



NEWS BULLETIN

Canadians Concerned about Southern Africa
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CHANGING CANADIAN POLICY ON APARTHEID

Last June, three members of CCSA prepared a paper for the U.N. Regional Conference for Action against Apartheid. That paper detailed the history of Canada's links to the apartheid regime, and showed the long-standing "two-track" policy which our government has held towards South Africa: On the one hand, it has publicly condemned the apartheid system and South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia, while at the same time it has refused to take any major effective actions against South Africa that might in any way affect Western economic interests in the region.

With a new Conservative government in power since September, Canadians have been wondering whether there would be any shift in government policy toward Pretoria. Although the Department of External Affairs says it is presently reformulating a variety of international policies, the recent speech to the United Nations by Ambassador Steven Lewis has left no doubt that the Canadian government intends to continue its two-track policy unabated. Says Lewis, "Because the Canadian government still believes...that peaceful change is possible, our approach incorporates two basic premises. First, the Canadian government and people oppose and abhor apartheid. Second, we leave the way open for contacts and dialogue which, in themselves, increase Canada's capacity to encourage some process of change in South Africa...the Canadian Government therefore rejects the concept that total isolation of South Africa would somehow promote fundamental reform in that country... Canadian reservations about comprehensive economic sanctions against South Africa stem from our belief in the leverage of dialogue and contact, and also from our doubts whether such sanctions could be effective."

These arguments are made by Ambassador Lewis in spite of the fact that they have been disproven again and again. Meanwhile, inside South Africa itself the struggle is escalating daily. All sectors of the population -- students, women, workers, church people -- are showing their unwillingness to wait any longer for the Western nations to "dialogue" with the intransigent, racist apartheid regime. For these victims of apartheid, nothing less than the rapid total dismantling of the entire repressive system will suffice.

It seems, therefore, that the time is ripe for Canadians to once again take up the issue of comprehensive sanctions against South Africa in a public and large-scale manner. For starters, we can write to the Department of External Affairs and to Ambassador Lewis expressing our disappointment with and opposition to his recent speech. (The full text is available from CCSA.) But much more will be required in the coming period. Concerned groups and individuals must be prepared to mobilize around this increasingly important issue. CCSA took a decision at its recent General Meeting to give top priority to the question of sanctions over the next year. We hope that others will also do the same. Sanctions against South Africa can work, do work. We must all, concertedly and collectively, put pressure on the Canadian government to bring its policies in line with its expressed opposition to apartheid.

PROTEST AT SOUTH AFRICAN CONSULATE

On October 31, CCSA (Toronto) in co-operation with TCLSAC organized a demonstration in front of the South African Consulate in downtown Toronto. The demonstration was held to protest the increasing repression being used by the apartheid regime on the black population, and the unprecedented use of military force against the black majority. Flyers about the current situation in South Africa were handed out to passersby, and Yusef Saloojee of the ANC addressed the crowd.

WRITE US!!

CCSA would like to hear from its readers, so that our News Bulletin can become a medium for networking as well as a medium for information transmission. We welcome your comments, criticisms, etc., as well as information about local activities, upcoming events, South African products or companies you may discover, or anything you think might be of interest to our readers.

THANKS!

CCSA would like to thank Joan Bhabha who retired recently from the CCSA Executive. Joan has been a member of the Executive for the past six years, as the representative from the Congress of Canadian Women. Her hard work and commitment helped CCSA grow and develop during its early years. The new Executive will miss her skills and wise counsel, but we wish her well in her new endeavours.

ANC WOMAN TOURS WEST

While in Canada to attend the recent Conference in Solidarity With Women of South Africa and Namibia, Ruth Mompoti of the ANC Women's Secretariat made a brief tour of western Canada. Stops were made in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg and Lethbridge. Ms. Mompoti felt the tour was very successful in raising awareness of Canadians about the current situation in Southern Africa. She was also pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with a wide variety of Canadians in a number of centres.

CANDLE-LIGHT VIGIL

CCSA(Toronto) held its fourth annual Candle-light Vigil on October 11 to commemorate the U.N. Declared Day of Solidarity with South African political prisoners. Speakers included Jabu Dube of the ANC who provided an update on the current situation inside South Africa, and Joanne Naiman of CCSA (Canada) who used the event to launch CCSA's New Years Greeting to Nelson Mandela and all South African and Namibian political prisoners. Poetry and song was provided by the ANC Toronto Unit.

