Adelaide Tambo on Winnie Mandela

On May 16, Mrs. Adelaide Tambo, wife of African National Congress President Oliver Tambo, appeared at Haverford College in Pennsylvania to accept the honorary Doctorate of Law bestowed on Mrs. Winnie Mandela by the college. Mrs. Mandela, a banned person, is not allowed to leave South Africa. Her name, said Mrs. Tambo, "has come to symbolize undaunted courage, the perseverance of the human spirit and the struggle of the South African people, particularly our women, for rights that are taken for granted in most other countries of the world." The following is excerpted from Mrs. Tambo's speech.

Winnie Mandela has borne the imprisonment of her husband with singular fortitude. She has continued to struggle in the face of every conceivable device to discourage her. She has been repeatedly arrested and imprisoned without trial, placed under banning orders which proscribe her movements, her right to meet people, speak, or even to have her words published in South Africa. In 1969 she was arrested and detained without trial for a total of 491 days, all of them spent in solitary confinement. When she was eventually brought to trial the courts acquitted her on charges under the so-called "Terrorism" Act.

A Talk with Dennis Brutus

On the evening of May 6, Dennis Brutus—poet, professor, anti-apartheid organizer and leader of the international sports boycott against South Africa—spoke to supporters of IDAF at Sparks House in Cambridge, the home of Peter Gomes, President of IDAF-USA. Brutus read from his prison poetry and discussed the political situation in Southern Africa and his own history of conflict with the apartheid regime: his efforts to have black athletes included in the South African Olympic Team, his arrest and the months of hard labor on Robben Island that followed, and his two attempts to escape imprisonment. The questions below were put to him after the reading and in a brief interview the next day.

As the result of a ruling by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Dennis Brutus, now a Professor in the English Department of Northwestern University, has been declared deportable. He has applied for political asylum in the US. The Immigration ruling is being challenged by the Dennis Brutus Defense Committee, which argues that his life would be endangered by a forced expulsion from the country.

"There is no neutral literature."

Do you feel that your poetry has a political impact, apart from your other political activities? Is that one of your aims in writing it?

Not especially. It's not something I seek, but I accept the fact that it is there. It seems to me almost inevitable. I can't see any poetry that is completely apolitical. When people regard it as apolitical it's simply because it is so embedded in a given political system that one takes it for granted. It's part of the norm, the convention, the existing political structure. One is either critical of these structures or supportive of them. And if you aren't critical then you're supportive, but the notion of poetry or literature in an ivory tower seems to me just dishonest.

There is no neutral literature. The question is only whose side it's on. So all of life and all action is political in some sense, and if mine is rather more political than others, as it probably is, that's simply because the landscape I'm reflecting and the experience I draw on are more heavily political in a certain way. It's curious that people
**MANDELA (Continued from page 1)**

After her release in September 1970 she was placed under house arrest under terms so rigorous that it was a crime for her to meet more than one person, receive visitors at her home, or be absent from her home between dusk and dawn or at weekends. She had a very short respite from such restrictions when her banning order expired in 1975. In the aftermath of the 1976 uprisings she was again detained and held in prison for five months. Her release from prison in December of that year was followed by a second house arrest confining her to her home. In May 1977 the racist state arbitrarily banished her to a small town, Brandfort, in the Orange Free State province, where she is confined to a wood and breeze block house under the constant surveillance of a lone police sergeant.

In Winnie Mandela's trials and tribulations we have in microcosm the experiences of thousands of wives and mothers of political prisoners and detainees who pass through the dungeons of the apartheid regime. These torments inflicted on one woman are a vivid example of the ruthless persecution to which opponents of racism and apartheid are subjected. Her plight is the distillation of that of millions of black women whose family life is disrupted as a matter of state policy by the inhuman migrant labor system, the pass laws, forced removals and the other brutalizing minutiæ of the apartheid system.

Throughout the history of our struggle, the white minority regime has smeared all its opponents with the label "Communist." Does one have to be a Communist to demand a voice in the government of one's country? Is it only a Communist who feels affronted by the sight of children dying of malnutrition in the midst of plenty? Is it Communism to reject the systematic degradation, humiliation and dehumanization of one's people? These are the issues that motivate the liberation movements in Southern Africa in general and the African National Congress in particular!

In recent years the attention of the world has been focused on the question of South African political prisoners, and most of us here are probably familiar with this subject. Many in this country have already taken up this issue, but I stress it because it has acquired a special urgency for citizens of the United States in the light of the foreign policy of the Reagan Administration. All fine phrases and equivocations notwithstanding, it has become clear to us that the government of the United States has aligned itself on the side of the apartheid regime. The Reagan Administration explains its stance in terms of Cold War rhetoric— that the liberation movements are terrorists, that the white minority is an important ally in a world in which the US needs all the friends it can get.

