

DC16/5/2/6/57

P.O. Box 71,

Hilton, 3245.



2nd December, 1978

The Editor,
The Daily News, 8 *Widener*
P.O. Box 1491,
DURBAN.

Sir,

The knives are out for Bishop Tutu and the South African Council of Churches. Why?

As I understand the transcript of his recent interview on television what Bishop Tutu is saying on his and the SACC's behalf is roughly this:

- 1) There are young people in South Africa who cannot afford to pay for the education they would like to have. We think we should help them.
- 2) There are communities, urban and rural, which want to develop themselves by their own efforts, but haven't the resources to get started. We think we should help them.
- 3) There are people who are charged with political crimes, of which they ^{may} or may not be guilty, who cannot afford a proper defence in court. We think we ^{should} help them to ~~have~~ have such a proper defence.
- 4) There are women and children whose family breadwinners are detained, or on trial, or in gaol, and who cannot manage on their own. We think we should help them.

If we no longer believe these things are proper activities for churchmen and church organisations perhaps we should ask ourselves, whatever became of that 'civilising mission' we said we were planted here in Southern Africa to carry out?

Or is it that we object to the fact that many of the people the SACC helps are black victims of our political laws? Shouldn't we be glad that the defence they are given establishes that many of them were never guilty at all?

And if others are, why should this be so? Could it be that, after hearing how their grandfathers and great-grandfathers pleaded in vain for their due rights in the land of their birth, and listening to their fathers doing the same, a growing number of young black people have had all they can take and are preparing now to fight for their rights, because they have finally decided that that is the only way they will ever get them? And if they have now reached that desperate point, whose fault will it be? Theirs? Or ours?

The other thing, of course, is that Bishop Tutu objects to what he calls the 'selective morality' of people who condemn the horrors of guerilla excesses ~~isakixakix~~ (as he does) while accepting with apparent satisfaction the killing of hundreds of people, including women and children, in raids carried out by the Rhodesian and South African security forces. I'm not sure what's wrong with that ~~XXXXXX~~ attitude of his either.

Yours faithfully,

P.M. Brown

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