



MASS. CONFERENCE TASK FORCE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

SHARE SHEET

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November 18, 1973

SOFTENING APARTHEID OR PROPAGANDA? (Time: October 15, 1973)

"Last week Prime Minister Vorster virtually abandoned the Job Reservation Act, under which the best jobs in the country have long been reserved for whites. Though the law will remain on the books, if employers and trade unions approve, the government will allow more and more blacks to move into skilled jobs. The goal is to improve 'the productive use of non-white labor'" (Editor's note: a labor shortage has been reported through other sources.) Some parishes of the Dutch Reform Church now permit multi-racial attendance at weddings, funerals and other services. There is increased integration at athletic events. Air travel is integrated. Whites stand beside blacks in many of the same queues. Blacks played against whites for the first time in an international cricket tournament. BUT - more than 600,000 Africans were arrested last year under the Pass Law. (Joel Carlson feels that this kind of publicity release is an attempt to improve image of South Africa.)

BAY STATE BANNER (October 18)

Johannesburg: The director of the anti-apartheid Christian Institute of South Africa has been forced to give up his passport. As Dr. Rev. C.F. Beeyers Naude was boarding a flight to the Netherlands, on his way to visit Dutch churches that have given his institute much support, he was informed that the Ministry of Interior had "withdrawn" his passport. A like action occurred a day later as a colleague of Dr. Naude, Rev. Brian Brown, attempted to make the trip. They were later told that the action was taken because top officials of the Institute had failed to testify in a government investigation into 'internal security'.

Salisbury: Three Africans were wounded as police opened fire on a crowd after a controversial soccer match when late minute penalties in the final quarter gave victory to the visiting team. Police battled spectators who poured onto the field. Leaving the stadium, they stoned cars, busses and buildings. The rioting later spread to suburban industrial areas and part of Salisbury. One of the Africans was listed in critical condition.

SALISBURY: Increased liberation activity in the area has forced the Rhodesian government to warn tourists who want to hunt in the Mana Pools game reserve that they have to do so at their own risk. National Park officials have refused to take bookings for the reserve, saying that security force operations are going on in the area.

FROM SAM KARTZEL: The South African authorities are threatening the Federated Theological Seminary in Alice, Cape Province. This seminary for training non-white ministers is an island of freedom, just across the road from the government's tribal college of Port Hare. The threat is expressed in the form of approaches to the administration of the school on the subject of the sale of the property to the government because it is needed for the expansion of the college. This proposal does not carry with it any proposal or offer of alternative sites and facilities for the school, so it is a veiled threat to its existence. We have also been informed that S.A. police have been driving onto the grounds, parking in front of faculty houses and simply observing what is going on! This is a further method of harassing the school, its students and its faculty.

NAMIBIA: White German Lutheran pastors are leaving their white churches in Namibia because their congregations are refusing to merge with the majority black Lutheran congregations. The exodus marks the end of an effort by white ministers for reconciliation between the white and black congregations. Another issue is continued support of the white congregations from Germany. (Quincy Patriot Ledger.)

ARAB AND BLACK UNITY? Sen. Yakubu Gowon of Nigeria, Chairman of (OAU) Organization of African Unity, recently called for a standing commitment for Arabs and blacks to work together toward the solution of problems. (27 nations have severed relations with Israel.) Since 1961, South Africa has been Israel's chief trading partner on the African continent. Israel is selling MILITARY MATERIAL to S.A.

STAMP COLLECTORS: The UN, in an attempt to keep the illegal occupation of Namibia by S.A. before the public, has issued a set of stamps for use at Geneva and New York.

To purchase stamps: UNPA, Box 5900 Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017

To purchase reproduction of controversial sheet depicting an imprisoned family, while doves of peace break through the broken barbed wire of confinement, write: WFUNA, Room C104, United Nations Headquarters, New York, N.Y. 10017

CHANGE IN UNITED NATIONS MAKE-UP HAS FAR REACHING EFFECT:

(The Springfield Union - Sept., 17, 1973)

The increase in member nations has been mostly in African nations, who are bringing the repression in Southern Africa to the UN floor in resolutions and discussions. The conflict in interest with the Western world powers has become apparent, particularly in budget areas; but VETO POWER is still held in the Security Council. The United States is currently either abstaining or voting against the majority of the UN membership 75% of the time. The greatest power of all though is the power to ignore the action of the UN; for example, S.A.'s illegal control Namibia and U.S. importing Rhodesian chrome.

EXCHANGE PROGRAM? The African Inland Mission is studying the possibility of bringing African missionaries to work in urban areas in the U.S. and of sending American blacks as missionaries to Africa. The Mission has sponsored a Kenyan student in theological studies in Mass., and reports that several black congregations in South Carolina have expressed interest in sponsoring an African missionary to work in this country.