The United States government bases its charges that we are "terrorists" on the fact that we have been compelled to take up arms to fight for our freedom. It is a matter of record that for 49 years the African National Congress conducted a non-violent struggle to bring about political change in our country. We employed every conceivable method of non-violent protest and struggle including petitions, civil disobedience, strikes, mass demonstrations and picketing. In 1959 when our movement became convinced that bloody confrontations between the oppressed and their oppressors were inevitable, we appealed to the international community to impose comprehensive sanctions against the apartheid regime. The accuracy of our assessment was tragically and vividly demonstrated at Sharpeville in 1960, when 69 peaceful demonstrators were massacred by the repressive forces of the white minority regime. The racist regime followed up this atrocity with the illegalization of the African National Congress and a battery of more repressive laws, thus closing off all avenues to non-violent agitation. It was in this context that the option of armed struggle was chosen.

Sharpeville in 1960 was a strictly South African event. Since that time Southern Africa has experienced many more Sharpevilles. In each case the scenario has been the same: unarmed men, women and children being mowed down by automatic weapons in the hands of the forces of the racist regime. No independent African state in our region of Africa is safe from the murderous activities of the apartheid regime. This is the terrorism—open, brazen, and well publicized—which one never hears mentioned by the apologists for "constructive engagement."

We gather here today to honor a distinguished African woman; a mother, a patriot and fighter for freedom who has given her all to the struggle for the realization of goals and aspirations that have been universally acclaimed. Let the women of the world, first and foremost, give her their sisterly solidarity, and we can be certain that the day is not too distant when by our joint efforts and those of the nameless millions of other oppressed women we shall fling open the prison gates which hold us all in bondage.

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**INTERVIEW (Continued from page 1)**

would say, for instance, that to spend money on the Fogg [Art Museum] is not a political act, but talking about spending money, say, to buy guns in South Africa is a political act. But to take money to spend on the Fogg is also to take money away from the community. To spend money on the building of the B-1 bomber is to take money away from Social Security, the protection of the poor, the sick, the aged, and so on. They're all political acts.

Do you believe the sports isolation of South Africa has been breaking down recently?

Unfortunately yes, and I think the United States is the principal culprit. The United States decision to invite the South African rugby team is the most dangerous setback we've had in 21 years, since South Africa was excluded from the Olympics in 1960 in Rome. (They were not expelled at that stage, just suspended.)

We've been consistently winning, increasing the isolation. Two areas that we could not win were golf and rugby, but in rugby we'd reached the point where there was only one country they could go to: New Zealand. But with the United States inviting them the trend is reversed; they get more friends rather than less.

The real crisis will come this year, at Brisbane, the Commonwealth Games, where I've been invited to be the keynote speaker at the Commonwealth Writers Festival. But I've just refused the invitation. And I expect that the action in declining to participate as a writer will trigger also reactions among the sportsmen.

There may be not only a writers' boycott but also a sports boycott, and that may in turn generate a far larger boycott. My own hunch is that by 1984 —the Los Angeles Olympics— there will be about 60 countries pulling out, so that the LA Olympics will probably be the biggest fiasco in the history of the Olympics. And it will all be the fault of those in the United States who are determined to be friendly to apartheid.

If you were deported to South Africa would you-be

Now that's an interesting question. The short answer would be yes, for the simple reason that I was allowed to leave South Africa after I signed an agreement that if I returned I would go to prison. That is how I am able to speak to you today.

The way it works is fairly complex. You're given a document called Permission to Travel, which is then stamped with bold (Continued on page 3)
Ah, But Your Land is Beautiful by Alan Paton, Scribner's, 1981.

Many Americans first learned of the conflicts taking place in South Africa when they read Cry, the Beloved Country, Alan Paton's first novel. Paton's powerful descriptions of the effects of apartheid on both blacks and whites made the book a vital one to many people. Paton was, and is, a novelist with a purpose. He moves his characters to ponder social and political issues both far and near. As he explained in his 1980 autobiography, 'life must be used in the service of a cause greater than oneself. This can be done by a Christian for two reasons: one is obedience to his Lord, the other is purely pragmatic, namely that one is going to miss the meaning of life if one doesn't."

Although 33 years divide Cry, the Beloved Country from his newest novel, Paton's conviction that his books should serve a social purpose has remained as strong as ever. But while his urge to awaken and move people has not altered, the tone of this new book is different. Cry, the Beloved Country resonated with despair, but the tone of Ah, But Your Land is Beautiful is apparent in its title: an affirmation with an undercurrent of doubt.

The land is beautiful, but to whom does it belong? Near the middle of the book, Lodewyk Prinsloo, a clerk for the South African Railways and Harbours, is visited by two men in black suits. They have come to enforce the Group Areas Act. Mr. Prinsloo, who is Coloured, has always passed as white. Now he faces the loss of his job, his house, and his family. His wife confronts him after the men leave, and after a series of pained questions and responses he admits the truth.

—They say, Petronella, they say, they say, I am a coloured man.
—She shrank from him. She too was filled with fear.
—Lodewyk, are you a coloured man?
—I was born coloured.

She gave a wild, hysterical laugh that he had never heard in all their sixteen years of married life. Her face was contorted with anger, but at the man who had deceived her sixteen years before, and who today had destroyed the security and respectability of her life.

—You'd better go out, Lodewyk. Because you won't like the packing. Go up to Kirstenbosch and look at the flowers that bring you such peace. I never want to see you again. You can come back at five. We'll be gone.

