

CIVIL

Box 3807



PC16/21/7/11

RIGHTS



Cape Town

News Letter

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Attention all members

For the benefit particularly of those who cannot attend our annual meetings, we give some relevant information about our subscription rate.

1. Minimum: Our minimum subscription of 50 cents has remained unchanged since our foundation in 1948. We have kept it at this increasingly uneconomic figure because we do not wish to exclude anyone who cannot pay more. We greatly appreciate our "fifty-centers" and would be very sorry to lose any of them. Fortunately we have always had a fairly high proportion of members who add a donation to the minimum and thus help us to carry on. For this invaluable help we wish to express, once again, our deep appreciation.
 2. Postage: Until a few years ago the charge was one cent surface mail. It is now 2c inland, 4c overseas, and in the latter case devaluation may increase it further.
 3. Paper and printing: The rising price of these (especially of the paper) is a substantial item in the cost of the news letter. Stationery such as envelopes has, of course, also increased in price.
 4. Receipts: We send with the news letter a receipt for every subscription received so as to assure the sender that it has arrived safely. If you do not get one in a reasonable time, please let us know details of payment (method and date). Overseas members are asked to make their payments as nearly as possible the South African amount, as we will otherwise lose on exchange.
 5. Sub. reminders: Because we receive such a variety of amounts and because senders do not always specify the period they wish their amount to cover, we send a reminder every year showing the last amount sent and how we have allocated it. This leaves the individual member free to decide what to send us. Ordinarily, the period an annual subscription is intended to cover is the current calendar year. It would help us if members would always specify the period to be covered by their subscription.
 6. Address: Please inform us promptly of any changes.
- Our warm thanks to those from whom we have already received

subs for 1972, to whom receipts are being sent.

And now - over to you! See enclosed sub. reminder.

How do they exist? (Argus, 4/12/71)

Recently an "Argus" reporter visited a "transit old age home" at Guguletu which houses eighteen elderly Africans. Here are some of the facts she found out:

* The maximum pension for Africans is R5.75 a month - R69 a year (for Europeans it is R38 and for Coloured people R18). Though each resident gets three issues of bread and meat a week, they say they have to spend their whole pension on food. (If they get no pension, they have a weekly food parcel from the Board of Aid.)

* There are only three old age homes for Africans in South Africa and only one of these, at Peddie, is in the Cape Province. This home is full. The people at Guguletu are waiting for vacancies. Some have been waiting since 1968. Most of them do not want to go to Peddie, where they would probably know nobody.

* Africans can receive pensions on in the area where they are qualified to live. They can, in addition, receive them in Cape Town only if they have accommodation with families or friends. If they cannot find such accommodation within a month they are asked whether they wish to be resettled; but in fact they have to be - there is no permanent accommodation for them in the Western Cape.

The reporter interviewed one woman, qualified to be in Cape Town, who had gone to Peddie but had come back. She preferred her daughter's house, even with seven noisy grandchildren, to the Old Age Home at Peddie.

With the ever-increasing cost of living, it becomes urgent that African pensions should be revised. And surely, in the name of humanity, the "transit old age home" at Guguletu could be made permanent? We have seen several instances of our Government allowing temporary arrangements to become permanent in the labour market: why not in these circumstances as well?

Urban leaders and resettlement (Cape Times, 2/12/71)

It is significant that the urban representatives of two chiefs recently, in East London, condemned the resettlement policy. One said, "What is wanted is a policy which will allow those Africans who want to stay in the urban areas to do so. The towns and cities have been built by the blood and sweat of the Africans, who also have a claim to them."

People with homes in the rural areas should have the right, said this speaker, to stay in the urban areas if they wanted to. Whites, he said, were not debarred from having homes in more than one town and at the same time owning farms!

Another representative said that people had come to stay in the urban areas. Many were not interested in going to the homelands, where many had to depend on government grants which took months to get.

It must be somewhat disconcerting for the Government when Africans use platforms created by the Government itself to utter home truths like this.

Human Rights Day

December 10 did not pass unnoticed in Cape Town. The Black Sash held a stand in protest against continued detention without trial. The Cape Times, in a leading article, referred to the recent reaction by government speakers to criticism and concern by press and public about this system. "By implication," said the paper, "everyone who has voiced public concern is labelled subversive, wittingly or unwittingly a tool of communism... the gaol-without-trial provisions of the Terrorism Act, without absolutely watertight judicial safeguards against possible abuse, are ultimately self-defeating ... On Human Rights Day ... it is perhaps fitting to suggest that ultimate guarantees of peace and stability must be sought elsewhere. In a society which offers hope of a place in the sun for all, there is not much scope for agitators, communists and terrorists."

The Argus published extracts from a statement by the League examining "the implications of a few articles of the Declaration (of Human Rights) with the application of certain of our South African laws: for instance, migratory labour and the pass laws (Article 13); job reservation as against the right to free choice of employment, and different salary scales for the various groups as against equal pay for equal work (Article 23); arbitrary arrest and detention (Article 11).

We in our turn would like to pay tribute to the courage and persistence of our English-language press in challenging the Government and its members on these and other such issues.

A glimmer of realism (Cape Times, 31/12/71)

The Amenities Committee of our Cape Divisional Council has decided against setting aside separate toilets for the different race groups at Swartklip, which is used mainly by Coloured per-

sons, because it regards such a decision as "realistic and not racialistic" - even though some White fishermen go there with their wives and families. Fair enough: if the White people object, there are many other resorts at which they have exclusive occupation.

Our task too (Cape Times, 16/12/71)

Professor Nic Olivier of Stellenbosch recently told the members of National Youth Action, "No person can justify a policy of discrimination on the basis of colour, either in ethical or moral terms." Racial discrimination, he said, amounted to a denial of human dignity.

"There is evidence", said Professor Olivier, "of widespread colour prejudice in our society. This is something which has been in existence for a long time. The policies of the Nationalist Government are mainly based on attitudes and convictions which were held long before 1948."

But, he added, history never provided a justification for the continuation of an existing situation. It was the task of organisations such as National Youth Action to challenge history.

More power to his elbow - and that of NYA.

Let us forget *(Vol. 3 No. 2 - 14/1/72)

In its latest News Letter, *NUSAS gives details as far as known about the aftermath of the October 24 reads, including the following:

Known to have been detained -	43
Known to be still in detention -	21
Released without charge -	16
Charged under security laws	4
Released after admission of guilt	1 (drug charge)
Died in detention -	1

The 43 included 2 lecturers, 13 students and one former member of the NUSAS National Executive. One lecturer and four students are still in jail.

The Minister of Police has refused to clear publicly the names of people (such as Dr David Welsh and Dr Francis Wilson) whose homes were searched (about 160 in all) on what the warrants called "reasonable grounds for believing" that they were in possession of goods and documents relating to serious offences, in what the Prime Minister called "a comprehensive and serious investigation in connection with terrorism and sabotage".