

Subject: Re: History of the Struggle
Date: Tue, 30 Jul 2002 06:06:28 -0400
From: nrubin <nrubin@compuserve.com>
To: Magnus Gunther <magnus@intranet.ca>

No, I think he was at the time convinced that all would be treated as something that would be condoned if not actively forgiven - without, I may say, the slightest sign of admission or contrition on his part. In this I believe he was encouraged by the likes of Paton and some of the others to whom he wrote, who were either too uninterested or too self-interested or just plain soft to tell him where he stood in the thoughts and eyes of those who knew and understood what he'd done.

You've got your Hills mixed up. This is Christopher R. Hill, a former foreign office wet who was later in the ill-fated (English) Institute of Race Relations from where he went to York University as a lecturer (later, I think) Professor) and conceived the idea of a Centre of SA studies - more or less at the time Shula was showing her mettle and beginning to corner the academic influence over southern African studies, from a base at SOAS and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. Something of a show-down occurred over the founding of JSAS, which resulted in a compromise of sorts - with a Hill nominee, (one Hodder-Williams) as deputy editor, Atmore (a Shula surrogate) being the Editor. I was on the founding editorial board - along with Trapido, Shula, Atmore and sundry others, including Sam Notulshungu (whose name I see you can't spell properly, and whom I didn't know had any NUSAS connections!). (Shula borrowed my file last year so as to write up the early days on the 25th anniversary).

My attitude to Shula has always been ambivalent. We both grew up in Sea Point, my mother v. friendly with hers and very supportive of Shula when she was bed-ridden for a year or so as an adolescent with some spinal disease. She was a left-ish member of one of my SRCs, loyal though and helpful as a bridge to the hard-core left. Always an ANC supporter, she became quite close with the Tambos (Adelaide, in particular) in the very early days after she went to London in 1961. Always a brilliant scholar, her academic success owes a lot to the impression she made on Roland Oliver, and her ability to use people like Trapido (for ideas) and Atmore, for contacts before she was secure enough to make her own, and picked up by Gwen Carter et al.

She and her husband, Isaac (Yitzchak) - a Professor of Psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital and one of the better-known behaviourists - remain good friends. We went on holidays together to Italy in the '60s when our children were small, have stayed at each other's houses on and off these 30 years (she hosted my father's 90th birthday party at her superb house in Dulwich); was the main speaker at the memorial service for Phyllis, who was her cousin and had a guarded but critical admiration of her..

Thus, as Sam Goldwyn would have said - she just happens to be a relative of my wife's!

Yours,

Neville

> I know when Ghana became a Republic. The point is that in the third para
of
> your piece you give the date of 1958 for Nkurmah's accession to power in
> independent Ghana. The actual date of independence was 6 March 1957, when
N
> became Prime Minister (he had already been in office since 1954 as far as
I
> can remember as far as I can recall.
>
> My memory of my father's account was that the laissez-passer thing was
> dreamed up by him & Bing together - the point being that, at that time,
> there was still something called "Commonwealth citizenship; both SA &
Ghana
> were still members of the Cw, and the idea was that any Cw state could
> declare someone to be a Cw citizen, and issue him with a document to that
> effect, the extent to which any other state was prepared to recognise it
> being for it to decide for itself, and that he went down to Francistown -X
at
> least once with a bunch of them. (Incidentally, during the Sharpeville
> business, he kept pestering me by mail to send him a photo of myself; I
> didn't know why, but he later gave me the Laissez-passer he had issued in
> my name. Sadly, it disappeared in one of my many moves).
>
> Yours,
>
> Neville