

# CIVIL



# RIGHTS



Box 3807

Cape Town

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News Letter

Have you booked these dates?

In a special notice sent out recently we told our readers in the Cape Peninsula and vicinity of two forthcoming events which should not be missed - namely, the Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Race Relations on September 16 (speaker, Dr Edgar H. Brookes; venue, Clifford Storey (Methodist) Hall, Main Road, Rosebank) and our own A.G.M. on October 14 (speaker, Alan Paton; venue, Claremont Civic Centre); both at 8 p.m. Come and bring your friends. All are welcome at both meetings.

A new movement

A Citizens' Action Committee has been formed in Cape Town to draw public attention to the cost in human terms of apartheid - group areas, job reservation, separate amenities, pass laws, endorsing out, lack of voice in the country's government. As the "Cape Times" says, there is "only sporadic evidence of what all this means in terms of the happiness, dignity, sense of security and loyalty of human beings", and it is surely highly desirable that the facts should be brought home to our white citizens, who are themselves so little affected by them.

The Committee is organising a petition to the State President on these matters, and help in "manning" tables is urgently needed from 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. on September 11-14, in central Cape Town. Any who can do even an hour are asked to phone the Secretary of the League at 2-7020 and she will hand their names on to the organisers. A public meeting is also planned, but at the time of writing the date is not settled. \* Watch the press. Anyone "manning" a table is welcome to bring a friend if desired. \* Sept. 13, Banqueting Hall, 12.45 p.m.

Facts and figures

The latest issue of that valuable magazine, "The Black Sash", gives staggering figures of enforced removal. At least 216,000 people have been moved under Group Areas in the Johannesburg area alone; at least 73,000 from "Black Spots"; at least 9,250 were to be moved in Natal alone before August this year; at least 219,000 people were endorsed out between 1959 and 1965 from only

a few of the main urban areas; at least 203,500 people from the urban areas have been resettled in the "homelands" - and this is probably an under-estimate.

Says the magazine, "This contempt for human beings, the arrogance of this kind of government action is beyond belief, yet the misery and bitterness is there for all to see. Some of these removals are carried out with no concern whatsoever for the welfare of the people involved. There are many bleak and arid "re-settlement villages", many transit camps and emergency camps where conditions are appalling and which are totally unsuited to the establishment of any community. Even if conditions are or could be improved, the principle involved is not affected."

It quotes a saying of our own Prime Minister in a different context: "but you must not try to take a man's home away from him" (referring, no doubt, like his predecessor, to members of "the white nation").

We hope the new Committee will manage to bring home the truth of the Prime Minister's statement as applying to all South Africans - and to bring it home not least to the Prime Minister himself and his colleagues.

#### Relevant statistics ...

As we go to press Mr P.W. Botha, Minister of Defence, is reported as having informed the Cape Congress of the Nationalist Party that "more than 90 per cent of the White population now supported the principle of separate development".

The Minister, we note, did not inform his audience what percentage of the non-white population supported the same principle. Or doesn't that matter?

#### Separate - but ...

The Cape Divisional Council is reported as planning "a first-class Coloured seaside resort" in an area midway between Blouberg Strand and Melkbos Strand to serve the large Coloured communities of Bonteheuwel, Bishop Lavis, Elsie's River and Tiervlei. The Chairman said this site would be "within economic reach" of most of these communities, and that it had good road access and laid-out water.

A week or so after this was announced, the combined executive of the ratepayers' associations of Blouberg and Melkbosstrand declined to associate itself with this proposal. This body said that a resort for White people was expected to be estab-

lished between the two townships and that a Coloured beach such as that suggested would be "impracticable" and "not in the interests of the Coloured people" as it would lead to future friction. It will be interesting to see how the Government copes with this difference of opinion.

#### That Hermanus cinema ...

It is reported that the cinema at Hermanus, which has been open to both Whites and Non-Whites for the past forty years, has been closed to Non-Whites by the Department of Community Development - against the wishes of the manager and with a resulting increase in price to Whites to cover the loss of revenue.

It is expected, says the report, that other surrounding towns will be forced to do likewise in the near future.

Local ratepayers have protested and have pointed out that the Coloured people had a separate seating area and that many White patrons were not even aware of their presence in the cinema.

It might also be noted that the Department of Community Development apparently took no steps to provide a substitute for this amenity before withdrawing it. It has been left to a local resident to start cinema shows for Non-Whites in the adjacent Coloured township.