CCSA RECEIVES GRANT

CCSA is honoured to announce that it has received a small grant for the coming year from the World Council of Churches, based in Geneva. With this additional funding CCSA hopes to be able to increase its level of activity in 1985.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

The Committee Against Racism & Apartheid, the Alberta Federation of Labour, CUSO(Alberta) and the University of Alberta Chaplaincy Association are co-sponsoring a conference in Edmonton entitled "Southern Africa and Apartheid, Strategies for Change" from Jan. 18-20. For more information write: Southern Africa Conference, 239 Athabasca Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton T6G 2E8.

CCSA(Toronto) in co-operation with the City of Toronto Board of Education Race Relations Committee is organizing a one-day conference on apartheid for high school students, on February 1. Last year's conference attracted over 300 faculty and students. Improvements are being made to this year's format, and it is hoped the conference will prove even more successful than last. For more information, write: CCSA(Toronto), P.O. Box 6468, Postal Stn. A., Toronto M5C 2J6.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

The Conference in Solidarity With Women of South Africa and Namibia, sponsored by a wide coalition of organizations, was held in Toronto on November 16-17. The Conference was deemed a success by all, with well over 200 people attending the Friday evening public meeting and over 130 registrants for the Saturday event. Speaking on Friday evening were Ruth Mompati, from the ANC Women's Secretariat in Lusaka, Lucia Hamutanya from the SWAPO delegation to the United Nations in New York, and Sheila Keppler from the Toronto-based Task Force on the Churches and Corporate Responsibility. Music was provided by the Red Berets singing group and Dionne Brand read poetry.

The Saturday Conference began with the showing of the film "You Have Struck a Rock" and a recent video entitled "Namibia". Registrants then divided into two groups to hear the women from the liberation movements detail their experiences as women in southern Africa. In the afternoon workshops were held focusing on the topics of women and education, women and health care, women in the labour force, and the political role of women in the struggle.

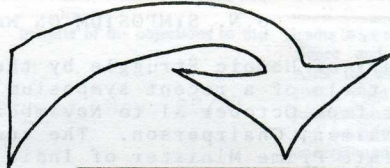
Although the Conference was envisaged as a local event, registrants came from as far as Edmonton and Winnipeg, and at least half a dozen individuals attending were from Quebec. At the closing session, participants agreed to send a number of letters on behalf of the Conference, including greetings to ANC and SWAPO women, a letter to the Canadian government regarding their position on apartheid, and a letter to Upjohn Pharmaceuticals opposing their dumping of drugs, including Depo-Provera, on the women of southern Africa. A variety of proposals were put forward for future actions. Full details of the Conference are available from CCSA.

BOYCOTT JETMASTER

CCSA has just learned that Jetmaster Products Canada is distributing Jetmaster fireplaces and inserts which are made in South Africa. These products are being sold at a number of outlets in Ontario, and may also be available in other provinces. Of course these products, due to the availability of cheap labour in South Africa, are competing unfairly with Canadian-made products. Certainly Canadians can do very nicely without these South African fireplaces and fireplace inserts. **DON'T BUY JETMASTER PRODUCTS!**

FUNDS FOR SOMAFCO

The Anti-Apartheid Movement of Manitoba has recently completed a fund-raising campaign for the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College. Over \$2000 was raised for the school. Congratulations to AAM for its excellent work!



Fireplaces in the grand style
by
JETMASTER
FIREPLACES & INSERTS

MADE IN SOUTH AFRICA

- Tops in open efficiency
- Thirty years experience in curing problem fireplaces.
- Eight sizes starting at \$463.

HEALTH CARE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Health Watch - South Africa recently sponsored a talk in Toronto by Dr. H.M. Coovadia, associate professor of Pediatrics and Child Health at the University of Natal in Durban, South Africa. He is also the president of the National Medical Dental Association and is a member of the National Executive of the United Democratic Front.

Dr. Coovadia's speech emphasized that the level of health of black South Africans is intolerably low, and is a direct result of the economic and political policies of the South African government. The data are painfully clear: one doctor for every 875 whites and one doctor for every 49,000 blacks. In the past 20 years, 45% of the deaths in children can be attributed to malnutrition and 50% of deaths in children occur before the age of two. Moreover, the percentage of the GNP spent on health in South Africa has slipped from 4.2% in 1976 to 3.2% in 1981. (Compared to 7.1% in Canada, 7.1% in Tanzania or 7.3% in Zambia)

Most interestingly, only 2% of the health budget is spent on primary health care and only 3% on preventative community medicine. This means that almost 95% of the health care budget is spent on "high-tech" medicine such as the building of modern equipment which cater mainly to the white minority who can afford these specialized services.

