries ads for South African Airways.

* South Africa discriminates in visas - with extremely few exceptions - against American Negro tourists.

The Question: Should American firms carry advertising for countries which practice such discrimination between Americans?

This question was put to *The New Yorker* by James R. Robinson, Assistant Director of the American Committee of Africa.

The Response: "We have been assured by responsible spokesmen for the South African Government that all visitors are welcome..." (letter from *The New Yorker*)

Dissent: George Houser, Director of ACOA, replied to *The New Yorker*:

"I know of many American tourist groups that have either cancelled their visits to South Africa... or had to suffer the indignity of splitting up their group because the Negro members would not be admitted."

The U.S. Navy would also seem to disagree with *The New Yorker*: on May 14 *The N.Y. Times* announced: "The South African Government told the United States it would not welcome Negro crew members of the aircraft carrier Independence during a scheduled call at Cape Town... The U.S. replied with an immediate cancellation of the visit."

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Women! Come to the Women's Vigil for South Africa, Friday, June 25, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Place: 655 Madison Ave. (near 60th St.) South Africa Mission to U.N.
This is a silent, black-capped Mourning Vigil, protesting South Africa's Political Prisoners.
2. Withdraw your checking or savings account - individuals, companies, churches - from Chase Manhattan Bank, 'Partner in Apartheid' (see "Students on the March", page 3)
3. Write General Lauris Norstad, President, Owens-Corning Fiberglass Company, protesting their investment in apartheid.
Address: 717 Fifth Ave., New York City
4. Write the New Yorker, urging their refusal of South African Airways advertising.
5. Give to the Africa Defense and Aid Fund, of The American Committee on Africa,
Address: 211 East 43rd St., New York 17
which helps supply legal defense to opponents of apartheid, minimum sustenance to their destitute families, and education for prisoners.

CASE of Josiah Mayoli's Family, New Brighton.

Both father and mother are political prisoners; the oldest daughter, left in charge, cannot work as she is pregnant. To make matters worse, her husband died on March 11; he was the sole breadwinner. The younger children are all in school, and unable to earn money. This is a very needy case (letter from Port Elizabeth Defence and Aid Fund, May '65).

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