One of our own members wrote to the "Cape Times" pointing out that the cinema was a necessary amenity for the servants of visitors as well as for the local Coloured population, who already have to go to Hawston (more than five miles away) in order to enjoy beach facilities.

No wonder the Citizens' Action Committee does not believe that White South Africans can realise the injustices being perpetrated in the name of "separate development".

#### Stirrings of conscience

Every now and then there comes a stirring in unofficial Nationalist circles which suggests that some consciences at least are uneasy, though it never attains political effectiveness. Thus the Editor of the Sunday paper "Dagbreek en Landstem" recently called upon his readers to "think further" about the future of the Coloured people - "what we intend to do with them", in his own frank phrase - though he does not oppose "separate development", and makes no really practical proposals.

More positive was the contribution to a recent symposium at U.C.T. by Professor N.J.J. Olivier of Stellenbosch. "The Coloured people are as much Afrikaners as I am," he declared.

Professor Olivier said he could not accept the Government's policy towards the Coloured people. "They have been politically emasculated and socially rejected. The policy regarding the Coloured people is one based entirely on discrimination - I cannot deny that the basic principle underlying that policy is one based on colour". Any policy so based, he said, was "morally indefensible and, in the long run, untenable". He described the removal of Coloured representation from Parliament as "one of the most unwise things we have done", and said that the exclusion of the Coloured students from the "open" universities did not make sense to him.

The Whites, said Professor Olivier, "would eventually realise that the Bantustan system of multi-nations within a nation did not apply to the Coloured people".

We are grateful for his clarity of vision and for his courage on this point: and we hope that some day he will realise that (in spite of geographical facilities for implementing them) the Bantustan idea is just as "morally indefensible" and ultimately untenable as are "Colouredstans".

#### "Right" protest

Widely differing opinions have been expressed as to the desirability of the recent "sit-in" at U.C.T. over the Government's interference with the appointment of an African as a lecturer in Social Anthropology. Judging by press reports, the protest was conducted in a dignified and seemly manner and had at least the permission of the University Council. But there is a strange naïveté about the views of the Stellenbosch S.R.C. chairman (newly elected to that office). He believes there are "proper channels" for "reaching higher authority", and that it is "important that in your protest you represent the majority view".

From twenty years of experience, we are driven to the conclusion that traditional approaches through "proper channels" have little effect. And why should not a minority protest?

#### Professor Cowen

One hesitates to accuse so eminent a person as Professor Cowen of naïveté: but it is difficult to understand what good purpose he expects to be served by his giving evidence about student activities to a government commission. The Tomlinson Commission and that on "improper interference" have proved that any evidence not agreeing with government views will be ignored.

C I V I L   R I G H T S   L E A G U E  
( C A P E   T O W N )

Phone 2-7020  
Box 3807

527 C.T.C. Building  
Plein Street

September 6, 1968

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the Civil Rights League (which also celebrates our twentieth anniversary) will be held in

The Claremont Civic Centre

on Monday, October 14, 1968 at 8 p.m.

To mark our twentieth anniversary we are glad to announce that we have secured as guest speaker DR ALAN PATON. Members are urged to bring their friends to this important occasion and to make it as widely known as they can.

Notices of motion for the meeting, if any, should be in the hands of the Secretary not later than Monday, October 7.

Nominations for the Committee for the forthcoming year, which must be in writing, and be proposed and seconded by members of the League, and which in the case of new nominees must be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee to accept nomination, should also reach the Secretary by Monday, October 7.

The members of the existing committee named below are all eligible for re-election, but further nominations would be very warmly welcomed. The maximum number to be elected under the Constitution is 24. Should more than 24 nominations be received, a ballot will be held at the annual general meeting.

PRESENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Miss A. M. Allen	Rev. T.F. Kime
Mrs D. Andrews	Miss L. Lückhoff
Professor B. Beinart	Mr G. Rodger
Mrs M. Birt	Mr C.A.G. Scott
Mr J. G. Foxcroft	Mrs M.B. Stoy
Mrs W.F. Grant	Mr R. Suttner
Mrs B. M. Grieve	Mr D. Welsh
Mr K. Hughes	Dr O. D. Wollheim, M.P.C.

NOTES

1. The Annual Report will be circulated to members with the October issue of the News Letter. To save time, it will be proposed at the meeting that this be taken as read.
2. Mr Francis Wilson of the Economics Department of the University of Cape Town has agreed to propose a vote of thanks to Mr Paton.

MOYA