The book contains many such terrible scenes, some of them disturbingly violent. All are the effects of race hatred. Their violence is as raw and painful as that in Cry, the Beloved Country, yet this is a much more hopeful book. South Africa and its people are beautiful, we see, and therefore worth saving from the curse of apartheid. The novel, set against the social turmoil of the 1950s, a period in South African history when peaceful reform still seemed possible, honors all those who struggled against the injustice in their country. It is less a catalog of horrors than an account of people taking action against these horrors.

In the first chapter, a young Indian girl attempts to take part in the Defiance Campaign by going to sit in Durban's whites-only public library. An acquaintance of her father says, "Prem should be working hard for her Matriculation instead of sitting in the Reference Library." Prem responds to this absurdity (what better place for a student than her own city's library?) with a determination that Paton describes as saintly. "The cause is holy," she says to a visitor who comes to see her after she is jailed for violating the color bar. Paton sees this girl as the kind of person capable of effecting real change. Throughout the book we meet individuals from every niche of South African society who possess the same determination. The hope of South Africa, Paton seems to believe, lies in the strength of its people to change it.

Paton's novel lacks a true plot, and even its most recurrent characters do not appear long enough for the reader to get a complete sense of them. The book is composed of speeches, dialogues, descriptive passages, accounts of more or less isolated incidents, newspaper articles, and letters. (One letter writer whom we know only through his letters, functions as a sort of narrator.) The mood and intent of the book thus emerge in mosaic fashion.

To read Cry, the Beloved Country was to walk a long road into hell. To read Ah, But Your Land is Beautiful is to take that same walk through the miseries of South Africa, but to emerge this time into a terrain of hope.
Southern Africa News Calendar
April and May 1982

The following news items are based on shortwave broadcasts by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), the Voice of America (VOA), and Radio South Africa (RSA). They are intended to supplement major news sources and are not exhaustive. Because radio reception is sometimes unclear, the spelling of all proper names cannot be guaranteed.

Items relating to political trials and detentions appear in red.

For more comprehensive news about political prisoners in Southern Africa, please see our bimonthly publication Focus.

1 April

South Africa—The government placed two-year bans on several members of the Motor Assemblers and Component Workers Union of South Africa (MACWUSA): Dumili Makanda, chair of the Union, and two executive members, Maxwell Matamgozi and Wandelde Mjuza. Sipho Pityana and his brother Leisel were also banned. The unions were banned after spending 270 days in detention. Makanda helped organize the strike which shook the motor industry last year. BBC

2 April

South Africa—Following the end of the hunger strike by squatters in St. George's Cathedral in Cape Town, Piet Koomhof, Minister in charge of black affairs, said only that he would review their case, together with the cases of 850 others named by the churches. Koomhof said not all the squatters could stay in the area on a family basis. BBC

South Africa—According to William Robinson of the US State Department, South Africa is the world's tenth biggest arms producer. RSA

Namibia—The release of a 1980 census revealed that the number of whites has decreased about 20% since 1970, to 70,000 out of a total population of over 1 million. BBC

4 April

Zimbabwe—ZAPU leader Joshua Nkomo declared he was innocent of any wrongdoing and that Prime Minister Mugabe was stirring up hatred in his accusations against Nkomo. He accused Mugabe of pushing the country to the brink of war and of preparing Zimbabwe for a one-party state. BBC

USA—Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker told the Senate Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism that 60% of the support for the African National Congress (ANC) and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) came from the Soviet bloc. RSA

5 April

Namibia—Meetings continued between British and American diplomats representing the five-nation Contact Group and the country's "internal" parties, to explain the new voting formula that would count each vote twice for constituencies represented on a proportional basis. Last week SWAPO noted that such special voting systems are designed to help the internal parties to secure seats which they would not normally get in an election. SWAPO again called for an international conference to settle the issue of Namibian independence. VOA

Angola—Jonas Savimbi, leader of UNITA, said he had had positive talks with the Western Contact Group and that UNITA must be consulted in talks on Namibia. RSA

6 April

South Africa—The government denied Angolan accusations that South Africa is mounting new raids in preparation for a major offensive with a force of 20,000 troops now massing on its border. BBC

Angola—Jonas Savimbi of UNITA said he held two Soviet pilots as prisoners, in addition to the Portuguese prisoners recently released. Savimbi also claimed there were clashes last week between UNITA and SWAPO forces in which 50 SWAPO guerrillas were killed. BBC

Zimbabwe—Prime Minister Robert Mugabe told whites who are leaving the country at the rate of 1500 a month, that they are needed in the new nation and have a role in government. BBC

7 April

South Africa—Four members of the ANC, including Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu, were removed from Robben Island last week to Pollsbrook Prison near Cape Town. Speculation as to the reason ranged from the country's abandonment of the island as a high security prison for political prisoners, to the success of Mandela's political education of other Robben Island prisoners. RSA

South Africa—The Christian Science Monitor reported that the South African economy had weakened, both as a result of general conditions and because of the reduced gold price. Black, it said, would bear the brunt of the hardships expected to ensue. VOA