Dr. Coovadia also discussed problems in the administration of health care in South Africa, and assessed the new health plan introduced by the South African regime. He pointed out that the "bantustan" policy prevents any health plan, no matter how well conceived, from being implemented due to the sheer isolation and lack of communication between these areas. It is also almost impossible for medical personnel to even assess problems in isolated areas.

-from a report filed by Paul Hamel, CCSA(Toronto)

U.N. SYMPOSIUM ON NAMIBIA

"A Century of Heroic Struggle by the Namibian People Against Colonialism" was the title of a recent symposium held at the United Nations Headquarters from October 31 to November 2. Attending on behalf of CCSA was Joanne Naiman, Chairperson. The conference was opened with greetings by the late Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi, sent hours before her death. As a result of her long-standing support for the independence of Namibia and her important role as head of the Non-Alligned movement, most speeches and interventions during the seminar included brief eulogies to Mrs. Gandhi. A particularly moving speech was made by Andimba (Herman) Toivo ja Toivo, who was released last year after serving 18 years as a prisoner of the racist South African regime. Other speakers included Rev. Jesse Jackson, as well as representatives from the liberation movements, the O.A.U., the World Peace Council, and a variety of Governmental and Non-Governmental bodies.

The main conclusions drawn by the seminar included the need for the U.N. to implement Decree No. 1 in order to end the plunder and exploitation of Namibian resources, including legal action against countries found to be violating Decree No. 1. Non-Governmental bodies were urged to increase their material, moral and political support for SWAPO and to increase public awareness about the situation in Namibia.

Several special meetings were held for NGO's attending the seminar, which provided an important opportunity for groups to exchange views and inform others about ongoing activities. The NGO's collectively urged the Council for Namibia to provide more time at future seminars for such meetings, and to set aside at least one seminar in 1985 strictly for NGO's to plan strategies for future actions.

This business view of S. Africa is so wrong

Toronto Star, Nov. 13/84

Frank Jones

John Craig Eaton, chairman of Eaton's of Canada, had some harsh words to say about the United Church's position on South Africa in a sermon he delivered recently at Timothy Eaton Memorial Church.

While the church's opposition to apartheid was commendable, he said, it was simplistic and unchristian — his words — to pressure Canadian business and banks operating in South Africa because that would only hurt black workers there.

Eaton is mistaken. And to the extent that his views are likely representative of many leading Canadian businessmen, some of whom do business with South Africa, they should be of concern to us.

No passing fad

Eaton's point is that by giving black workers employment and endeavoring to raise their living standards, foreign firms are creating a black middle class that must some day be given the vote and other privileges.

If we were dealing with almost any other country in the world his argument would be valid because for the world's downtrodden, economic progress usually goes hand in hand with political progress.

In South Africa the argument is hogwash. Segregation there is no passing political fad. It is an article of faith, buttressed by laws, backed by guns and affirmed by the twisted doctrines of the Dutch Reformed Church. And when South Africans talk about liberalization they are talking about putting the lightest dusting of face powder on the hideous countenance of oppression.

In this context the big firms, some of them Canadian, that do business in South Africa are a godsend to the nationalist government because they lend it a cloak of respectability. Recently I was shown a

glossy booklet put out by the public relations people for a large oil company with major investments in South Africa. It showed cheerful pictures of blacks working alongside whites, and made much of the company's efforts to pay equal wages and provide blacks with educational opportunities.

Of course, these South African business types will assure you, they personally don't approve of apartheid, always vote against the government, and are perfectly happy that they now have a few black colleagues.

It all means nothing while those black workers must return each night to the despicable African townships, while they are denied all citizenship rights, and while they are subject to deportation at any time to the notorious "homelands" — the wastelands set aside for dumping the majority of South Africa's people who happen to be the wrong color.

I am quite sure that if international oil companies had been operating in the South during the time of slavery, their public relations people too would have been putting out glossy brochures showing happy slaves working alongside whites. They might even have sent a few slaves to university.

I've been there

Ah, say South Africans, you don't understand because you haven't been there. I have in fact been to South Africa and for my efforts to interview the leader of a black strike was entertained for a night at one of that country's notably hospitable police stations.

I also found it to be the most guilt-stricken and paranoid society I have ever encountered. You don't have to say a word: Once a South African learns you are a foreigner he immediately launches into a defensive diatribe on his country's

racial policies. He gets so pent up you hardly dare say a word in case the poor fellow bursts into tears.

