

PC16/5/3/2/27
P.O. BOX 71,
MILTON,
244.

28th May, 1980.

The Editor,

*Wilson &
Daily News*

Sir,

I wonder what those responsible for the present wave of banning detentions and baton charges think they're going to achieve by it all? A new love for the Prime Minister, the police and Nationalist policies? It hasn't worked that way before.

One's mind goes back to post-Sharpeville 1960..... massive detentions, baton-wielding police out in force in Cape Town, protest marches and arrests around the country, a flurry of banning. And all to what purpose?

The demise of apartheid is assured by the fact that twenty years after the Emergency of 1960, young, thinking black people reject it, and the discrimination which is part-and-parcel of it, even more emphatically than they did then. Nor will you find many people who have been detained, banned or baton-charged during the past twenty years who have been ~~persuaded~~ persuaded by such treatment that Nationalist policies are good for them or our country. Take the case of Mr. A.S. Chetty. He was detained in 1960, banned thereafter, and now has been detained again. It is not only iniquitous that such things should have been done to him without his ever having been brought to court, but it is also futile, as his case illustrates. You don't change people's views that way.

The periodic upheavals in our society, of which the school boycott is the latest, show that the kind of strong-arm methods we see in operation today are of no long-term use at all. If the Nationalists want a secure future for their children here they must put away their batons and their banning orders and start negotiating with those who reject the society they have created ^{for them} here. They might start by talking to people like Nelson Mandela.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Brown.