South Africa—The ANC radio reported a military buildup of South African troops on the Mozambique and Zimbabwe borders and quoted Defense Minister Magnus Malan as saying that Mozambique is involving itself more and more in the "general onslaught" against South Africa. BBC

8 April

Botswana—Already suffering from a severe drought, Botswana is complaining of South Africa's diversion of a river in the Bophuthatswana bantustan. VOA

Zimbabwe—The Republican Front (formerly Rhodesian Front) party won a by-election in which only 13% of voters participated. BBC

Mozambique—The Minister of State Security accused South Africa of arming, training and directing the rebel National Resistance Movement (NRM) and of planning to sabotage the oil pipeline that provides Zimbabwean oil. BBC

11 April

South Africa—Reports in the Johannesburg Sunday Times concerning the possible imminent release of Nelson Mandela were firmly denied by the government. BBC

12 April

Namibia—Reverend Albertus Maasdorff, Secretary of the Namibian Council of Churches, complained bitterly of the detention without trial and disappearance of dissidents in Namibia. Maasdorff said appeals had been made to the South African government and Prime Minister Botha without any answer or effect. He said there was much evidence of torture by South African forces, including a case of a man burned alive, and that Namibians feared the South African Defense Force (SADF) far more than SWAPO. BBC

13 April

South Africa—A six-week adjournment of the inquest into the death of labor organizer Neil Aggett was granted to police in order to allow them time to appeal the magistrate's ruling that a statement by Aggett be part of the proceedings. The statement, made by Aggett 14 hours before he was discovered hanged in his cell, charges that he was tortured with electric shock and assaulted by police. Maurice Smithers, allegedly a witness to some of Aggett's mistreatment, was placed under a banning order, and therefore may not be able to testify. Smithers is the eighth detainee recently banned. BBC, VOA

Seychelles—Martin Dolinchek, a former member of the South African Intelligence Service, confessed that he had given a full account of the proposal for a coup in the Seychelles to Major General Charles Lloyd, senior SADF officer in Namibia. RSA

South Africa—According to the Washington Post, the South African diamond and mineral empire controlled by Harry Oppenheimer has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in North American coal, uranium, gold, copper and other mineral companies. Oppenheimer is said to have transferred resources of over $200 million to a Bermuda subsidiary in order to circumvent South African restrictions on export of funds. Over the past two years South Africa has been one of the biggest foreign investors in American business. VOA

USA—The Washington Post reported that two American firms enabled South Africa to obtain enriched uranium in defiance of the US government arms embargo. Edlo International of Washington DC and SWAKO of Rockville MD aided South Africa in purchasing 100 tons of enriched uranium from Switzerland, Belgium, and France, to be used in its nuclear plants at Koeberg, near Cape Town. VOA

Namibia—South Africa sees the appointment of Mishra of India as Director of the UN Council on Namibia as a provocative act, and refuses to recognize either him or the Council on Namibia. RSA

South Africa—Prime Minister Botha acknowledged the request of Seychelles President Rene for clemency for three ANC members sentenced to death for high treason and attempted murder. The three men—Tsepo Mashigo, 20, Naphtali Manana, 24, and Ntshimbidzi Lubisi, 25—took part in an attack on the Soweto police station, a center for forced removals of Africans. On 8 April the UN Security Council passed a unanimous resolution calling for the sentences to be commuted. RSA, VOA

Botswana—South Africa said it was puzzled by Brigadier Ian Khamo's allegations of South African kidnapings and violations of Botswana airspace. RSA

14 April

Namibia—US Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker said he did not rule out the possibility of an international conference on Namibia at an appropriate time. VOA
15 April
USA—The US government stated that US corporations could arrange uranium sales to South Africa legally, even though the government itself cannot sell enriched uranium to South Africa until South Africa adheres to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. BBC

Mozambique—Abel Fernandez, spokesman for the NRM, said a joint Zimbabwe-Mozambique military offensive was being mounted against the NRM. He also said the NRM was threatening Zimbabwe's access to the sea. RSA

16 April
Namibia—Six SADF soldiers were killed and two SWAPO guerrillas were killed in a fracas between security forces and a SWAPO group from a white farming area 20 km. inside Namibia from Angola. The guerrillas are usually well armed. BBC, VOA

Zimbabwe—Two whites who had resigned from the Republican Front party, Chris Anderson and John Landau, were brought into the Cabinet. The 32-member Cabinet now has three whites and four ZAPU members. RSA

17 April
South Africa—a small splinter party set up by former information Minister Comelius Mulder plans to merge with Andries Treurnicht's new Conservative Party. BBC

19 April
Angola—Portuguese President Eanes, on his state visit, met with Sam Nujoma of SWAPO and said that Portugal would be willing to contribute troops to a UN force in Namibia. Eanes, the first Western head of state to visit Angola, earlier condemned South Africa's attacks on Angola and expressed strong support for the UN plan for Namibia. VOA, BBC