And what his argument usually comes down to is that if it weren't for South Africa's racist policies, and the huge military machine that backs them, southern Africa would become a blood-bath and likely fall to communism. "Look what's happened in those black countries!" they always say.

Well what about that argument? I posed it last week to one man who should know, Bishop Trevor Huddleston, the Anglican who himself suffered South African oppression and who was just in town. "The South African government has known for decades" he said, "that unless it makes real changes and accommodations, the eventual alternative is likely to be bloody revolution." Also, he said, it is South Africa's deliberate policy to undermine the stability of neighboring black states, a policy that has gone from strength to strength with the encouragement of President Ronald Reagan's policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa.

As to sanctions hurting black workers, "those affected are the tiniest minority of blacks. Against that nearly three million blacks have been uprooted and dumped in the homelands," said Bishop Huddleston. Besides, he added, those sanctions have been endorsed by Bishop Desmond Tutu, the South African black who recently won the Nobel Peace Prize.

In the wake of the recent killings and violence committed by South Africa's security forces, black union leaders have called for a Black Christmas in which they will refuse to buy many of the goods they would normally purchase this time of year. The least we can do, and at no sacrifice to ourselves, is to boycott South African wines, fruits and other goods this Christmas.

AAAA

On September 14, 1983, a fifty-member celebrity-band organization co-chaired by *Harry Belafonte* and *Arthur Ashe* was launched at the United Nations in New York. Artists and Athletes Against Apartheid (AAAA) declared its objective to be the cultural isolation of South Africa until apartheid is dismantled, and this the organization planned to achieve by dissuading other celebrities in sports and the arts from performing in South Africa.

In the one year of its existence, AAAAA's membership has mushroomed to some 500 members, the number of performers going to South Africa has been cut in half, and legislation has been introduced in the United States Congress in support of American artists and athletes who decline to participate in South Africa because of its apartheid system.

Contrast, Nov. 9/84

Bishop Tutu slams trade with S. Africa

BOSTON (Reuter) — Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa yesterday blasted companies that do business with his homeland, saying their claims of trying to improve conditions for black workers were



Tutu

"baloney."

Urging apartheid foes to exert economic pressure on the South African government, the Nobel Peace Prize winner accused the firms of "buttressing one of the most vicious systems the world has ever known."

Tutu's attack came as civil rights leader Jesse Jackson said he had been granted a visa to visit South Africa and "mobilize" world opinion against apartheid. Jackson said he been informed of successful visa application by a South African official and he hoped to visit the country around Feb. 4.

'Black Christmas' urged in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (Reuter) — South African trade union leaders have called for a "black Christmas" following the arrest of at least eight colleagues and riots in black townships that left 23 dead.

"A black Christmas means we are asking people not to buy anything special, only essentials," said Jay Naidoo, general secretary of the affiliated Sweetfood and Allied Workers Union.

"It means no gifts. We have nothing to celebrate," he added at a news conference yesterday organized by the Federation of South African Trade Unions.

Shortly before the conference, officials said, the federation's president Chris Dlamini was detained by police, bringing to at least eight the number of people held since a two-day black workers' strike Monday and Tuesday in Transvaal province.

During the strike — hundreds of thousands of black workers stayed home to protest rent and bus-fare hikes, inferior black schools and the use of soldiers to quell unrest

in black townships — 23 people died in riots.

Thorough search

Naidoo said police raided a federation office on the outskirts of Johannesburg yesterday, searching it thoroughly, taking away a number of files, and photographing staff members.

Police made similar raids on other offices in Johannesburg, including a three-hour search of the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front — which claims an affiliated membership of two million.

A spokesman for the Front, a multi-racial organization, said Lord McCamel, chairman of the Vaal Civic Association, was also detained under security laws that permit authorities to hold suspects virtually indefinitely without trial.

Naidoo said the federation condemned the abrupt dismissal of about 6,500 black workers at the giant Sasol oil-from-coal company after they had joined in the two-day strike.

S. African MDs seek action on Biko death

PRETORIA (Reuter) — The South African medical profession's watchdog body was attacked yesterday for failing to act against two doctors who treated a black activist before he died in police detention seven years ago.

Six doctors have petitioned the Supreme Court to order the South African Medical and Dental Council to conduct a full disciplinary inquiry to determine whether doctors Ivor Laing and Benjamin

Tucker were guilty of improper conduct.

Biko died in detention on September 12, 1977. An inquest found that he died from brain damage but that no one was criminally responsible. Both doctors were district surgeons in Port Elizabeth at the time.

