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KUZWAYO Ellen

1. Ellen Kuzwayo was born in 1914 in Thaba Nchu. She trained at Adams College as a teacher and taught at Inanda Seminary and in Johannesburg. She finally decided to qualify in social work and in 1939 went to the Jan Hofmeyr School. She has been twice married and has three sons. When her second husband died in 1965 she had to struggle to educate them.

Cartoon: Ellen at the age of 25 being shown round a slum in Johannesburg by one of her lecturers at the Jan Hofmeyr School. She should look both fascinated and repelled, never having seen anything like this before.

2. In 1961 she went to England to represent the S.A. Association of Youth Clubs, and later visited America. In 1964 she became General Secretary of the Transvaal YWCA, but resigned in 1976 to join the Social Welfare Department at Wits. She was present at the founding of the S.A. Federation of Black Women. She has been called the "Mother of Soweto".

Cartoon: A picture of Ellen Kuzwayo herself (I enclose some excellent pictures.)

3. She has no faith in the Urban Bantu Councils, and was elected (the only woman) to the Soweto Committee of Ten. As a consequence she was detained on 19 October 1977 in the great purge, and released on 10 March 1978. She received a great welcome back in Soweto. She vigorously condemns all those practices that destroy family life, and demands freehold rights for urban Africans. She knows the sordid side of Soweto life, but believes the black children of today will see a better world.

Cartoon: Ellen Kuzwayo given a great welcome on her return from detention.