South Africa—The trial of the alleged hijackers of an Air India plane from the Seychelles may be postponed, in the wake of revelations by confessed South African spy Martin Dolinchek. Dolinchek, on trial in the Seychelles, turned state's evidence and gave "high-voltage shocks" by testifying that the South African government knew about the proposed coup in the Seychelles and provided captured weapons to support it. Two South African National Intelligence Service agents were sent secretly to the Seychelles to gauge the damage caused by Dolinchek's testimony. The agents were discovered after attempting to bribe a Seychelles army major to get the relevant information, but escaped police capture. Dolinchek reportedly traded his knowledge about South African involvement in return for political asylum in the Seychelles. VOA, BBC

Namibia—Seven SADF soldiers and at least two civilians were killed in a clash with SWAPO guerrillas. At least 45 SWAPO guerrillas are south of the "red" line separating the "white" farming area from the northern "black" areas. The SADF had led people to believe that SWAPO bases had been destroyed, a statement which seemed to correlate with Jonas Savimbi's claim that southern Angola was under UNITA control, but the new SWAPO offensive appears to prove that the Savimbi claim was a publicity stunt and that SADF claims are not always reliable. BBC

20 April
Botswana—President Maire pardoned the South African refugees who had been sentenced to 18 months each for kidnapping one of the kidnappers of Peter Langeni, a senior member of the South African Youth Revolutionary Council, in order to obtain information about Langeni's whereabouts. BBC

21 April
Namibia—The Administrator General traveled to the Tsumeb district now under SWAPO attack. Nine security people and five civilians have apparently been killed in this SWAPO offensive, the biggest in the 16-year war in Namibia. General Charles Lloyd, the South African commanding officer, had also visited the area to reassure the local farmers. A major SADF attack is being mounted against SWAPO in the Tsumeb area. VOA

South Africa—F.W. de Klerk, the new Nationalist Party leader in the Transvaal, said that Coloureds must be raised from second-class to first-class citizens without endangering the whites. RSA

22 April
South Africa—Minister of Defense Magnus Malan said that he might authorize military raids deeper in Angola in view of SWAPO's current "suicide mission" in Namibia. Similar missions might be launched against South Africa, he said, so it was necessary to develop army units which could locate tanks and transport them. VOA

23 April
Angola—The government said it would use Cuban troops against South Africa if it was necessary to do so to defend itself. VOA

Swaziland—The Rand Daily Mail reported that according to South African spy Martin Dolinchek, South Africa plans to destabilize Tanzania from the Seychelles. BBC

24 April
The African Medical Association withdrew from the World Medical Association because of South Africa's readmission to that body. VOA

Zimbabwe—Minister of State for Security Munangagwa said that two South African soldiers had been detained after fleeing from murder charges in Namibia.

David van der Heever, 27, and Theuris Erasmus Kruger, 29, were wanted for the murder of a chief in Namibia and apparently also for a robbery. VOA

27 April
Mozambique—Mozambique and Portugal reached a military cooperation agreement which will include Portugal's training and equipping of the Mozambiquan army. VOA

South Africa—A 1981 market survey published in the Johannesburg Sunday Times revealed that 50% of Afrikaners are willing to accept reform in the apartheid system, while 30% prefer the status quo. Two-thirds of English-speaking South Africans support reform. Nearly half the urban Coloured and African population would condemn "terrorism" to force change. VOA

Botsuana—The government complained to South Africa about border violations that occurred when South African troops crossed from Namibia's Caprivi Strip area and clashed with Botsuana troops. RSA

28 April
South Africa—A delegation from the Detainees' Parents Support Committee met with Minister of Justice Coetze and Minister of Police LeGrange seeking reassurances on the treatment of detainees and the alleged use of torture. They also objected to the removal of detainees from their cells to isolated areas for interrogation. BBC

29 April
South Africa—Three members of the banned ANC, including prominent attorney Patrick Makoela, face 57 counts of contravening South African security laws. The charges include sabotage, attempted murder, the bombing of a Defense Force recruiting office, and conspiracy with4, ukhunde se Sizak, the military wing of the ANC, with the aim of overthrowing the government by violence. They were also accused of aiding a program whereby certain men would leave the country for military training. Makoela allegedly served as a liaison in Durban between the ANC in Swaziland and people in Durban. BBC

30 April
Botsuana—A communique was issued after the three-hour meeting of Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda and South African Prime Minister P.W. Botha, saying that the two men had had a frank exchange of views on the problems of the area. Namibian independence and internal affairs in South Africa were discussed, as Kaunda had wished. It was speculated that South Africa may have agreed to curb invasions against SWAPO guerrillas in Angola in return for pressure on SWAPO by Angola and Zambia. Some blackANC leaders had been skeptical of the talks, even suggesting that they would be used by Botha to bolster his image at home. President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania recently criticized the meeting indirectly, saying that no leader from outside South Africa could speak on behalf of black South Africans. BBC

Zimbabwe—The all-white Democratic Party of Zimbabwe, formed a year ago in an effort to improve relations with the country's black government, was disbanded. Party leader Andre Holland, who led the party's split from the Republican Front party, said the decision came after his party lost three parliamentary by-elections to the Republican Front. BBC