Four years ago, the Medical and Dental Council ruled there was no evidence of improper conduct by the doctors and said it would take no action against them.

Toronto Star, Nov. 22/84

Toronto Star, Nov. 10/84

Three quit consulate, arrested in S. Africa

DURBAN, South Africa (Reuter) — Three anti-apartheid activists walked out of the British consulate yesterday after three months of taking sanctuary there, and two of them were promptly arrested.

On Monday, South Africa lifted detention orders against 12 activists, including the three in the consulate, but immediately charged six, held in Durban's central prison, with treason and with violating security laws.

Hundreds of blacks and Indians, defying a ban on demonstrations, chanted slogans in support of the three and marched through the centre of the city as they emerged from the consulate.

Archie Gumede, president of the United Democratic Front, and Paul David of the Natal Indian Congress were immediately arrested. A police officer told them they would be charged with treason.

The third dissident, Billy Nair, also of the NIC, was not arrested and was carried away on the

shoulders of supporters.

"I'm going to do everything to continue with the fight until South Africa is free," he said.

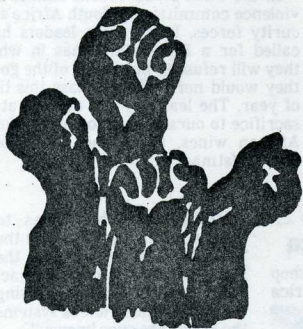
The three dissidents were among six opponents of a new South African Constitution who took refuge in the consulate on Sept. 13 to escape orders for their detention without trial.

The other three were arrested last month while trying to sneak out of the building and were charged earlier this week with treason, which carries the death sentence.

About 1,000 UDF supporters marched through the centre of the port city and disrupted traffic in a rare public protest as Mr. Gumede, Mr. David and Mr. Nair left the consulate. The demonstrators shouted abuse at scores of police preparing to arrest the men.

The crowd chanted "Apartheid no" and "Power to the people."

At one stage police charged at reporters and bystanders and elbowed them out of the way.



Globe & Mail, Dec. 13/84

SHEBEEN TALK

An odour of frail dignity
Clings to the burden,
of the Place.
Murder, bondage, rhetoric,
is the order of the day.
Safe inside
Plotting destiny
Courage firm
Talk swift,
Shrouds Bantu Forms
Sabre rattling SHEBEEN TALK

I am men of age...spent
Like smouldering cartridges.
My fire burns tired.
You young warrior firm and ready
Claim now the land I love.
Build the school.
Shape the tool.
Take my years
Chase the Springbok SHEBEEN TALK

The door of the Place
Yawns
and spits us out
Stumblin
Drunk on hopes and fears
Jackboot curse
Rocks the soul again
The sun hurts,
The wind hurts
The red dirt stings my eyes
My heart, my family, my land
Left to SHEBEEN TALK

- Tony Fletcher, Toronto

Control Data sells 11 Cyber computers to South Africa

Control Data Canada, Ltd., Mississauga, Ont., has won a contract to supply 11 Cyber large-scale computer systems to Iscor, a South African iron and steel corporation. They will be used to integrate mining and manufacturing operations.

Four Cyber 825 systems will be installed at the company's Pretoria headquarters and a fifth at its plant in Vanderbijlpark. Six 815 Cybermini computers will be situated at the company's steel works in Newcastle and at various mine sites throughout the country.

Iscor plans to use the computers to centralize its data processing operations, while maintaining a centralized back-up system. Major computer applications include an inventory system, financial modelling, personnel information, mining operations, and a marketing system to co-ordinate pricing, scheduling and delivery dates for Iscor's products.

Iscor is the major supplier of iron and steel in South Africa and has extensive mining operations in the country. It employs some 60,000 people.

Canada Data Systems, Sept./84

Divestment Raps Review

by Mark Johnson

After submitting a petition of nearly 1400 signatures to U of T President George Connell, the University of Toronto Divestment Committee (UTDC) called a press conference on November 22 to voice its discontent over the selection of a review committee. The committee is being assembled to look into the UTDC's demand that the university withdraw all the investment it has in banks and corporations that deal with South Africa.

The members of the Presidential Advisory Board on Social and Political Aspects of University Investment are being selected by Alex Pathy, the Vice President of Business Affairs. Pathy will also be heading the committee and presenting its findings to Connell. Ron Balkissoon, a member of the UTDC, is sceptical about the impartiality of this arrangement.

"It's all well and good that someone in business affairs is on the committee but that he present the recommendations to Connell is wrong. This situation may be less than objective."

