

Racial prejudice rife in Western countries

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SIR — An article in The Daily News recently on the good life of Zimbabwean whites, says also that South African whites are clinging to their prejudice, as if this prejudice is confined to the whites of South Africa only.

This is a false assumption.

This type of prejudice is chronic in every Western democracy.

It is particularly noticeable in those rabid anti-apartheid countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Ireland.

Apart from Canada, which has an insignificant black population of 400 000 in a total population of some 18 millions none of them has shed their colonial prejudice against the black people of Africa.

This prejudice is lucidly illustrated by the fact that none of them has black populations of any significance.

Sweden, that wartime Nazi collaborator, represents the Scandinavian countries with a small pocket of political exiles.

If Australia has more than a couple of hundred blacks — as

opposed to Pacific Islanders who are also black but happen to be Mongoloids — that is about the sum total for the Pacific area.

New Zealand, by our count, hasn't more than a dozen black Africans.

And Ireland, the country that has provided Africa with thousands of white settlers, only allows blacks in as students at the Catholic seminary and the medical schools. When they have completed their courses they are sent home.

All the countries mentioned

and others such as the USA and UK display this racial prejudice by firmly shutting their doors to African immigration while allowing in immigrants from all the other racial groups.

Not even the most ghastly scenes of African refugee degradation can soften the hearts of these prejudiced countries of the West.

J.P. THOMAS
Chairman
Organisation of
African Refugees
Durban

Police, Government and prosecutors under strong criticism

A select committee says that urgent action, including new laws, is needed to combat racism in Britain. This report from London.

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D/News

A RISING tide of race attacks and racial hatred is threatening the fabric of British society, an all-party committee of MPs reported this week.

The Commons Home Affairs Select Committee said in a report on racism that urgent action, including new laws, was needed to combat the growing problem.

The police, the Government, and the Crown Prosecution Service all came under strong criticism by the committee for failing to address aspects of the issue.

The report concluded: "We are in no doubt that racial attacks and harassment, and the spread of literature which

Rising tide of racism in Britain

must be stopped. More can be done ...

"If racism is allowed to grow unchecked, it will begin to corrode the fabric of our open and tolerant society. As racism is spreading so rapidly, time is short," it added.

The committee's 38 recommendations include the creation of a new offence of racially motivated violence, which would carry a five-year maximum jail sentence. It also said the offence of racial harassment should carry a 12-month maximum prison sentence instead of the current

There were an estimated 140 000 incidents in 1992, of which only 7 000 or 8 000 were reported to the police. However, racist attacks and harassment represented less than 2% of all crime.

The low level of reporting was partly because some black people believe the police are racist and fail to take complaints seriously, said the committee, which is chaired by Conservative MP Sir Ivan Lawrence.

Only 1.3% of the officers in England and Wales were black — less than a quarter of the proportion of the country's ethnic population. In Kent there are only 11 black officers out of 3 171.

The Home Office was criticised for its half-hearted and belated response to a recommendation, made five years ago, for a survey to examine racial attacks, and called on the Government to improve existing research.

Committee members also attacked the Government's refusal to toughen the law against racially motivated violence and racial harassment.—Independent News Service