South Africa—Fears mounted over the health of Walter Sisulu, one-time Secretary General of the ANC, now serving a life sentence under the terrorism laws. Sisulu, in his mid-sixties, underwent an operation in the Groote Schuur hospital in Cape Town, following a series of tests on 22-23 April. The hospitalization came soon after he and three other political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela, were transferred from Robben Island to the mainland. BBC

Namibia—South African security forces launched follow-up operations against a group of about 40 SWAPO insurgents who crossed the border from Angola this week. The commanding officer of Military Sector 10 said three terrorists had been killed in a clash with security forces in eastern Okahandja. RSA

Zambia—The Zambian delegation came away from the meeting between Kenneth Kaunda and F.W. Botha convinced that South Africa intends to give up its rule in Namibia and that the current deadlock is caused simply by a failure to find the right formula for the handover of power. Kaunda had sought to allay Botha's fears that a SWAPO government in Namibia would mean another Communist state on South Africa's borders. BBC

1 May
Angola—Soviet Defense Minister Leonid Ilyichev left Luanda after a four-day official visit. Ilyichev said the Soviet Union would provide Angola with political and military support to guarantee its territorial integrity, and he repeated the Soviet Union's hostility to American backing of South African military action against Angola. BBC

2 May
South Africa—A trial within the trial of Oscar Mpetha and 18 other charged with
murder and terrorism has run for five months and could be the longest trial of its
kind yet held in South Africa. The trial-within-a-trial is to test the admissibility of
statements made by certain of the defendants before they were brought to court.
The trial as a whole began fourteen months ago. Cape Times
Angola—the Angolan news service reported three killed and eight wounded
when a South African Air Force plane attacked a civilian vehicle in southern
Angola last week. The Defense Ministry has accused South Africa of speeding up
military preparations for a new full-scale war against Angola. BBC

3 May
Namibia—Fifty-four SWAPO guerillas, 16 South African soldiers and 6 civilians
have so far been killed in a SWAPO offensive now in its third week. The attack has
penetrated the “white” Tsumeb farming block, and 70 guerrillas are believed to be
hidden in mountains in the Otave district south of the Tsumeb. BBC

5 May
Zambia—Forty-seven member states of the Organization of African Unity (OAU)
attempted a meeting of the African Development Bank in Lusaka. US Treasury
Secretary Donald Regan said the Reagan Administration was seeking Congressional
appropriations of $1.3 billion for multilateral development banks next year. The US
has applied for membership in the African Development Bank. VOA

South Africa—Colonel Mike Hoare, leader of the attempted coup in the
Seychelles, testified that he had not been told his plan had government support but that
he never spoke to Prime Minister Botha regarding it. Hoare claimed the National
Intelligence Service had told him the matter had been taken out of his hands. He also
said the SADF had provided him with Russian-made weapons for the attempt, and
that two brigadiers had told him that any weapons used should be of Communist
origin. Hoare also said the CIA was informed of the plan. BBC

Swaziland—South Africa’s offer of territory in the kwazulu bantustan to
Swaziland reveals an attempt to woo Swaziland into its constellation of states. If the
Swazis gain certain parts of kwazulu, Swaziland would gain a sea route to the Indian
Ocean of great economic value. It is also believed that South Africa would rather
have exports from the Transvaal travel through Swaziland than by way of the
Mozambikan ports of Maputo and Beira. BBC

6 May
Kenya—Kenya’s Foreign Minister, representing President Moi, said the Front-Line
States felt they had become a “response mechanism” in the Namibia negotiations.
He said the phase by phase approach seemed to be taking an inordinate amount of
time. A SWAPO statement today charged that the Contact Group had deliberately
discouraged South Africa from withdrawing its forces from Namibia. VOA

South Africa—Responding to threats of renewed black protest, the government
plans to station a permanent riot squad in Soweto. The Department of Community
Development intends to spend R1.7 million for the riot squad and for security
police in the township. A larger R3 million project is planned to build large prisons
and other quarters, and R800,000 of this has already been spent. BBC

South Africa—Three leaders of the 20,000-member black South African Allied
Workers Union (SAAWU) were charged under the Terrorism Act: Thozamile
Gweta, its President, Sam Kikine, its General Secretary, and Sisa Nklangula, its
national organizer. Gweta was initially released from detention after receiving
psychiatric treatment, but was detained again and flown to Johannesburg to stand
trial. The three will be tried under the same act with three other detainees: Barbara
Hogan, Cedric Mayson, and Alan Morris. A few hours earlier, two other black
unionists were released: Emma Mashinini, General Secretary of the Commercial
Workers Union (SAAWU), and Rita Ndabanga, Organizing Secretary of the
General and Allied Workers Union. Linder Guardian

Angola—UNITA admitted that its forces killed the Mother Superior of a Portugese
Catholic mission in an attack last month near the coastal town of Nova
Redondo. BBC

7 May
South Africa—About 2500 workers lost their jobs this week in labor disputes.
About 1000 workers were fired at a metal plant in the Transvaal after they rejected
management’s wage offer for the second time. On 5 May over 1500 workers who
had been on a 2-day work stoppage were fired at a textile company in Natal. More
than 600 workers at a popular clothing store in Johannesburg have refused to return
to work until management finalizes negotiations with their union. VOA