In spite of his objections to the

set-up of the committee, Balkissoon expressed the hopes that "the review committee's meetings will be well publicized and open to the press and students." However, he doubts that the university will be able to find very good reasons for rejecting divestment.

"They'll probably just use the typical arguments that more can be done by staying with these companies or even worse the argument about U of T being fiscally shaky."

The Strand has learned that the UTDC is also planning to call on the university to award an honorary degree to South African activist, Nelson Mandela. Balkissoon claims such an action would demonstrate the university's genuine contempt for apartheid.

"When someone like Desmond Tutu wins the Nobel Prize, it has significance for the anti-apartheid movement and since the U of T wishes to express its disapproval of apartheid one plausible way would be giving Nelson Mandela an honorary degree for his work towards peace in South Africa."

Mandela joined the African National Congress in 1944. He was a leader in several acts of civil disobedience and non-violent protest. After the Sharpsville Massacre in 1961, when police fired upon peaceful demonstrators killing 69 and wounding 189, Mandela went underground. He was caught in 1962 and sentenced to life imprisonment.

The UTDC has sent out a letter to student councils and various other campus organizations urging them to support the award to Mandela.

Strand, Nov. 28/84

PARATROOPERS IN ISRAEL

Members of the South African Paratroopers Association, who celebrate the Kassinga massacre as their 'national day', recently flew to Israel to meet other affiliates to the 'Free World Paratroopers Association', based in France.

The paratroopers attended a reception at the Knesset, meeting the president and other high ranking dignitaries.

Fear of conscription sparks white exodus from S. Africa

By Eric Marsden
London Sunday Times

JOHANNESBURG — A tougher military draft has led to a marked increase in the number of white families emigrating from South Africa or planning to leave before long.

About 140 families are now leaving each month — about 20 to Australia, 30 to Britain, 40 to Israel and 50 to the United States. That's at least 40 per cent more than the monthly figure in the first half of the year.

Up to three months ago, South Africa still enjoyed a surplus of immigrants over emigrants. In August, the latest figure available, there was a net gain of 1,460. If the present trend continues, however, this pattern is likely to be reversed by the end of the year.

Much of the exodus can be attributed to

the almost continual unrest South Africa has suffered since the summer, starting with demonstrations against the new constitution and building up into riots in the black townships against rising prices and higher rent charges.

Sharp controversy

Government moves to deal with these internal troubles have clearly helped aggravate the trend.

Many of the departing families have teenage sons who, under recent amendments to the immigration laws, automatically become citizens — and thus open to conscription — after five years legal residence.

The moves have sparked sharp controversy among the country's English-speaking whites, since they tighten conscription for the white community while keeping

military service voluntary for coloreds (people of mixed race), Indians and blacks.

Ironically, it's a rare example of apartheid discriminating against the otherwise privileged whites.

Last week, the controversy threatened to split the opposition Progressive Federal party, which has long fought against apartheid but voted to oppose conscription, a decision attacked by several of the party's own MPs as unpatriotic.

The Progressive Federals are urging, instead, that South Africa recruit a solely professional army, without conscripts. This idea is rejected outright by the government which, for obvious reasons, prefers to keep the army predominantly white.

All this has led to agonized debates in white homes over one-race conscription.

White dominance

Even though the conduct of the troops, compared with that of the police, has resulted in appreciably fewer complaints from blacks, this potential use of young white conscripts has been the deciding factor for many families.

"It will be a real wrench for me to leave South Africa," said an engineer who emigrated from Britain in the 1950s. "I have a good job and I have finished paying for

my house. We love the country.

"But there's no way my son is going to be involved in a racial war. We have no fight with the black people here."

Emigrants argue that they were encouraged to settle in South Africa because of their special skills and that they have made a valuable contribution to the country in this way. But Afrikaners, who have borne the brunt of military service until now, retort that this is no reason for the sons of English-speaking families to escape their "duty."

Because of the government's desire to retain white dominance in the army, one further irony is that the colored and Indian leaders now in parliament are supporting the conscription of young whites, many of whom were born abroad, but continue to oppose the call-up of their own young men.

Hundreds of young men have gone to Britain and America for further education studies, but with little real intention of returning home as long as the conscription threat remains.

Others who decided to stay and do their military service have since changed their minds because of the government's new policy of using troops to keep order in black townships.

Toronto Star, Nov. 25/84

(edited)

Bank stops buying coin from South Africa

By Pat Brennan Toronto Star

The Bank of Nova Scotia says it will no longer buy gold Krugerrands from South Africa, although it will continue to sell the coins bought from other sources.