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WEEKLY NEWSSCRIPT (8/8/73) - Mass. Council of Churches

The Anglican Council has reaffirmed its support for the financial grants made by the World Council of Churches to liberation movements, in spite of a request by the Anglican church in S.A. to change its policy. Spokesmen of the South African Anglican Churches said the grants are an endorsement of violence and terrorism. (Ed. Note: apparently they object to violence and terrorism if they are not initiating it.)

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The Voice of the Press has, while not totally silent, been very quiet about the GENOCIDE IN BURUNDI where the tutsi minority (about 14%) is slaughtered 100,000 (officially), perhaps as many as 250,000 - using sledge hammers or pounding nails into the heads when their bullets ran out. The U.S. continues importing coffee - which provides 60% of the Burundi foreign income - saying a boycott would compound the tragedy by causing unemployment for those left. (Ed. Note: Are our officials saying the U.S. doesn't want to interfere in other people's business?)

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WE WANT "THE WHOLE THING" - Namibian Election Boycott

Political analysts in S.A. were "baffled" when Namibian tribesmen recently boycotted the ballot boxes in an election that would divide their country into several black "homelands" and thus sanction "separate development" - officialese for apartheid.

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Bay State Banner (Nov. 8) - In answer to students protesting at the University of the Western Cape (founded for black students), Dr. Van der Ross, Colored, has just been appointed head. However, he may not be able to begin work until the beginning of 1975, due to his current work on a government inquiry into the political and social future of the colored people in S.A. and because the University is in the midst of an inquiry into student demonstrations (for black and colored staff) resulting in temporary closure, followed by boycott by students. Dr. Van der Ross, once considered a vigorous opponent of the government, has recently modified his position - so much so that he was expelled from the Colored Labour Party that he helped form. Is he an "Uncle Tom" or has he infiltrated the system to effect change? Africans are divided on this; whites see this as a major concession.

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CHRISTMAS CARD SUGGESTION: How about using the money you would spend buying cards and postage for Christmas cards to bring hope to an African student, or medical care to a pregnant woman, or food for a hungry child. SAY "Merry Christmas" to your friends and tell them what you're doing. Money could be sent to:

Mass. Conference - U.C.C.
14 Beacon St.
Boston, Ma. 02108

Checks payable to: Mass. Conference - designated for:
Fund to Combat Racism

WHERE ARE YOU? The Cutting Edge?

Excerpts from DIALOGUE ON THE FUTURE WITH MARGARET MEADE, ANTHROPOLOGIST, AND ROGER SHINN, THEOLOGIAN:

Shinn: There are so many things that are going to be determined by human decisions, but the individual person doesn't always see how he can affect these decisions . . . so now our whole society has got to make it possible for people to have a hand in shaping their own destinies, even if their share is a small one.

Interviewer: Do you feel the group that wants to change things is a majority?

Meade: Oh, no. You can't ever have a majority of people who want to change things. You never have more than a small group on the growing edge of change. The exasperating thing is that the people who live on the edge complain that all the other people live in the middle. But how could they be on the edge if the other people weren't in the middle? People never have recognized that! So they look around and hardly anybody else is interested in the thing they're interested in, and they feel discouraged. There's always been very few people who are really keen and alert all the time.

REMEMBER GULF? (Jack Anderson column)

Mrs. Elizabeth Jac kman of Arcades, California, a grandmother, disturbed by newspaper reports of action in Angola, attended the Gulf stockholder's meeting to protest their unresponsiveness to Africans in Angola. Feeling totally frustrated following the meeting, she wrote to Mr. Dorsey, Gulf President, complaining that the meeting had been a "dismal, joyless affair, lacking in tact, sensitivity and humor. I had believed that it would be an occasion for the exchange of ideas. I now realize my naivete."... "sitting there like robots . . . clapping together at the same beat. I heard the beat of a different drummer." After briefing her on how kind the Portugese were to Angolan blacks, Gulf sent her to see for herself. She reported back, "laborers kept behind barbed wire in one-room dormitories - separated from their families, cooking their allotted food on open fires.... Whites lived in their world of golf courses, swimming pools and luxurious homes and large American cars, imported for Gulf staff." She called upon Gulf to support small black businesses, to seek increased black enrollment in farm and technical schools and to promote better understanding of black liberation efforts in Angola. A Gulf aide, travelling with her, reported they both saw the same thing but interpreted them differently. Mr. Dorsey failed to respond to her report but, since then, company officials have recommended ending the use of large American cars, and suggested promoting greater black enrollment in technical schools and making more purchases from small black businesses.

Sorry about the four pages. The problem seems to be not what to put in but what to leave out. Enjoy your Thanksgiving dinner but remember those who have little to give thanks for. We may not be able to cure all the problems of the world, but I think we have to try.

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