South Africa—Two alleged ANC members appeared before a magistrate on
charges of high treason in connection with attacks on police stations and a power
plant over the past three years. The two men denied allegations that they joined the
ANC before undergoing military training in Angola, Tanzania, and East Germany. BBC

South Africa—Bishop Graham Chadwick, a resident of the Bophuthatswana
bantustan who earlier this year refused a permanent resident permit for South
Africa, said he was stopped by police after crossing the Bophuthatswana border and
travelling to Kimberley. Police said he would be detained if he again entered South
Africa without permission, even if he needed to pass through South
Africa to reach other parts of the bantustan. BBC

8 May
South Africa—The Rand Daily Mail said the police seized documents from its
premises and from those of two other newspapers which related to claims by
cartistes in South Africa. The document was a spy dossier which had been
published in the Daily Dispatch that showed officers of the SADF and
the Intelligence Service were well informed of last year’s coup attempt in the
Seychelles before it took place. BBC

South Africa—J. P. Coetzee, Director General of the Justice Department, reported
that between July 1980 and June 1981 the daily averaged prison population in
South Africa was 104,622, the highest in the history of the country. Star Weekly
(Johannesburg)
Namibia—SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma said in a radio interview that the Western powers would like to see a "kind of bantustan government in Namibia, where their companies would continue to exploit Namibian mineral wealth." Nujoma said he was ready to talk "face to face" with the South African regime. 

9 May
South Africa—The Foreign Ministry denied reports that P.W. Botha would meet soon with SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma. The Portuguese news agency said the two planned a meeting for later this month. VOA

Namibia—Dirk Mudge, leader of the South-African-supported SWAPO guerrillas, said prospects for a ceasefire and UN-supervised elections were receding. He told a rally in Windhoek an election should be held as soon as possible, in spite of the recent SWAPO rejection. Mudge said British and American officials had told him there was little hope of the UN Resolution on Namibia succeeding. BBC

Canada—SWAPO spokesperson Hidipo Hamutenya said in Ottawa recently that US Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker had worked out "electoral proposals" with South African officials that favored Namibia's white settlers and had imposed them on other members of the Western Contact Group. BBC

10 May
South Africa—Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs deKlerk said the delays in commissioning the Koereb nuclear plants were due to difficulties in acquiring nuclear fuel, and that delays should be expected in commissioning the first nuclear power station to be built in Africa. deKlerk said South Africa was given consideration to signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. BBC

11 May
South Africa—Prime Minister Botha announced his country had exchanged a "Soviet spy" for a South African soldier and eight Western intelligence agents. The Soviet spy, Major Alexski Koslov, had been held in South Africa for nearly two years. Botha said Koslov's task had been to assess the effect of like Soviet-oriented "terrorist" groups such as the ANC and SWAPO. The South African soldier, Jan van der Merwe, had been held prisoner in Angola after his capture by SWAPO guerrillas four years ago. Botha said the others were 8 very important Western agents who had been held behind the Iron Curtain for a long period of time. The Rand Daily Mail said the exchange had taken place in West Berlin and that a number of Israelis, a Briton, and a Frenchman were among the Western agents released. BBC

South Africa—Minister of Justice Coetzee denied categorically that South Africa was considering holding secret trials of people held under security legislation. He said South Africa does not hold political trials. Coetzee denied that the Department of Justice was in "chaos and disorder," as had been reported. BBC

South Africa—The Minister of Law and Ordertold students at Stellenbosch University that it was necessary to show strength in the face of the enemy, that coloured people were treated with every regard for their human dignity.

South Africa—Most of the members of the legislative assembly of kwazululu were said to oppose the violent strategies of the ANC. Citing the ANC's use of explosives, the kwazulu Minister of the Interior said "black" had been used in black areas and that "white" had been used by black people, and that deaths were being caused by people claiming to be ANC members. BBC

12 May
South Africa—The 60-member President's Council, set up to recommend changes in the Constitution, officially released its proposals, which include the extension of political rights to Coloureds and Asians. Some Asian, mixed-race, and black leaders described the proposals as an attempt to draw the 3½ million Coloured and Asian people into an alliance with the more than 4 million whites. White opposition leader Reinhold van Zyl Slabbert said the recommendations were repugnant but that the government should be praised for "refinement" of South African security laws and then reenacts their main provisions, "but that the South African regime."