Several Canadian churches and religious orders owning shares in the bank, had successfully moved to have the issue brought up at Scotiabank's annual meeting slated for January.

In a statement yesterday the bank said it "has always made clear that it has an absolute repugnance of racism in any form. We share this position with concerned

church leaders in Canada.

"The fact that we have agreed to refrain from purchase of the Krugerrand coin from the distribution network of the South African Chamber of Mines simply confirms today a practice that has been in place at the bank for some time."

Spokesman Robert Pattillo told The Star the bank hasn't purchased Krugerrands from South Africa for several months. "There are enough other sources for us to satisfy the demand we have for the coin."

A United Church member of the task force said last night that the full intent was to have the Bank of Nova Scotia stop selling Krugerrands entirely.

"But we'll take what ever little victory we can," said the task force member.

He said the shareholding churches have decided to withdraw their motion for discussion at Scotiabank's annual meeting.

Toronto Star, Nov. 8/84 (edited)

Blacks boycott 'gutter' education

By Barry Streek
Special to The Star

CAPE TOWN — The year-end school examinations for blacks began in South Africa this week, but many students in the black townships near Johannesburg did not turn up.

Those who did were met by groups of rioters trying to get them to join the boycott of classes and exams that has been going on for two months straight, and on and off since January.

Three youths were killed in the clashes Tuesday and Wednesday, the worst unrest in the eastern Cape Province so far during the violent boycott campaign. The official death toll is now at least 80 blacks; the exiled African National Congress says at least 150 blacks have been killed.

Even among those students scheduled to write their school-leaving tests — the all-important matriculation, the educational ticket for jobs or university — the exam boycott was almost total.

Some students took a deliberate decision not to write their exams: They knew what reprisals could be taken against them by those in favor of continuing the boycott. Police promised protection at schools but, students said, this would not extend to their homes.

Others were simply afraid to show up, and many decided to take advantage of a conciliatory government offer to let them write the tests next year.

The causes of conflict in black townships are numerous. But one of the major issues has been in the schools and universities, as it was in the 1976 disturbances in Soweto, and during widespread boycotts of schools in 1980.

"We students will only be happy when 'bantu education' is gone altogether," Lulu Johnson, the detained president of the Congress of South African Students (COSAS), said in a recent interview before the police picked him up.

"We want equal and free education under the same department for all the children of this country. And we want an education we can believe in.

"You know, students are the cream of this country. And right now they don't believe in their education."

COSAS, a black high-school student organization, believes inferior education for blacks will disappear only when apartheid goes. It says inequality in the schools is directly linked to the political structure of South African society, which is based on the separation of the races.

Sharing books

The knowledge that black education is inferior to white education is at the root of the violent boycott:

□ The government spent eight times more on each white student last year than on each black one — about \$935 compared to \$130.

□ Last year there were an average of 18.2 white pupils per teacher, and 42.7 blacks per teacher.

□ About 15 per cent of black teachers do not have any qualifications, and 60 per cent do not have their high school matriculation certificate, according to the new Teacher Opportunity Programs, which has been heavily funded by an unnamed U.S.-controlled oil company to upgrade teacher qualifications in black schools. Only 3.4 per cent of white teachers are unqualified.

□ Only 1.96 per cent of blacks can expect to complete all 12 years of school, compared with 58.4 per cent of whites, 22.3 per cent of Indians and 4.4 per cent of coloreds.

□ Of 659,247 blacks who left school in 1982 after completing a variety of years, 23.7 per cent were illiterate, 29.2 per cent semi-literate, and 19.8 per cent literate.

Vukami lower primary school in Jabavu, in the black Soweto township near Johannesburg, has 930 pupils. It has no electricity, no staff room, no assembly hall, no library, and a shortage of classrooms and textbooks.

In some classes, four children share one textbook, says Faith Msimang, who has been principal for 20 years.

Meanwhile, Linksfield primary, a white school in Johannesburg, has 300 pupils. It also has a swimming pool, two tennis courts, a car park, overhead projectors, and sports coaches, all paid for out of the school's private funds. It plans to get into computers next.

From government funds Linksfield gets such basics as electricity, central heating, an assembly hall, staff rooms, a library and a sick bay.

At Linksfield each teacher has an average of 25 pupils; at Vukami, each has about 48.

Educationists have been warning for some time that the crisis in black education had reached a stage where little was needed to spark new boycotts.

