

EPISCOPAL CHURCHMEN for SOUTH AFRICA

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—For A Free Southern Africa—

3 December 1978

N A M I B I A - SOUTH AFRICA TIGHTENS THE VISE

South African Police occupying the International Territory of Namibia early this morning started arresting officials of SWAPO, the Namibian liberation movement. Picked up at their homes in Windhoek, Namibia's capital city, were:.

- Mr Daniel Tjongarero - vice chairman
- Mr Mokganedi Tlhabanello - secretary for information and publicity
- Ms Lucia Hamutenya - secretary for legal affairs
- Mr Axel Johannes - administrative secretary
- Mr Solomon Gamatham - deputy secretary for transport
- Mr John Konyero - Youth League leader

Reports from Windhoek say that Ms Hamutenya was beaten by the police. Mr Johannes has been held in detention repeatedly over the past three years and had only a short time ago been released from jail.

A large SWAPO rally held in Katutura township outside Windhoek today was not attacked by the police although a number of leaders were present. Word has not yet come of any further arrests. There were too many newsmen around today.

The BBC says SAP Major General Victor Verster announced the detained SWAPO leaders were being held under South Africa's Terrorism Act. 'in connection with the bombings' which occurred in downtown Windhoek yesterday, and that other arrests can be expected. The police chief said that the explosive devices were 'of Russian origin' similar to those 'used by SWAPO terrorists'. Mr Tlhabanello stated yesterday: 'We had nothing to do with it'.

court.

Tomorrow some 80 SWAPO adherents are to be arraigned in a Windhoek/ It is said they will be charged with holding an 'illegal demonstration'. They were arrested yesterday - Saturday - after they had marched through Windhoek streets denouncing the upcoming South African-sponsored electoral process to install a compliant political grouping in Namibia. Thus Pretoria continues its decades-old defiance of the lawful authority over the International Territory, the United Nations. The Security Council has declared this exercise 'null and void' and called on South Africa to abide by UN supervised and controlled elections. Only Pretoria's creation, the Turnhalle Alliance; two right-wing white Afrikaner parties; and a couple of tiny splinter groups are taking part. SWAPO and other parties are boycotting the unilateral proceedings.

SWAPO is by all accounts Namibia's largest, best organized, widest-spread and the most enspirited political entity. SWAPO's Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia has battled the occupying South African Defence Force for over 10 years. Pretoria, acting through its administrator general in Namibia, South African judge Marthinus Steyn, has mounted an increasingly severe campaign of intimidation and arrests of SWAPO leaders and members in order to maintain its hold over the huge, wealthy and strategically-located Territory. No price is too high to pay to cripple or destroy SWAPO.

The churches in Namibia have called on South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha to obey the United Nations and warned: 'As the registration has not been fair and free, the elections cannot be fair and free'. A pastoral letter from leaders of the Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and African Methodist Episcopal Churches has been read from the pulpit: '....everybody....has the right to vote or not to vote according to his or her own conscience....if according to your Christian conscience you feel that you cannot vote for any of the parties on the paper, then you can return a blank or spoiled paper'. Steyn has warned the churches not to 'interfere' with the elections, and last week he suddenly ordered two churchmen out of Namibia - Mr Justin Ellis, an Anglican layman who was co-editor with Father Heinz Hunke (the Roman Catholic priest expelled in July along with Father & Ms Edward Morrow) of TORTURE: A Cancer In Our Society and acting director of the newly formed Council of Churches of Namibia; and Roman Catholic priest Father H. Klein-Hitpass.

ECSA has sent the following telegram to President Carter:

CALL ON YOU TO CONDEMN PUBLICLY ARRESTS OF NAMIBIANS YESTERDAY AND TODAY BY SOUTH AFRICAN OCCUPATION OFFICIALS AND TO DEMAND THEIR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

WE SENT A MAIL GRAM TO THIS EFFECT.

EPISCOPAL CHURCHMEN FOR SOUTH AFRICA
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6 December 1978

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N A M I B I A

A Lutheran Church message today from Windhoek tells of fears that SWAPO detainees have been assaulted by the South African Police. Four of the leaders arrested 3 December were seen in the white hospital. Ms Agnes Tjongarero was not allowed to see her husband by security police. Ms Constance Tlhabanello said her husband was one of those seen at the hospital. The police this morning arrested at least six more SWAPO members at Katutura township:

- Ms Neleo Ngitombo - and her baby
- Ms Christina Kandida
- Mr Johannes Nelume
- Ms Martha Gideon - who is pregnant
- Ms Maria Johannes
- Mr Joseph Shifugula

The office of the Anglican Church in Namibia in Windhoek was raided at night on 4 December by the South African Police. The diocesan secretary-treasurer, Mr Archie Crail, was taken into custody. The police broke into locked files and archives, searched the premises and seized documents.

AMERICANS! PHONE OR TELEGRAM PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER. URGE HIM TO SPEAK OUT.

The diocese is in the charge of the Right Rev. James Hamupanda Kauluma, suffragan bishop and vicar general. Bishop Kauluma is the first Namibian Anglican to be elevated to the office of bishop; he was elected a year ago and consecrated in Westminster Abbey last January. He has just been elected first president of the newly-formed Council of Churches of Namibia. Bishop Kauluma lives in Windhoek with his American wife, Ms Sally Kauluma, and their 13-month-old baby girl, Nangula Tuapeua.

Another bomb exploded at a petrol depot operated by Shell and British Petroleum in an industrial section of Windhoek yesterday. It has of course been blamed on SWAPO.

The United Nations Security Council adjourned yesterday without reaching any further decision about what to do with Pretoria for its continued defiance on Namibia and for going ahead with this week's unilateral elections in the International Territory. The General Assembly takes up Namibia tomorrow for what could be a three-day debate. After that -- back to the Security Council? A special session of the GA in January? There are reports of a working paper of the African states calling for sanctions against South Africa. The Western powers - the USA, Britain, France, West Germany and Canada - dread a call for sanctions and can be counted on to vote against them in the Security Council. Thus for the umpteenth time the USA, Britain and France would veto firm action against Pretoria.

Four Lutheran Church leaders in the United States on 4 December sent a strong letter to US Ambassador to the UN Andrew Young. Dr James Crumely, Lutheran Church in America; the Rev Marshall Mauney, Lutheran World Ministries; Dr David Preus, American Lutheran Church; and the Rev William Kohn, Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, declared: 'Our Christian brothers of many denominations in Namibia have warned that elections which are not supervised and controlled by the United Nations would be unacceptable to the people of Namibia and would result in violence. Their warning was not heeded; their prophecy was fulfilled.' The four leaders deplored South Africa's action in expelling Mr Justin Ellis and Fr Herman Klein-Hitpass, and spoke of persons arrested 3 December: '...we have learned to know personally two of them as men of integrity, dedicated to justice, peace and reconciliation. They are Mr Daniel Tjongarero and Mr Mokganedi Tlhabanello...' The letter adds: 'We now urge the United States to initiate immediately in the Security Council such actions as are necessary including sanctions to bring about South Africa's compliance with those resolutions which have been designed to implement its own proposal.'

Justin Ellis, acting director of Namibia's Christian Centre, left Windhoek 28 November under order from South Africa's administrator general Marthinus Steyn. He released to the press a report on the registration and election campaign 1978 which catalogues 'irregularities' - harassment, intimidation, fraud, bias of the occupation South African Defence Force - on the part of the South African administration and its anointed Turnhalle Alliance political federation.

Justin Ellis will arrive in New York on Friday, 8 December, with his firsthand and intimate testimony about what is really taking place in Namibia.