South Africa—Minister of Justice Coetzee denied categorically that South Africa was considering holding secret trials of people held under security legislation. He said South Africa does not hold political trials. Coetzee denied that the Department of Justice was in "chaos and disorder," as had been reported. BBC

13 May
Zimbabwe—Two of the four whites found guilty in the Bulawayo High Court of various charges of "conspiracy and sabotage" attempted to flee the courtroom after the verdict. The accused men, former members of the Rhodesian security forces, apparently tried to destroy key installations to provoke an uprising against the government, with the aim of forcing the secession of Matabeleland. They are Francis Bertrand, 58, Victor Radmore, 53, Stephen Bertrand, 24, and Alan Cauvin, 21. BBC

Mozambique—President Samora Machel took credit for rehabilitating rather than killing a thousand Mozambiquans who had voluntarily joined the repressive colonial apparatus which fought the Frelimo government when it was still a guerrilla movement. It was claimed that despite their treachery, these people were nevertheless victims of colonialism. London Guardian
USA—Two Britons—Peter Towers, 51, and John Parks, 43—pleaded guilty to taking part in a scheme to smuggle weapons to South Africa. Towers and Parks were arrested in May 1981 at the Houston airport as they allegedly loaded $1.2 million worth of weapons aboard an Austrian jet. London Guardian

USA—The US took steps to ease restrictions on the sale of nuclear-related material to South Africa. The South Africans recently submitted a new request for a renewal of enriched uranium supplies needed for the new Koeberg nuclear power station near Cape Town. Supplies were cut off in 1976 because of South Africa's refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to agree to international safeguards. South Africa will now be able to acquire a small quantity of helium-3, usable for making tritium, a form of hydrogen used in thermonuclear weapons. BBC, VOA

South Africa—Mrs. Albertina Sisulu reported receiving a flood of birthday congratulations from all over the world on the occasion of her husband Walter Sisulu's 70th birthday. He is serving a life prison term. Rand Daily Mail

20 May

South Africa—Legal experts said South Africa's Appeals Court indirectly found the Terrorism Act and the Internal Security Bill now before Parliament to be in conflict with accepted Western principles of justice. The court upheld an appeal by Wilford Marwane against his conviction under the Terrorism Act on the grounds that the Act was inconsistent with the Declaration of Fundamental Rights in the Constitution of Bophuthatswana. Marwane was found guilty under the Terrorism Act in 1979 and sentenced to 15 years in prison by the Bophuthatswana Supreme Court. BBC

21 May

South Africa—The government has been deluged by appeals to halt the death sentences of three ANC members convicted for their role in the attack on the Soekmekaar Police Station. Appeals have come from the UN Security Council, US Senators and Congresspersons, the American Bar Association, the National Council of Churches and a number of lawyers' organizations. Tsepo Mashigo, 20, Naphatli Manana, 24, and Ntombihi Lubisi, 28, were convicted of high treason on 20 November 1980. BBC

24 May

South Africa—The government released figures saying that 175,000 schoolchildren dropped out of school in 1981 without having learned to read and write, and that a further 160,000 were only semiliterate after finishing school. The Association of Chambers of Commerce (ASSOCOM) and the University of Witwatersrand have urged the formation of a single Ministry of Education to deal with the problem. Rand Daily Mail

South Africa—Police arrested five members of the Azanian National Youth Unity (AZANYU) on 21 May: Mfana Mtshali, AZANYU's chair in Krugersdorp, Sipho Michigan, an organizer, Sipho Ngcobo, National General Secretary, and two other AZANYU members. Rand Daily Mail. The Star

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IDAF has three objectives:

1. to aid, defend and rehabilitate the victims of unjust legislation and oppressive and arbitrary procedures,
2. to support their families and dependents,
3. to keep the conscience of the world alive to the issues at stake.

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USA—The Johannesburg Star reported that South Africa was shipping missiles from the Cape Town airport to Argentina in crates marked Tractor Parts. A government official refused to comment, but said that South Africa had given Britain a guarantee that no Exocet missiles would be delivered to Argentina. Defense Minister Magnus Malan said later that South Africa had not supplied or sold Argentina any missiles or Mirage aircraft since 1980. BBC, London Guardian

25 May

South Africa—South Africa's annual rate of inflation rose to 15.66% in April, reaching its highest level since 1920. The government has declared that food prices will continue to increase, and leading trade unions have called on the government to consider raising food subsidies or abolishing the sales tax on essential foods. The president of the Black Housewives' League declared that the increase in food prices would mean starvation for many Africans. Reuters

South Africa—The absolute difference between the earnings of whites and those of other population groups widened in 1981. Rand Daily Mail

South Africa—The ANC claimed responsibility for the bombing of government offices in Durban, the third blast in four days. The Department of Defence and the Department of Coloured Affairs offices were damaged. BBC

26 May

Zimbabwe—Minister of State for Security Munangagwa accused South Africa of staging border incidents in order to provoke war. He cited two incidents last week, one in which South Africans fired across the border, killing a woman, and the other in which 15 South African soldiers crossed a river and abducted several women, who were later released. BBC

29 May

South Africa—Authorities announced they had established a committee to look into allegations of Security Force atrocities against Namibian civilians. The investigative committee will consist of officials drawn from the SADF, South African police, local authorities and tribal leaders. [None will be independent of the government.] RSA

31 May

Mozambique—Portuguese sources said that last week Mozambique mounted a major offensive against the rebel NRM. VOA

USA—Senator Nancy Kassebaum, chair of the US Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Africa, and other influential Senators entered a public protest in the Congressional Record, against the South African government's refusal to restore a passport to Bishop Desmond Tutu. General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches, Tutu was to have received an honorary degree from Columbia University on 20 May. New York Times