Much of the recent violence "is due not merely to the normal exuberance of youth, but to a spirit of rebellion against the economic, social and political structure of the country," he said. "Education is in the throes of a revolution which started in 1976."

This revolution, he added, would end only when apartheid, "with all that it means, is dismantled."

After the 1976 disturbances, the government appointed a multi-racial commission of inquiry into education. But, while it officially accepted the inquiry's call that equality in schools should be a goal, it rejected its call for a single education department for all South Africans.

The current protests were sparked by the August elections for colored and Indian parliaments under the new South African constitution, which continues to exclude the majority blacks from power. During a "fortnight of protest," about a million students voiced their dissent.

While the issue was not directly related to education, the school conflict prolonged the tensions and clashes.

The extent of this year's boycotts has been less obvious than in 1976 and 1980, because each school's protest has been triggered by ostensibly different grievances.

"The underlying causes of all, however, have been deep-seated political grievances," writes Martine Barker, education reporter of the Cape Town Times daily newspaper. "Education boycotts in South Africa have always had a political character."

The government had now moved to respond to some of the students' demands. It has announced it will permit the establishment of student representative councils, although the students so far have rejected the government terms for these organizations.

The government also has reopened some schools, including the six high schools in Atteridgeville near the capital of Pretoria which had been closed most of the year; and it has adjusted the examination schedules.

But the prospects of long-term peace in South African schools are remote when most students believe they are getting "gutter education" because of their skin color.

Toronto Star, Nov. 4/84

(edited)

Apartheid no laughing matter

Billed as 'an epic comedy of absurd proportions' *The Gods Must Be Crazy* would be more aptly titled 'an ingenious piece of South African propaganda'. Directed by the white South African filmmaker, Jamie Uys, *The Gods Must Be Crazy* is a film approved and financed by the South African film industry, a movie which has been playing to packed houses in Japan, Britain, France, Sweden, and United States, and which is now entering its fourth 'hit' month in Toronto.

Presented as an innocent bit of slapstick humor the film, in fact, is a perverse exercise in racist ideology, an attempt to display apartheid as a system with sometimes awkward consequences which invariably lead to good-natured laughs and would never really hurt anyone, least of all the 'innocent and naive' Blacks.

The story begins when a pilot, flying over the Kalahari desert, nonchalantly throws an empty coke bottle from the window of his plane. The bottle is found by a "tribe of bushmen" who, of course, immediately assume it is a gift from the gods. Being the hardest object they've ever come across the coke bottle is, at first, very useful as a tool for daily chores but, as a patronizing narrator points out, the coke bottle introduces into the Africans' primitive but idyllic society aspects of modern culture they are just not able to comprehend.

It soon becomes apparent to the members of the tribe that this 'bit of civilization' is not in their interest and must be gotten rid of. They first attempt to do this by throwing the coke bottle straight up into the air, but it keeps falling back to the ground and in the process bounces off the heads of the tribes people (this being a sample of the film's much vaunted slapstick humor). It is left to a member of the tribe named Xi to take the coke bottle to the edge of the world and discard it and it is while Xi is on this journey he comes across 20th century civilization.

Xi kills a farmer's goat, is arrested and put in jail. It is left to a warm-hearted and white South African microbiologist named Andrew to rescue Xi from prison. But there are further complications. Andrew, you see, is in love with Kate who has left her job in a Johannesburg newsroom to teach Black children at a local mission. Kate is also the only white woman for a 'hundred miles' and Andrew is naturally nervous in her presence.

But then disaster strikes when Kate and her whole class of children are abducted by a band of 'cruel Black Marxist revolutionaries' who have just escaped into the territory after an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the government of a 'borderline state'. A long chase ensues as Andrew, with the trusted and willing aid of Xi, attempt to free Kate and her school children from the clutches of the dangerous but bumbling Marxist revolutionaries.

The questions arise. Will Andrew and Xi rescue Kate and the children from the communists? Will Xi finally rid himself of the coke bottle? Will Andrew win the heart of Kate? Will Xi's tribe remain 'untainted' by the effects of both 20th century technology and the roving bands of Marxists?

Trying to present itself in the guise of innocent humor *The Gods Must Be Crazy* masks the criminality that is apartheid. There is no humor in a system that subjugates millions on the basis of skin color. There can be no justification for a 'comedy' officially sanctioned by a government responsible for the murder, torture, and internment of thousands of innocent people.

The Gods Must Be Crazy cannot be 'wished away'. It is a movie which all anti-apartheid forces should rally against. As the longest running movie in both New York and Montreal, it is no laughing matter.

Paul Ogresko

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